

ANNUAL NARRATIVE REPORT

COUNTY  
EXTENSION  
WORK

*Virginia Agricultural Extension Service*

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1958

Lancaster

**County**

N.E.

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I. Highlights of the 1958 Program

The agent feels the Extension program made a definite contribution to better homemaking, better rural living, and better leadership due to the fact that during the absence of an agent the home demonstration clubs carried on their meetings and work most effectively. These meetings were carried out through:

1. Workshops

"Sewing From Scratch" clinics were held in May, June and July to teach interested persons to sew. In October several individual clubs held workshops on making inexpensive Christmas gifts.

2. Special Interest Groups

Special interest group meetings were held on knitting and candle-making.

3. Monthly Demonstrations

Due to the absence of an agent, leaders gave monthly demonstrations on such topics as: use of household and garden insecticides, use and care of pressure cooker, use of spot removers, how to take advantage of sales, how to hand weave, how to etch aluminum trays and how to do leather craft.

4. Federation Program Of Work - Health

Home nursing courses were given throughout individual clubs in the county. The nursing courses were conducted by registered nurses who are home demonstration members.

5. Farm And Home Development

Since the agent has only been here three and one-half months no work has been done with Farm and Home Development.

II. County Situation

Lancaster County is located in the part of Tidewater Virginia known as the Northern Neck, a peninsula situated between the Potomac and Rappahannock Rivers. Lancaster is one of the smaller counties of the state with a land area of 142 square miles, or 90,880 acres and eleven square miles of water area. The 1954 agricultural census states 33,376 acres are in farms, the average size farm being 74.8 acres. There are 446 farms, with 297 white operators and there are three incorporated towns, Kilmarnock being the largest with a population of 628.

Soybeans for beans is the leading crop, corn and small grains are produced for market. These provide thirty-three percent

of the total farm income. Industries in Lancaster are commercial fisheries, forestry and a small amount of manufacturing of fish oil, fish meal, boxes for fishing crafts and boats.

The Extension agents have observed some interesting facts concerning the home living situation (no statistics available).

1. Most of the housewives do all the housework - very little help is employed.
2. We believe that Lancaster housewives do less canning than the average Virginia housewife and probably an average amount of freezing.
3. We believe most homemakers do the family laundry and practically one hundred percent have washing machines.
4. We believe that most of the women shop weekly for groceries.
5. Only a few families keep home milk cows or hogs or chickens.
6. The higher and lower income families tend to have no home garden or very little garden.
7. The middle income families do have a garden.
8. Farm women do practically no field work or farm chores.
9. Women from low income families around the water shuck oysters and crab.

III. County Extension Program - Adult

A. Organization

1. County Agricultural Extension Service Board

The County Agricultural Extension Service Board was organized several years ago. At the present time it is inactive.

2. Home Economics Council

The Home Economics Council composed of program development leaders, home demonstration committee members and influential persons in the county interested in youth and improved family living was organized several years ago. However, this year it has been inactive.

3. General Interest Committee

General Interest Committee was organized several years ago; however, it is inactive at the present time. The committee is made up of program of work chairmen and program development chairmen.

4. Home Economics Committee

This committee has not met as a group this year.

5. County Home Demonstration Committee

The County Home Demonstration Committee is composed of the officers of the seven home demonstration clubs,

the program development chairmen and program of work chairmen. This committee met one time this year to plan the program for the coming year. The county objectives were:

1. Strive for larger attendance at district and state meetings. Result - seven women attended the district federation meeting (1957 - ten women attended district and one attended the state meeting).
2. Provide scholarships to Jamestown Camp for two 4-H Club members. Result - no 4-H scholarship was provided.
3. Sponsor Home Demonstration Achievement Day. Result - due to absence of agent no achievement day was held; however, two county exhibits were displayed during National Home Demonstration Week.
4. Sponsor 4-H Achievement Day. Result - due to absence of agent, no achievement day was held.
5. Publish yearbook. Result - absence of agent prevented this from being accomplished.
6. Sponsor educational booth at fair. Result - due to absence of agent no educational booth was placed at fair; however, some home demonstration women did enter exhibits in the home department.

B. Project Work

1. Foods and Nutrition

The objective in this field was to learn how to use kitchen appliances in order to get the best use from them. During the absence of an agent, leaders in the individual clubs gave demonstrations on care and use of the pressure cooker. The agent asked the power company economists to give monthly demonstrations on "Care and Use of Electric Saucepan, Electric Fry Pan and Electric Blender." While teaching, the home economists prepared a demonstration meal.

The agent used the radio and newspaper as other ways of teaching food topics. Food bulletins were distributed by requests received by telephone, at club meetings, church, school and home visits.

2. Clothing

The objective in this field was to teach people to sew. A clinic was held in May, June and July on "Sewing From Scratch". A former home demonstration agent in the county conducted this meeting. Approximately seventeen interested people were present for these meetings.

This clinic began with selection of material, fitting pattern, cutting out material and dress construction. Three garments were completed at the time of the meeting and more have been completed since.

This program also included a monthly demonstration on removing spots from clothes before storing and how and where to store clothes.

### 3. Home Management

The objective in home management was to learn how to use material on hand to the best advantage and to learn how to save time, money and energy through work simplification. Monthly demonstrations were given on how and when to take advantage of sales. Planned shopping and types of sales were also discussed.

How to care for floors, old and new, was also included in their program this year. Wood floors and hard floor coverings such as tiles and linoleums were discussed. Great interest was shown in this demonstration. In each club one woman was named household hint chairman. Each month she brought household hints and presented them to other club members.

4. House Furnishings

The objective in this field was to help the home-maker use what she had in her home but when necessary to improve the appearance and make it useful. A special interest group was held in the Wegas Club at which time women brought furniture to refinish. Approximately eleven members were present and one piece of furniture was completely refinished. The women will continue to work on their unfinished furniture the coming year.

5. Housing

To the agent's knowledge no work has been done on housing this year.

6. Rural Arts

The objective in Rural Arts was to learn how to make something pretty, useful and inexpensive for the home.

Due to the absence of an agent in the county, various rural arts were carried on by individual clubs. These rural arts included covering coat hangers, leather craft, etching aluminum trays, and hand weaving. This fall the agent and leaders conducted demonstrations on

making simple Christmas gifts for children and adults. Two clubs, Irvington and Weems, conducted all-day meetings with each person making at least one article. One leader in the Ocran club made patterns for Christmas gifts and during their meeting each person again made at least one article. These gifts were attractive as well as useful.

Two special interest groups in knitting and candle making were conducted by local leaders. The knitting group consisted of ten women who held two all-day meetings. All ten of these women learned how to knit and purl. A candle-making group held an all-day meeting with approximately five women present. The leader taught these women how to make and decorate candles.

7. Garden, Poultry and Landscape

To the agent's knowledge no work has been done on this.

8. Marketing

The agent used the radio and newspaper as a way of teaching good marketing principles. These articles included "ways to Save in Buying Foods, and Ways to Take Advantage of Seasonal Sales.

9. Other - Health

The objectives were:

1. Better health through nutrition. The agent used the radio and newspaper as a way of teaching good nutrition principles.
2. Home nursing principles. Two home demonstration clubs, Fleets Bay and Rehoboth, conducted meetings on home nursing. Fleets Bay Club members learned how to make a bed with the patient in it and how to get the patient up for the first time. Rehoboth members also learned how to make a bed with the patient in it and how to read a thermometer. These demonstrations were conducted by three registered nurses who are members of the Fleets Bay Home Demonstration Club.
3. Better Health in our Community. Mrs. Edward Lee, Mrs. Frank Liddell and Mrs. James Goodman (members of the Fleets Bay Home Demonstration Club) went into all of the county schools and gave physical examinations to the children.

C. Outstanding Community Projects

Described in III-D

D. Other Activities

During Home Demonstration Week, home demonstration women put two exhibits in Kilmarnock stores. These exhibits included braided rugs, hooked rugs, caning, upholstered furniture, slip covered furniture, candlewick bedspreads and copper enameled jewelry which the women in the county had done. All available Extension bulletins were placed in these exhibits. Kilmarnock is the shopping center of the county and these exhibits were seen by many people and created much interest in home demonstration work throughout the county. Newspaper articles were written concerning National Home Demonstration Week.

Seven home demonstration women attended the District Federation Meeting held in the spring. Lancaster County women were in charge of the flag salute.

The home demonstration club members shared the responsibility of a Christmas Community Sing for A-H members and their friends. Home demonstration women furnished part of the transportation and the refreshments; and the Woman's Club was in charge of the decorations, the program and served the refreshments.

E. Urban Work

By definition, we class non-farm people in our county as rural non-farm.

IV. Farm and Home Development

As the agent has not been in the county but three and one-half months, no work has been done on Farm and Home Development this year.

V. County Extension Program - Youth

A. Organisation

1. County Council

The County Council composed of officers of the 4-H Clubs did not meet this past year.

2. Project Planning Committee

The 4-H project planning committee is planned to be made up of school principals and teachers, home demonstration committee, banker, several ministers, a representative of Lions Club and the county agents. Four-H work has the interest and respect of these people who are willing to cooperate and plan for activities.

B. 4-H Project Work

Electricity and Wildlife were the projects selected by the 4-H members in school.

The wildlife project presented a bird and tree identification. At each meeting three birds and their habits were studied and one tree was studied. Information was brought in by members in the form of reports, pictures, and records of bird calls. The groups taking electricity repaired cords and learned to replace fuses.

C. Other Activities

Four-H members entered the T.B. Ornament Contest sponsored in Lancaster. The ornaments they made were displayed in the window of Standard Motor Company, Kilmarnock.

Lancaster Home Demonstration Clubs and Woman's Club sponsored a Christmas Sing for 4-H boys and girls. Much enthusiasm is always shown at this community affair.

Twenty-four 4-H members attended Jamestown Camp.

D. Young Men and Women's Work

The agent does not have an Extension organization for young men and women. There is an increase in young women joining the home demonstration clubs as compared with preceding years.

## VI. Scope of Work

	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958
<u>No. H. D. Clubs or Groups</u>	8	8	8	8	7
<u>Membership</u>	260	260	273	273	120
<u>No. A-H Clubs</u>	12	11	12	11	10
<u>Membership</u>	309	333	331	298	270
<u>No. YMW Clubs</u>	0	0	0	0	0
<u>Membership</u>	0	0	0	0	0
<u>No. Community Clubs</u>	1	0	0	0	0
<u>Membership</u>	30	0	0	0	0
<u>No. Home Ec. Committees</u>	0	0	1	0	0
<u>No. General Interest Committees</u>	0	0	0	0	0
<u>No. Youth Committees</u>	0	0	0	0	0
<u>No. Other Organizations</u>	0	0	0	0	0
<u>No. Farm &amp; Home Dev. Families</u>	0	0	19	31	31
<u>No. Other Families Reached</u>	307	321	154	667	154
<u>No. Different Families Reached</u>	821	827	688	698	181

B. Informing The Public About Home Demonstration Work

Non home demonstration club members learn much about home demonstration work through home demonstration club women. Activities that the women plan and participate in are interesting topics of conversation which they pass on to their neighbors.

A news column in the weekly paper covers a wide area of home demonstration work. The editor of the paper is most cooperative in carrying pictures and stories of home demonstration clubs and 4-H Club activities.

A fifteen minute radio program twice a month gives the agent a broader field in which to publicize home demonstration activities and subject matter. Special programs such as National 4-H Week, National Home Demonstration Week and county workshops are advertised over the radio.

VII. Leadership

A. Organizational

Lancaster County 4-H Club meetings are held in the classroom. Each teacher assists with the organization and order of procedure of 4-H Club meetings and encourages project work. The projects were selected by the teacher

with approval from the members. These projects are closely related to their school work and thus strengthens the 4-H program in schools.

2. Program Development

Teachers, principals, county agent and home agent developed the 4-H program in the schools. Individual projects were selected by 4-H members, and these projects were carried on in groups after school.

3. Subject Matter

The teachers assisted with project instruction in the schools when the agents requested it.

4. Federation Program of Work Chairmen

Three of our home demonstration women who are registered nurses went into all of the county public schools and gave physical examinations to 4-H students and non 4-H students.

B. Growth of Leadership

1. Overall Program Leaders

<u>No. 1957</u>	<u>No. 1958</u>
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>

2. Home Demonstration Club Leadership

	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958
<u>No. organizational leaders</u>	0	0	0	40	30
<u>No. project leaders (subject matter)</u>	28	67	24	28	14
<u>No. Federation program of work chairmen</u>	9	9	8	9	8
<u>No. program development leaders</u>	7	8	8	9	8
<u>No. result demonstrators</u>	36	67	37	56	18
<u>No. training meetings by specialists</u>	3	8	9	1	3
<u>No. training meetings by dist. agents</u>	0	0	0	6	0
<u>No. training meetings by agents</u>	0	0	11	0	0
<u>No. training meetings by others</u>	0	0	0	0	0
<u>Attendance at all training meetings</u>	23	62	189	77	28
<u>No. meetings held without an agent</u>	12	9	12	9	45
<u>No. meetings leaders assisted</u>	21	17	8	67	4
<u>Demonstrations by leaders</u>	12	9	12	13	34
<u>Talks and discussions by leaders</u>	12	23	19	72	11

3. Overall Youth Leaders

<u>No. 1957</u>	<u>No. 1958</u>
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>

4. 4-H Club Leadership

	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958
No. Club Officers	33	44	48	44	30
No. adult project leaders	2	3	4	1	0
No. junior project leaders	0	0	0	0	0
No. result demonstrators	36	212	11	7	0
No. training meetings by specialists	3	0	0	0	0
No. training meetings by dist. agents	0	0	0	0	0
No. training meetings by agent	12	16	1	22	0
No. training meetings by members club dept.	1	0	0	0	0
No. training meetings by others	0	0	0	0	0
Total attendance at ldr. training meetings	23	27	65	363	0
No. 4-H leaders trained individually	1	2	3	7	0
No. club mtgs. held by ldr. without agent	12	18	18	7	0
No. additional club meetings at which leaders assisted	0	21	13	0	0
No. demonstrations given by adult leaders	12	18	4	7	0
No. demonstrations given by junior leaders	2	2	4	5	0

5. Young Men and Women's Clubs

	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958
No. Club Officers	5	0	0	0	0
No. leaders or sponsors	0	0	0	0	0

C. Activities and Accomplishments of Outstanding Leader

As the agent has not been here but three and a half months she cannot give information on an outstanding leader in the county.

D. Activities and Accomplishments of Outstanding Family

On making a home visit to a home demonstration club member, I was greeted at the door by a cheerful woman who said, "Come in and see my results from working with Extension workers." She immediately began showing me what she and her husband had done with the assistance of a former home agent. During the past years since she has been in the home demonstration club, she and her husband had upholstered her living room sofa and chairs. They had sanded all of their floors and finished them completely. She had attended a hooked rug clinic and had four rugs on her floor which she had made after attending the clinic. Refinished furniture was not to be omitted in her home for she had several beautiful pieces which she had refinished. Last year after attending a candle-making demonstration, she made several beautiful ones of her own. This year she held a special interest meeting in her home and taught home demonstration women who were not able to attend last year's demonstration how to make and decorate candles.

She attends home demonstration meetings regularly and entertains the club often in her home.

This year she has served on the yearbook committee, also served as clothing and craft leader for her club.

Making most of her clothes is one project she continues doing. After attending a leader training meeting on "Christmas Gift Suggestions" she made many interesting and attractive gifts. This year, she has decided on a homemade Christmas tree. Each time the agent sees her she is making a new ornament.

She has one son now attending V.M.I. who was in 4-H Club work. When he was in 4-H work he also took an active part in the county 4-H activities.

For these accomplishments and peace and harmony within the home the agent feels this is an outstanding family.

E. Activities and Outstanding Accomplishments of a Club

The agent feels that all of the clubs are to be commended this year. The absence of a home demonstration club agent did not stop the Lancaster women from having home demonstration club meetings.

A clothing clinic was held in the county for three consecutive months. This was set up and organized by the home demonstration women. Thirty-four demonstrations were given and eleven talks and discussions by leaders. Clubs met monthly and at each meeting either a demonstration or talk was given by a home demonstration club member.

- F. Significant Achievement of Extension Work in Home Economics  
Refer to VII-D-5

VII. Description of Work With Other Agencies

Educational programs with forestry service, Vepco, Northern Neck Cooperative, vo-ag, home economics, school officials, parent teacher's association and ministerial association were promoted by the extension agents. Northern Neck Electric Cooperative and Vepco cooperated with the agent in giving demonstrations on "Care and Use of Electrical Equipment."

IX. Progress In Developing Good Public Relations

The agent has tried to develop good public relations in the county by cooperating with other agencies through talks, conferences, telephone calls, visits and social functions. The confidence of other agencies is respected and protected and the agent feels that the Extension Service is held in the same high regard.

**I. Professional Improvement**

The State Department aided in the professional improvement of the home agent by making it possible for her to attend agent's conference at V.P.I. This conference provided excellent speakers and programs combined with association with other professional people and leading key people throughout the state. The agent has access to magazines such as What's New In Home Economics, Forecast, Extension Service Review, Journal of Home Economics and other magazines which bring research findings, illustrations, subject matter and methods of presentation of subject matter to groups and individuals.

**II. Improvements of Office and Working Conditions**

We now have a mimeograph machine which was much needed in our office.

**XII. The Look Ahead**

Due to the fact that all of the 4-H Club meetings are held in schools (grades 5 - 7), the county agent and home agent feel that there is a great need for a senior 4-H Club in Lancaster County.

The agent feels that there is a need for more home demonstration clubs in the county; especially a club for young homemakers.

The most difficult problems in carrying out the Extension program stated at the beginning of the year were:

1. To secure active home demonstration club leaders
2. To secure active 4-H leaders
3. To develop leadership

Active home demonstration club leadership has been shown during the absence of an agent. These leaders carried the meetings and trained other members in the field of home economics.

To my knowledge, no active 4-H leaders have been secured. However, with the development of a senior club, it is hoped that adult leaders will be secured. We also hope to train junior leaders in this senior club so that they may assist in carrying out junior 4-H Club work.