

ANNUAL NARRATIVE REPORT

HOME DEMONSTRATION WORK

SURRY COUNTY

1945

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COUNTY HOME DEMONSTRATION AGENT

JANUARY 1, 1945 TO NOVEMBER 30, 1945

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III. SCOPE OF WORK

A. Home Demonstration Clubs

Number 9 Membership 116

B. 4-H Clubs

Number 2 Membership 48

C. Number families reached through neighborhood and community

leaders 340

D. Estimate total number families reached 260

Number farm families in county 340

IV. ORGANIZATION

A. County Home Demonstration Committee

The County Home Demonstration Committee is made up of the Home Demonstration Club presidents and the committee officers. There are twelve (12) members on the committee.

The function of the committee is to study the needs of the county and plan the program to be carried on in the county. In 1945 two committee meetings were held, one in June and another in October. The June meeting was a business meeting. The work carried during the year was discussed, and revisions were made in the program where necessary. The October meeting was attended by retiring presidents and in-coming presidents (or representatives in case the president was carried over for the coming year.) Eighteen (18) women were present, and there was 100% club representation. The 1946 program was planned, and plans were also made for the purchase of permanent equipment to be kept in the home agents office for use by the county people.

B. County Agricultural Board

No changes were made in the organization of the County Agricultural Board this year. However, Community III was selected for the purpose of carrying out an intensified program. The Professional Workers met to give their plan of work for the community. The home agent, with the farm agent, visited the chairman and neighborhood leaders and discussed with them plans for holding a community meeting. Plans were made and objectives set up at this meeting.

Surry County is divided into six (6) communities. These communities are broken down into thirty-two (32) neighborhoods. Each community is

represented on the County Agricultural Board by a community chairman and a co-chairman (man and woman). Each neighborhood has a man and a woman as neighborhood leader who work in cooperation with the community chairmen. The following activities were taken up by the board during the year:

1. Clothing Collection. The co-chairman of the County Agricultural Board served as County Chairman of the drive. The homes of the women neighborhood leaders were used as collection depots. 3,500 pounds of clothing were sent from Surry County.

2. War Bond Drives. The members cooperated by encouraging the people in their communities to participate in the drives. Special emphasis was placed at these times.

3. Hybrid corn demonstrations and other recommended varieties of seed were carried.

4. Neighborhood leaders were used in selecting farms for demonstration work.

5. Neighborhood leaders took information to their people concerning all emergency war activities.

C. County 4-H Council

One meeting of the County 4-H Council was held during the year. This was held in January. The officers of the two clubs in the county met and planned the years work. Miss Catherine Peery, Emergency 4-H Worker, the Assistant Agent and the Home Agent met with them. The program for the year was made, and plans were made for recreation, school programs, and summer activities. The club officers were given training on their responsibilities. A decided improvement was shown in the 4-H club meetings, and

the agent attributes this to the council meeting. Definite rules in regard to club discipline and a list of month-by-month suggestions to club presidents were made. It was decided that each club should have captains from each project group to be responsible for getting in record books. These group captains gave reports on projects during the year. It was also decided that Chapel programs would be sponsored by the 4-H Clubs in the schools. One club did this, and they put on an excellent program which concerned 4-H club work.

D. Professional Workers' Conference

The Professional Workers' Conference is made up of the County Agricultural and Home Economics Teachers, Farm Security Supervisors, Extension Agents, Public Welfare Department, Soil Conservation Service, Agricultural Adjustment Administration, Southside Virginia Production Credit Association, and Emergency Crop and Seed Loan.

The Professional Workers' Conference met once a month, at which time one member gave a talk on his or her particular work. The members acted in an advisory capacity toward the County Agricultural Board. Efforts of the home agent will be shown throughout this report. The agent was secretary to the Professional Workers' Conference.

V. LEADERSHIP

A. Adult Work

There are nine (9) Home Demonstration Clubs in Surry County, and each club has a president, vice-president, and secretary-treasurer -- twenty-seven (27) club officers. The presidents attended the County Home Demonstration Committee meetings which were held during the year. The district agent attended both of these meetings with the home agent. Ten (10) attended the June meeting, eighteen (18) the October meeting. An average of ten (10) days each was given by these leaders. In the way of outstanding accomplishments, the October County Committee meeting was the first meeting of its kind held in the county with 100% attendance.

Each club had house furnishings, foods, and health leaders. There were nine (9) health leaders, eighteen (18) house furnishings leaders, and eighteen (18) foods leaders.

The health leaders assisted in carrying out the Federation Goal, "Health". Four (4) monthly meetings were devoted to this.

The house furnishings leaders gave the demonstration to the clubs on "Refinishing Furniture". This demonstration was carried over a two-months span. They received their training at leader training meetings held by the house furnishings specialist, which lasted two days. Fourteen (14) leaders attended these meetings. These leaders gave twenty-four (24) days and twelve (12) demonstrations in connection with the house furnishings program.

The foods leaders gave demonstrations on "Fruit and Vegetable Salads" and "Desserts". The foods specialist came to the county to train

the leaders. Thirteen (13) leaders attended. The agent trained three (3) more leaders to give the demonstrations and she was released to carry on summer 4-H club activities. Three (3) days were given by each of these leaders and a total of eighteen (18) demonstrations. There were two (2) leaders from each club.

One Home Demonstration Club member assisted the agent in every meeting in October. The demonstration was on "Christmas Gift Suggestions". This leader made many articles demonstrated. She gave fourteen (14) days to this, and assisted in nine (9) demonstrations.

B. 4-H Club Work

There were no active 4-H club leaders who assisted in 4-H club meetings. However, one Home Demonstration member acted as a leader in her community for summer meetings. She also attended 4-H Camp with members from the county.

VI. RESULTS

A. Home Demonstration Clubs

1. Project Work

(a) Food

(1) Production

While food production was not taken up in project work, it was definitely emphasized. 72 members reported having placed emphasis on variety in planting vegetables. An average of 12 different vegetables were planted during 1945. Due to a drought followed by heavy rains, the yield from the gardens was low. Winter gardens were recommended, and 67 members reported having planted winter gardens. Club members were reached by the agent through meetings, literature, and correspondence.

(2) Conservation

Home demonstration women reported having canned 6,798 quarts of vegetables, 4,728 quarts of fruit, and 3,043 quarts of meat. 738 pounds of vegetables were dried, 210 pounds of fruit. 2,555 pounds of vegetables were cured, and 143,890 of meat. 8,424 pounds of vegetables were stored. 136 gallons of vegetables were brined, 12 fruit, and 252 meat. The agent gave help to members in showing them how to use a pressure cooker, the proper method on canning. At club meetings, canning bulletins were given to the members. The agent also lent out her pressure cooker during the year.

(3) Preparation

In July and August, the Home Demonstration Clubs took up "Fruit and Vegetable Salads" and "Desserts". Considerable interest was shown in these demonstrations and 45 women reported having used ideas learned from salads. 50 from desserts.

In November, the demonstration was on quick breads. Cinnamon buns made from biscuit dough and flour muffins were demonstrated. A mimeographed sheet, touching the high lights on quick breads and recipes, was given each member. 52 members reported having used variety in making quick breads.

The agent gave assistance in cheese making in the county. This had previously been taken. It was reported that 50 pounds of cheese were made.

(b) Clothing

(1) Construction

During the months of January and February, one Home Demonstration Club took up clothing work. Members brought material and patterns. Patterns were fitted and garments were cut at the first meeting. At the second meeting "Sewing Problems" were taken up. Members brought in their problems, suggestions were made, and these problems were reminded. A dress form was made at this meeting. The agent exhibited useful articles to be used in clothing construction.

From the county, reports show that 366 new garments have been made by club women and 140 remodeled. 15 dress forms have been made this year. All during the year, the agent received calls for help in making these forms.

In October, the demonstration was "Christmas Gift Suggestions". These were all things the members could make. They were given booklets containing the instruction for making these gifts. 53 women reported that they have used or plan to use these ideas, totaling a figure of 252.

(c) House Furnishings

(1) Conservation

a. Furniture Clinics

Two months were devoted to "Refinishing Furniture". The first month was spent in removing the old finish. The second month included putting on the new finish, removing scratches, and cleaning furniture that did not need refinishing. 62 articles were reported having been refinished. These include chairs, tables of all sizes, beds and picture frames.

Some work was done on chair seating where materials were available. One club had as its demonstration "Caning Chairs". The agent also went out on individual demonstrations on caning. 8 chairs were reported caned. Another club had a demonstration on bottoming chairs and stools with paper fiber. 24 were reported bottomed.

Upholstering and tying springs was not taken as a club project. However, the agent did work on these in individual demonstrations. 42 pieces of furniture were reported upholstered.

(2) Construction

a. Slip Covers

In previous years, club members have taken up slip cover work. During 1945 the agent gave assistance on slip covers when called. 43 slip covers were reported having been made during the year by 21 women.

b. Other

As part of the house furnishing program, "Color Harmony in Room Arrangement" was studied by the club women. In color

harmony, charts of good and bad color arrangement in rooms were used, followed by a discussion and suggestions for the rooms in which the meetings were held. Out of this demonstration came a demonstration on rug making. Braided and crocheted rugs were demonstrated. Members brought materials and work was started. 18 rugs have been made. 29 women reported having made improvement in color harmony in room arrangements. Included in the color harmony in room arrangement were painting, papering, slip covering, rearranging furniture for easier care and more attractive appearance, made curtains and draperies.

Several clubs were interested in the repair of electrical equipment. The agent gave demonstrations on the "Repair of Electric Cords". A number of these were brought to the meetings, and the women learned to repair their own. 71 electric cords were reported having been repaired during the year.

The agent also did some work on cleaning and adjusting sewing machines. This was done on individual calls. 29 women reported having cleaned theirs during the year.

Several women asked for assistance in making upholstered chairs out of wooden rockers. The agent gave this assistance, which included padding the chair, cutting and fitting covers for the chairs.

One club had a demonstration on making an electric lamp from an old bottle. This was a special feature in an electric repair demonstration.

The agent also gave assistance in making suggestions for additional storage place, particularly in the bedroom. Ideas were also given in making dressing tables and dressing table stools.

2. Home Demonstration Club Activities

a. Federation Goal

The Federation Goal was "Health". Three months were devoted to health. This program was made up by the County Federation Chairman, "Home Care of the Sick". At the first meeting in the series, "Diets and Attractive Trays for the Sick" were discussed; at the next meeting "Care of the Patient" and "Making the Patient Comfortable"; and at the last meeting, the home medicine chest was emphasized with a goal for a medicine chest in each club. A First Aid kit was exhibited, and a discussion of First Aid treatments was carried. Various bandages were demonstrated. Health leaders assisted the agent in this. 65 club women reported having straightened and replenished their medicine chest, 10 made new ones. The agent secured for the club women booklets on "First Aid" and "A Handbook on Health for Farm Families." Since May was "Health Month", emphasis was again placed on health. The County T. B. Association worker attended the club meeting and talked to the groups, not only on T. B., but other diseases and illnesses. The agent contacted each club member in November and told them of the chest X-ray clinic sponsored by the County T. B. Association. A number HDC members took advantage of this.

Further efforts were made in cooperating with the Red Cross. These will be described in Section E.

In October, the agent sent letters to each home demonstration club member, telling her of an X-ray clinic which was held in the county. Interest was shown in this at the May meeting.

In March, one club sponsored a dinner to raise funds for

the "March of Dimes".

b. Other Special Activities

In March, Mrs. McBryde, Landscape Gardening Specialist, came to the county for a club meeting on "Planting and Arrangement of Shrubs and Flowers". Following this meeting, the agent gave a Summary of it to other clubs. 35 home demonstration women reported having made definite improvements in planting and arranging shrubs and flowers and yard improvement in general.

For the first time since before the war, Surry County held its annual County Fair. The home agent was appointed to take charge of all home exhibits. Home demonstration women cooperated with the agent on this. A special home demonstration display booth was arranged. In it was a display from every phase of work taken during 1945 in connection with the home demonstration program.

At the June County Home Demonstration Committee meeting, permanent demonstration equipment for the office was discussed. The Cabin Point Home Demonstration Club sponsored a dinner and served another to the Puritans, and the money received was turned over to the County Home Demonstration treasury for the purchase of equipment.

Two representatives from Surry County attended the State Federation meeting which was held in Blacksburg in October. Upon their return, they attended club meetings and gave excellent reports of their trip.

3. Year's Work of Outstanding Home Demonstration Club

The Alliance Club did good work during the year. Its attendance was generally good and the members showed much enthusiasm. Its leaders

attended the training meetings and in every case they gave or assisted the agent in giving demonstrations. The club cooperated particularly well in the salvage drives and various war programs sponsored in the county.

This report came from ten of the fifteen members - that improvements toward better health were made through physical check ups, better planned and prepared meals, new medicine cabinets were made, or old ones straightened and replenished. The women were particularly interested in the home furnishing project, and out of it 10 pieces of furniture were refinished and 5 upholstered, 5 women made definite changes in color harmony and room arrangement, 2 chairs were caned and 4 footstools bottomed, 4 picture frames were refinished, and 4 rugs were made. 4 members reported making 7 slip covers, 58 new garments were made and 20 were remodeled. 6 members reported improving their yards in planting flowers and shrubs. An estimate of 24 non-club women received information from these women.

In August, the club had its meeting on the river, and the meeting was well attended, not only by club members, but also non club members who were invited.

The vegetable garden and fruit situation was very short in the county, particularly in this neighborhood, but the agent was particularly impressed by the manner in which the club members shared the things which were more plentiful to some than others.

In October, the club had a "hay party" for raising funds for its treasury. It is now working on a project for a home nursing course in the community. Through the club, volunteers for blood donors were contacted. 140 pounds of waste fat was saved by the members, and the money received was

turned over to the club treasury. Another feature of the club was a dress form clinic. A check was kept on War Bonds purchased which amounted to \$2,625.00. The most outstanding feature of the club was its interest and enthusiasm. Only a few homes in the whole community are not on the club roll.

4. How a Home Demonstration Club Member has Adjusted to War Activities

Some women used the war as an excuse on which to fall back and others seemed more determined than ever to keep up. One of these was the mother of four children whose husband's health was none too good, nor was hers. The agent was particularly impressed with her spirit in the home and family life and in county affairs. Her work in the home demonstration club was excellent. Her enthusiasm seemed to spread through to the other members. She attended the club meetings regularly and so, put into practice those things which she learned. In October, she was asked to be a representative at the State Federation meeting in Blacksburg. She attended and came back with a most inspiring report which she carried to clubs all over the county. She showed particular interest in her daughter's 4-H club work.

During the year, she faced larger obstacles than most, but none of these held her back from leading a full community life. For that reason, the agent feels that she was indeed a club member who adjusted herself well to prevailing conditions.

B. Agricultural Board

The agent played a major part in assisting the Co-Chairman in the Clothing Drive which has already been described. The agent assisted the

whole way through -- from publicity to shipping.

The women on the Agricultural Board worked with the agent on War Bond publicity. This has been a regular feature for several years, and this year the agent was Vice-Chairman of the Woman's Division in the 7th and 8th Bond Drives. An exhibit booth was made for the County Fair.

Other work of the agent has already been mentioned.

C. 4-H Clubs.

1. Project Work

The agent depended largely upon parents help in giving project instruction. During the school session, it was almost impossible for the agent to give instruction due to the short length of time allowed for work. The agent corresponded with parents in regard to their daughter's project work all during the year. In the summer, the agent visited the homes to check project work and give assistance where needed.

a. Bread

25 girls were enrolled in this project. 21 completed their projects. The number making bread was as follows: Biscuits, 23; Muffins, 20; Cornbread, 22; Yeast 9. Bread was exhibited at small group meetings and at the county fair.

b. Stop Food Waste

5 members were enrolled in this project and 2 completed. These were girls just starting in learning to cook.

c. Canning

11 members were enrolled in this project with 7 completing. A total of 314 quarts were canned alone; total helped with 794. At the summer meeting, food canned by the members was exhibited. Canning pro-

ject members entered some of their work in the Girls' Exhibit at the County Fair as well as in the 4-H display booth.

d. Poultry

Two girls entered the poultry project and one completed her project. She started with 50 baby chickens, sold 25 as broilers, saved 25 pullets for layers. Her figures show that she sold the chickens for \$46.00, clearing \$31.00.

e. Gardening

2 members carried a gardening project, and 2 completed. The season was unusually poor for gardens, and because of this the results were none too good.

f. Housekeeping

23 members were enrolled in this project with 17 completing. This was the most popular project for the year. The girls cared for their rooms daily for two months or more, they had special jobs, such as washing dishes, making beds, setting the table, bringing in wood and water. Some did over their rooms -- painted, made curtains, bed spreads, arrange place for personal belongings, dressing tables. Articles made in the project were exhibited at summer meetings and at the County Fair.

g. Clothing

There were 16 girls out of 22 who completed their clothing project. 42 new garments were made, 53 remodeled. Garments were exhibited at summer meetings. At the County Fair, they were entered in the 4-H display and the girls exhibit. Most of the garments made were of plain and printed feed bags.

2. Community Activities of 4-H Clubs

The 4-H Clubs participated in the collecting of waste fats and scrap paper, the clothing collection and the purchasing of War Bonds and Stamps. Most of their activities were in the school communities rather than home communities since the club enrollment is scattered all over the county for the two clubs. In the summer, the clubs were broken down into very small neighborhood groups. In August, these groups met. Included in the meeting was a business meeting, at which time camp reports and project reports were given, followed by a discussion of 1946 projects. After a picnic lunch, project work was exhibited. 4-H pins were awarded girls with the best product under each exhibit. These exhibits were judged by the girls. Recreation followed these activities.

The Dendron 4-H Club put on an excellent chapel program for the student body, and this program not only gave non-club members a better view of 4-H work, but also stirred enthusiasm among the members.

Eleven 4-H girls and one leader attended 4-H Camp at Jamestown. A Surry County member (girl) was elected big-chief of the camp.

3. Account of Work of One Club

Of the two 4-H Clubs in the county, the Dendron 4-H Club showed the most improvement. They were fortunate in having a president who knew how to handle her job. The agent was amazed by the initiative shown by the members. The programs were always well planned, well presented, and interesting to the members. All during the year, there would be a surprise of some special entertainment feature. Many ideas were brought back to the club by members who attended camp. The club president was the camp big-

chief. The club members were young (ten to thirteen) and the group was rather small, but they knew how to pull on a club meeting and put it on well.

D. Other Work Done by Home Demonstration Agent

1. County Home Economics Worker

The home agent and the home economics teacher worked together on the Girls' Exhibit of the County Fair. Home Economics and 4-H girls entered products in this exhibit. The home economics teacher cooperated with the home agent by giving the assistance of some of her girls in packing for the clothing drive.

2. Food Bank

The agent cannot make a report of canned food given for the bank as yet. This has been publicized in the county, and in December, Home Demonstration Club women will bring in food. So little food is canned in tin in the county. There is one cannery in a far end of the county. It was suggested that the collection be held up until late in the season. The idea was expressed that the food be given at the December meetings as a Christmas gift to those in need in the war-torn areas.

3. Salvage Committee

The agent encouraged Home Demonstration Clubs to cooperate in the paper, waste fat, and tin can salvage. In several clubs, committees were formed to make plans for waste fat collection. They saw to collecting and disposing of it. The proceeds went to the clubs treasuries.

4. Ration Board

The agent reported to clubs rationing regulations.

5. War Bond Committee

The agent served as vice-chairman of the Women's Division in

the county. The job was mainly publicity. At club meetings, women were encouraged to buy bonds. \$30,000.00 in bonds were reported purchased by Home Demonstration Club women during the year. During the 7th War Loan Drive, the agent had an exhibit of a toy Jeep made by a hospitalized veteran. At the end of the drive, the jeep was auctioned off for a \$2,000.00 bond. The agent prepared a bond display at the County Fair, prior to the 8th Victory Loan.

6. Red Cross

The agent had a conference with a Red Cross field representative in October in regard to "Home Nursing" classes in the county. This was discussed at the November club meetings. In a check to derive what part Home Demonstration Club women had played in war work, the agent found that 60 women gave to the Red Cross, assisted in making garments, or served on Red Cross committees.

7. Clothing Collection

The agent's efforts have previously been stated. The agent worked very closely with the committee chairman on the drive.

VII. APPRAISAL OF MOST SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTION TO COUNTY IN MEETING WAR
NEEDS

It is difficult to say just what part of the home demonstration program has contributed most significantly to war needs this year. The agent feels that each phase of work made a worthwhile contribution. After the end of the war, club work seemed to take a new lease on life. New interest was shown, the average attendance to club meetings increased, and the agent began to receive more individual calls from all around the county. It might easily be said that the ending of the war contributed significantly to the home demonstration work in the county.

Through home demonstration clubs, many of the county's war programs have been followed -- Red Cross, U. S. O, War Bond Drives, Clothing Collection, Rationing, Salvage, Blood Donors. This work has been previously mentioned.

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