

During the last two months of this year, work was conducted with assistance from the County Home Demonstration Agent-at-Large, Mrs. Thelma T. Hewlett for half of her time. This service was very much appreciated and was used for work in field supervision in eight counties assigned. The fifteen days of work together in October and November indicated that with careful planning better results should be obtained in 1947. The addition to the staff of home demonstration agents, which warranted the additional supervisory assistance was history-making.

Twenty-four Personnel meetings were attended this year which afforded training to conduct the work as district supervisor. Much help was received from attending the conference at Blacksburg December, 1945. The Workshop for Supervisors in 15 Southern States was attended November 4-16 in Louisiana by both supervisors. Through conferences and study made available the opportunities was used to broaden the outlook toward a fuller Extension Service Program.

III Evaluation

Numerical Goals for 1946 indicated

	<u>County</u>	<u>Accomplishments</u>
(a) Train agents in	25	22 trained in 26 counties
(b) Secure specialist help	25	Help secured thru conferences Leader-training workshops and subject matter materials for 26 counties
(c) Arrange for Workshops		
1. Clothing in	5	Conducted by specialist one week. Four agents completed a suit for themselves during this time.
2. Recreation in	25	Agents attended two Regional Training meetings, representing 26 counties. Supervisor attended one of these--24 agents, 21 leaders present.
(d) Program Planning		
Assistance, 5 groups	25	Agents trained in 5 groups--22 counties involved
(e) Assist with two State and 8 District meetings in	25	Assisted four state and 37 district meetings
(f) Assist in securing better office equipment and better procedure in management in	25	Office space secured for five agents, equipment secured for 2 agents. Improvement noted in 12 offices. Management and procedures improved, in 20 counties
(g) Secure appropriations		
1. Increased salaries in	11	Six agents received increase in salaries. Five increase in travel. Seven different counties involved.
2. New appropriations in	5	New appropriations secured in 10 counties. The 11th county ex- pressed willingness. Late contact made.

demonstration agent who has served Amherst County for a period of twenty-five years. The Algernon Sullivan Award was presented Miss Rachel R. Carter "Because of the spiritual strength revealed in your daily life and in your twenty-five years of unselfish service to our fellow-man."

aided by visual aids, home visits, result demonstrations, news articles, circular letters, meetings of various sorts. Agents held 1690 method demonstration meetings with 12,618 attending. This average did not represent a full year of work for all agents, because of personal changes involved through parts of the year.

From agents' appraisals, the following was noted: The home demonstration program caused work among girls to take a new meaning where only a farm agent had previously worked. It brought to them a 4-H program filled with projects that had a definite bearing upon everyday living.

One agent assisted 12 former 4-H club members in getting established in farms after marriage. This was considered an outstanding service.

A County Advisory Board of many years organization in one county welcomed the new home agent. A home demonstration committee functioned well with this board. Fifty-one tours were conducted to see improvements made according to previous plans. One county held nine tours on which 112 men and women visited 77 homes. A sense of pride in their work was reported as a development resulting from the year's program. Briefly, the home demonstration program helped the families of the counties to realize the importance of food production and conservation, to fill pantries and storage houses with food, to clothe the family comfortably in spite of shortages, to conserve energy through well-planned household operations, and to make their homes more attractive and livable.

II Cooperation With Other Agencies

Invitation was accepted to serve on the Rural Health Committee of the State. Because of conflicting dates for first meetings this had to be given up. The scattered district to cover made it difficult and expensive to plan for travel in order to carry this phase of work.

Service was rendered upon invitation as Consultant at the Home Economics Conference at Hampton Institute in March.

A one day Nutrition Conference was attended in May.

Assistance was given the Leadership Workshop sponsored by the Negro Organization Society in June. Printed leaflets were prepared and presented on the Better Homes Program for this meeting. Cooperation with this Society was continued in serving on the Executive Committee and on the Central Committee as Chairman of the Better Homes Program. Four meetings were attended to assist with this phase of rural leadership. Two home agents were prepared to serve at the annual meeting in November.

Upon invitation, the Founders' Day Exercises of Sweet Briar College, Amherst County were attended to witness a special citation given to the local home

Leaders were selected by clubs to carry out various phases of the program. The supervisor interviewed 190 different leaders, attended 11 different leader-training meetings, trained agents in 11 group meetings and attended 17 other meetings concerned with the extension program. Help was thus given to 4-H Club Councils, County Advisory Boards and Committees and farm family groups in conference which afforded a fuller use of leadership on the county-wide basis.

Agents' Plans of Work for 1946 were checked and discussed individually on visits. The agents' checks on work accomplished showed the value of this plan and gave a sense of satisfaction. In 22 counties, 3529 families were reported influenced by some phase of the home demonstration program.

Special effort was made to assist agents in keeping better office records, filing materials and making better reports.

Home agents in 12 counties without a farm agent worked with 370 members of the County Advisory Boards. These boards help to plan and check with the agent in county-wide programs and plans. In 16 counties home agents worked in addition with 237 Home Demonstration Committee members. This committee strengthened the board and met with or without it for program planning. Nine agents assisted in training two hundred-sixty of the 4-H club councils. Home Demonstration Committees served as an adult Advisory Committee for 4-H club work. All adult workers sponsored attendance at the State Farmer's Conference where 1600 men and women attended the first post-war conference.

The 4-H State Short Course, designed for junior leadership work was planned and conducted by a committee of agents. Home agents shared equally in these performances. Active parts were taken by agents in a smaller conference among 4-H members for training in Wild Life--A Soil Conservation measure which was well conducted. All of these post-war activities were conducted with almost entirely new agents and an entirely new supervisory staff.

Agents conducted this year 21 Achievement Days. Garden and Home Improvement Tours were sponsored as separate activities during the year.

Twenty home agents did special work for the observance of National Home Demonstration Week--May 5-12. Publicity was given through local newspapers.

Leaders and agents prepared talks to be given in churches, clubs and specially planned groups. Exhibits of club work drew attention to the value of the home demonstration program.

The method demonstration was the chief means of teaching used. This was

based on long-time planning and execution. Goals established were those that might be obtained by families for whom planned.

In the 10 counties of this district having both a farm and home agent, farm families were often met at night in community groups. This was also common among the other 12 home agents. Instructions were given in home-making on a general basis at such times. Women and girls of the communities were met by agents in extra groups during day time to receive demonstrations that required detailed work. This gave much extra work but satisfactory results, usually.

In counties beginning work for the first year emphasis was placed upon adult organization in order to build up leadership, to acquaint adults with possibilities for improvements through 4-H club programs and to become intergrated with family life needs.

Four agents were trained by the State Clothing Specialist in the first Workshop or Coat School for the district. This was scheduled for five consecutive days. Four suits completed by agents showed excellent workmanship. This workshop enabled fuller service rendered the county people. Other clothing work was done with specialist training to teach care and construction of both new and old garments.

Specialists also rendered service in training for Food Selection and Preparation Demonstrations, Food Preservation, House Furnishings and House-keeping, Poultry and Gardening.

Twenty agents attended a Food Preservation Workshop conducted in the spring to give refresher work and training for these demonstrations.

Two district group meetings were held by specialists to give recreational training to agents and leaders. This phase of work was most heartily welcomed.

Plan of Work

In order to carry out programs, planned assistance was given agents in securing specialist help, in guiding the selection and training of leaders and in using agencies available to promote better living. A total of 112 visits were made to extension agents, 757 individual letters and 48 circular letters were sent. Visits were made to 38 result demonstrations and to 52 other farms and homes to inspect or assist in some way.

It was necessary to visit county officials to continue appropriations and keep friendly relations as well as inform of the work being done. Contacts were made with 61 officials for these purposes.

materials because of the lack of secretarial assistance. This made a heavier load but it helped greatly to facilitate county work.

Office space was secured for six counties and such equipment as needed was provided by the State. Two offices were moved that were provided in unsuitable places during an emergency. One was given a space in the County Court House; another had room rent provided in a privately owned building. Still another county made an appropriation for office rent formerly provided by the new agent. Typewriters were secured for three agents and rented ones continued for two others. When plans are completed, twenty of the twenty-two agents will have office provided by counties. Eighteen of the 20 were comfortably situated during the year.

Appropriations were made by four counties for full-time home demonstration agents because of the work done by part-time workers. A full measure of cooperation was given by county people and officials. Ten agents were working in counties with farm agents. This gives the desired approach in presenting extension work to farm families.

Six agents were given increase in pay 1945-1946. In addition, increase in travel allowances was made to five of these agents and one other agent making a total of six with travel increase pay.

Program Planning

In order to be of most assistance in determining programs to be conducted in the county, the following procedure was used: Trends and situations affecting home making were presented to agents to serve as a background for their thinking. Situations and studies made during the year through club meetings, home visits, and county meetings were tabulated by the agent for consideration. One meeting of the clubs was used for planning to discuss problems and decide what they wished most to do. Results of these meetings were brought to the County Planning meetings, composed of a representative from each organized group. Population figures including boys and girls of club age were presented. Agents showed from a county map the location of clubs. Leaders saw for the first time the county as a whole. They also realized the large territory to be covered, the unorganized sections, and the part that they might play in spreading extension programs. The basis and stimulus for new work was given.

A study of this material gave the agent a background for finding and guiding the selections made by club representatives in determining their yearly programs. Programs were made based on needs and desires as expressed in discussions in planning groups. The help needed was checked, tabulations made and help from specialists in each line of work was requested.

Efforts were made to make programs timely, serving immediate needs, but

Personnel Problems

The year of 1945 had many changes in personnel. This year 1946 changes were comparatively few. Young women prepared for home demonstration work were few and difficult to secure. The large outlay of money necessary to conduct the work prevented many applicants from accepting positions. Vacancies, caused by marriages, had to be left for longer periods of time because of this situation. Living quarters were difficult to secure. Three different agents who were appointed as Development Workers late in 1945 to serve six counties, were appointed full-time agents for three counties beginning July 1, 1946. Three of the counties worked part time were left vacant. Although appropriations were made by County Boards for home demonstration work, lack of state funds prevented this worker being placed in four counties. One vacancy was caused by a post-war marriage, December, 1945. This was filled July 1, 1946. Two agents who were given induction training in December, 1945 were placed in counties the first week of January, 1946. Another agent who served as Development Worker in 1944 and resigned because of marriage was again inducted into service September, 1946. Securing cars caused most difficult and expensive situations and hindered agents carrying out programs effectively. However, each agent owns and operates her car at this time. Much time was used in visiting these new workers and making adjustments for living and conducting the extension programs.

Agents were encouraged to read professional literature, to engage in state meetings, visit other counties and the colleges to study methods of procedure. The use of specialists' help was encouraged whenever available and needed. In addition to State Specialists, special services were rendered by Hampton Institute and Virginia State College.

One agent attended summer school at Columbia University for the second consecutive summer. An assistant agent was trained to conduct the home demonstration work during her absence. The promotion of this agent to district work on a half-time basis was made possible and the assistant was continued. Another agent expressed the desire to attend Cornell University the summer of 1947.

Instead of the Workshop in Office Management and Procedures as plans indicated, it was decided to give training with individuals and small groups when visited in counties. Agents in twenty-five counties were reached in this way. Special efforts started December, 1945 to improve monthly reports brought better results. To show agents what is being done and reported in the counties and to give more publicity to this phase of the work the district office started preparing and sending out mimeographed extracts monthly beginning August, 1946. Extracts from home agents' reports were prepared and included beginning October, 1946.

Agents were assisted with circular letters and other mimeographed

I. Relations With Counties

Work was done in Virginia by twenty-two full time home demonstration agents, one assistant home agent and one County Home Demonstration Agent-at-Large. The home demonstration program was conducted in 26 different counties during the year. Three of the twenty-two agents served two counties from December 1, 1945 to June 30, 1946, but on July 1, they became full time agents in three different counties.

Since 1945 the number of home demonstration agents has doubled, having increased from 11 to 22. There were few changes in the county Extension organization during they year. On October 1, 1946 one agent was promoted from the ranks to the position of County Home Demonstration Agent-at-Large on a half-time basis. Eight of the 22 counties were assigned this worker for field supervision thus relieving the situation of travel in the widely scattered counties of this district.

Various contacts were made and friendly relations maintained with county officials, community and state leaders, school officials and teachers, which created favorable sentiment towards extension work. One hundred and ninety leaders were interviewed and sixty-one county officials visited to further the extension program. Ten county Boards of Supervisors were met to ask for county appropriations for full-time home demonstration work. Ten boards made the appropriations. Four of these counties were placed on the waiting list. Club leaders and public spirited citizens are attempting to hold interest. In three counties some of the organized clubs continued to meet without an agent, awaiting this service.

Monthly reports were made written or verbally to the County Boards by home agents. It was found that more help could be rendered county people through guidance, planning procedures and programs for meetings than the supervisor actually attending many of them. Assistance was rendered for county Farmer's Conferences, home demonstration meetings, County Advisory Boards, County Home Demonstration Committees, A-H County Councils and Leader Training meetings--adult and A-H.

Eleven leader training meetings were attended to study reactions and render assistance to agents. Eight adult conferences or club meetings were attended and prepared talks or demonstrations given. Eighteen County Home Demonstration Committee meetings were assisted with their planning meetings. One county Advisory Board was visited at its organization meeting. Another County Advisory Board Planning Committee was met at which time plans were completed for its county-wide conference in February, 1947. Seventeen other meetings, including advisory boards and State committees were met for furthering extension work in counties.

Foreword

Twenty-two counties in which home demonstration work was conducted:

Amherst	Miss Rachel E. Carter
Bedford	Miss Sarah L. Lawson
Brunswick	Miss Sara M. Harrison
Charlotte	Miss Juanita Peel
Chesterfield	Mrs. Eleanor L. Rice
Dinwiddie	Miss Elvora Stewart
Fluvanna	Miss Mayme E. Paige
Halifax	Miss Nannie E. Jennings
Hanover	Mrs. Thelma Hewlett
Assistant	Miss Wilhelmina Holmes
Henrico	Mrs. Evelyn G. Solomon
Isle of Wight	Miss Clarice A. Pretlow
King William	Mrs. Elizabeth G. McAllister
Louisa	Mrs. Bernice D. Brown
Mecklenburg	Miss Delores B. Graves
Nelson	Miss Margaret Murrell
Norfolk	Miss Cleopatra Williamson
Northumberland	Miss Aranna Brown
Nottoway	Miss Lulu B. Pruitt
Pittsylvania	Miss E. Alice Hobday
Prince Edward	Mrs. Etta Lyttle Smith
Southampton	Miss Florence E. McGuffin
Westmoreland	Mrs. Sadie R. Roane

In addition to the above, part-time work was conducted through June 30, 1945 in the following four counties:

Greenville	Miss Florence E. McGuffin
King George	Mrs. Sadie R. Roane
Lancaster	Miss Aranna Brown
Sussex	Miss Elvora Stewart

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COOPERATIVE EXTENSION WORK
IN
AGRICULTURE AND HOME ECONOMICS
STATE OF VIRGINIA

1946

U. S. Department of Agriculture
and State Agricultural College,
Cooperating

Extension Service
Cooperative Extension Work

THIRTY-FOURTH ANNUAL
Narrative Report
of
HOME DEMONSTRATION WORK

Date January 14, 1947
Date _____

Blauche D. Harrison
District Agent

Extension Director