

1944

ANNUAL NARRATIVE REPORT

BY

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HOME DEMONSTRATION AGENT

PITTSYLVANIA COUNTY

VIRGINIA

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III Scope of Work

A. Home Demonstration Clubs:

Number - 16 Membership - 302

Other groups sponsored by home demonstration clubs:

One white group Membership - 25

B. 4-H Clubs:

Number - 15 Membership - 239

C. Number families reached through neighborhood and community
leaders - 1,730.

D. Estimate total number families reached - 4,000.

Number farm families in county - 9,732.

IV. Organization

A. The County Home Demonstration Committee.

The County Home Demonstration Committee is composed of the president of each club and one leader from each club. The committee, composed at that time of only the presidents, met April 14, 1943, for the purpose of discussing the plans for the program for 1944. At this meeting the committee decided that since the leaders were requested and expected to give more of the demonstrations than ever before, that they should be a part of the committee to plan the program of work and too they will have a clearer understanding of the program for each month. The committee decided at this meeting that some form of Achievement Day should be held as a conclusion of the years' work. They felt that knowing what other clubs had done was an inspiration to them to endeavor to do more and to make more efforts to reach that family in the last house on the last road.

The committee held their fall meeting October 6 for the purpose of planning the years' work. A round table discussion was held after the County Needs had been given by the Agent and each club told their problems. The program for 1945 includes two meetings on foods; one on storage; two on consumer education; one on school lunches; one on care of milk and butters; one on time management; one devoted to program planning and two meetings were given to the Federation Goal--Health. All the clubs adopted the program as the committee made it. The committee suggested certain individual club goals; these were--extend the rural electrification lines to reach more families, leaders to take charge of more meetings without agent and to reach more women. The purpose of the Home Demonstration Committee is to make all plans for the year and to help carry it out. Also to pass on any business matters that affects the clubs.

B. County Agricultural Board.

The County Agricultural Board was organized by the Professional Workers Council. The Council met and divided the county into fourteen definite communities. Each community was sub-divided into neighborhoods which cover only a few miles. A capable and efficient man was selected to serve as chairman of each community, with a woman serving as co-chairman. These chairman and co-chairmen were recommended by the various Agricultural Agencies working in Pittsylvania county. At a council meeting the Professional Workers chose definite communities

in which to work. There being a man and a woman working with each chairman and co-chairman. The Home Demonstration Agent works with four communities. The Professional Workers meet with the community chairman and co-chairman to help select the neighborhood leaders—a man and a woman in each neighborhood.

The County Agricultural Board was organized so that information could be carried to all farm homes pertaining to the war effort.

There are in Pittsylvania county 14 communities which are sub-divided into 197 neighborhoods. There are 14 community chairmen. There are 179 white men, neighborhood leaders and 164 women neighborhood leaders. There are 8 negro leaders.

There were five meetings of the County Agricultural Board held during the past year. In January the board had a joint meeting with the AAA committeemen, at which time the production goals for the year were discussed and how the farmers could best increase production of these various goals. A meeting was held to discuss the possibilities of a Frozen Food Locker Plant for the people of the county.

The destruction done by rats has been enormous in the county. A meeting of the County Board of Agriculture was held to discuss and plan a rat extermination campaign. At this meeting the Chatham community was selected for study by the BAE. (Bureau of Agricultural Economics.)

In August another meeting was held jointly with the AAA committeemen to check up on the production goals. Cover crops, agricultural outlook, farm inflation, and buying bonds were the main topics discussed at this meeting.

C. County 4-H Council.

The County 4-H Council which is composed of officers from each of the 15 clubs in the county did not hold a meeting during the year due to the tire and gas situation. The members realizing the great distance most of them would have to travel decided not to meet again until the gas situation was eased somewhat.

The 4-H Honor Club was organized in December with 11 girls and 13 boys taken in as charter members of the organization. Those boys and girls who had completed successfully 3 years of club work and were at least 14 years of age were eligible for membership. These boys and girls had to be present in order

to be received in the organization. Qualified members based on a percentage of former members will be initiated into this worthwhile organization each December.

D. The Professional Workers Council.

The Professional Workers Council is made up of paid representatives of the AAA, the Soil Conservation Service, the Production Credit Association, the Health Department, the Welfare Department, the Farm Security Administration, the Emergency Crop Loan, the Superintendent of Schools, the Experiment Station, Agricultural and Home Economics teachers and the Extension Service. The council meets once a month. The Home Demonstration Agent has attended all meetings possible.

The purpose of the Professional Workers Council is for each Agency represented to understand better the work of the other Agencies and to prevent overlapping. The council discusses the work of the Agricultural Board and decides what campaigns are to be put on through the board. Matters of interest about the farm and farm home which are a concern of the Agencies represented are also discussed.

In January the council assisted the Office of Civilian Defense in putting on successfully in the county the Food Fights for Freedom Program. This program was put on through the schools.

The meeting in February was devoted to discussions of the Frozen Food Locker Plant. A committee was set up to secure all available information on such.

The Locker committee met a number of times. After putting on a drive for renters which was not successful, the committee decided to wait until after tobacco harvesting season to complete the drive. The Home Demonstration Agent was temporary secretary for the committee. The Home Demonstration Agent explained the Frozen Food Locker unit at all Home Demonstration Club meetings in May. She attended several group meetings explaining this unit.

The soybean goal was discussed and each member did all possible to encourage the planting of soybeans for oils.

A much needed rat campaign was a major item throughout the year. The council selected a number of merchants in each community to carry the Red Squill preparation. There was only a little response from the merchants as their willingness to cooperate. Only the cooperative merchants carried the preparations so a county wide rat campaign was not carried out.

completely as anticipated. The Home Demonstration Agent urged all members of her clubs to do all possible to make this valuable campaign a success by contacting the merchants and using the recommended preparation for the extermination of rats. The merchants carrying the Red Squill reported good results.

Through the efforts of the Professional Workers Council of Pittsylvania and Franklin counties, a Prisoner of War Camp was set up for the benefit of farmers in the two counties in housing their crops and cutting pulpwood. This help has proved valuable to the farmers with labor conditions as they are at present.

V. Leadership

A. Adult Work.

There are seventy-four officers in the Home Demonstration Clubs; sixteen federation goal (housing) chairmen and thirty project leaders. There are 343 community neighborhood leaders.

There has been three leader training meetings given by specialists held during the year with an attendance of thirty-seven. One training meeting was on foods; one on short cuts to house cleaning and one on clothing. One work shop for Agents was held--this being on laundry problems. Eleven leaders have been given instructions individually by the Home Agent. The purpose of leaders' meetings is to train them and to give them all the necessary information pertaining to a particular phase of work so that they may go back to their clubs and conduct the demonstration in the absence of the Agent or to assist her when needed. The project leaders have conducted thirty-six meetings with an attendance of five hundred twenty. Two planning meetings were held for the purpose of making the program for 1945. Twelve clubs were represented. The average project leader has devoted three and one half days to club work. By the leaders giving some of the demonstrations, this enabled the Home Agent to meet more groups which resulted in the organization of four new clubs.

Mrs. E. W. Cocke, a member of the West Gretna Home Demonstration Club, has done unusually good work her first year as a project leader; She has attended two of the three leaders' meetings and attended the program planning meeting in October and contributed many valuable suggestions to the discussions. Mrs. Cocke has given the Demonstrations at four of the meetings

In the absence of the Agent. She has taken much interest in the promotion of club work in her community. She has helped the tenant families on this farm and has encouraged them in club work.

Housing was selected as the Federation Goal for 1944.

The committee with Mrs. A. H. Cox, chairman, selected Home Safety as the phase of housing to be emphasized since home accidents killed so large a number of people in 1942. A check list was given each club member in January. They were told how they could improve some of the many fire and accident hazards about the house. Again in June these hazards were brought out and in September a check was made on the number of improvements that had been made by eliminating the causes of accidents in the home. The number of improvements made as reported by the club members to the county chairman and given by her at Achievement Day was 1,763.

Each club had a poultry chairman since food production has been stressed as a means in helping with the war effort. Improving poultry by getting better chicks or better hatching eggs has been stressed and caring for the chickens and feeding them properly have been emphasized by the leaders, while one month was devoted entirely to poultry at which time proper houses were discussed and model houses shown. Culling demonstrations were given and the people were urged to buy out this practice with prices of feed as they are at present. One hundred sixty-one people improved poultry through better chicks; eighty-four by better hatching eggs and one hundred thirty by culling.

The clubs each had a garden chairman. These chairmen have given most helpful information at the club meetings during the year. One hundred eighty-eight women have increased the production of vegetables and better year-round gardens as a result of this information. The major problem in this county is the tobacco harvesting season coming at a time when the late garden should be planted which means that numbers of families are without fresh vegetables in late summer and fall. As one boy told when his sister's garden was visited, "I'll just tell you, we get money from the tobacco and not from the garden so we just let the garden go." To reach people like this is the aim of the garden chairman too.

There are three hundred forty-three white neighborhood leaders. There have been no community training meetings this year for the purpose of training these leaders due to the tire, gas and labor situations.

B. 4-H Club Work.

There are at present 14 4-H clubs (one having combined with another). Seven are junior clubs; four are mixed age groups and three are senior clubs. There are a total of sixty-seven officers of these clubs. Thirty-five girls act as junior leaders. In some instances these girls are the officers also. There are ten active adult leaders for the 4-H clubs; three clubs have sponsors. In most cases the leaders act as project leaders also and give all the necessary demonstrations separate from club meetings. Home Demonstration Club members serve as project leaders also.

The adult leader attends the meetings, she sees that a program is prepared and that the officers do their duties. She reminds (if necessary) the president to secure a place for the meeting and has it announced the day before. If she is unable to give a demonstration, such as bread making, she asks some capable person, usually a Home Demonstration club member to give it. She helps with the plans of the fair booth and in getting the 4-H members to fill out their record summary sheets. The clubs that have active leaders get more accomplished. The leaders have held 29 meetings in the absence of the Agent with an attendance of 495.

A sponsor of a 4-H club does not necessarily meet with the club. The three sponsors are school teachers. They see that the president announces the time and place of meeting and collects the record summary sheets.

The club officers do their duties as outlined. They are usually the best club members and do all they can to make their club successful.

The Junior leaders are other outstanding members who are most dependable and reliable in helping the club. They help the younger members with their projects, take more part on the programs, build up a better club by getting more interested boys and girls in the club, and do any work for the club between the meetings that has to be done. All members who are in the Honor club are junior leaders and others also. Junior leaders have been very helpful in the promotion of club work. The meetings go off much more smoothly and better results are obtained.

VI. Results

A. Home Demonstration Clubs.

1. Project Work.

a. Food

With a shortage of some food on the shelves in the stores the home demonstration committee at their program planning meeting decided they should learn more about substitutes for these scarce foods. Three foods demonstrations were included in the years program. Garden and poultry suggestions were given each month that such information was needed.

(1) Production

The garden chairmen in each club were active again this year. Even though some women thought they had already learned all about gardening the garden chairman showed them that there was still more they could learn. The women had successful gardens until the late gardens. With a labor shortage these gardens were overcome by weeds as the people devote their entire time to tobacco when that is ripe. One hundred fifty-six women were helped in improving home gardens. One hundred eighty-eight made changes in the production of vegetables—that is they planted at least one new vegetable.

With poultry feed much higher than in previous years a large number of farm families cut down on poultry production. Each club had a poultry chairman. These chairmen gave timely information at each meeting. They urged the women to have only the best stock possible and have fewer chicks. This the women did. They also urged them to raise only enough for their families use unless they had a market for them. In March the women were given instructions for preserving eggs in water glass in order that they could sell more eggs when they were scarce. The women did this. At the meeting of the Board of Supervisors they requested that the home and farm agent give culling demonstrations at all clubs in September. This request was carried out. One hundred sixty-one women improved poultry by buying better baby chicks; eighty-four secured

better hatching eggs and one hundred thirty culled their flocks to cut down on the feed. Eighty-two members kept poultry records. These women realized they were making a small profit with feed high. One club member sells fryers at the city market each week and she cleared over \$3,000 in a year.

One hundred thirty members added small fruits to their gardens this year. The November meetings were conducted by the garden chairmen. At which time suggestions on small fruits--their care and planting were discussed.

One hundred thirty-six members were helped in meat production and sixty-nine were helped in milk production. A large number of the families in the county are now selling milk or cream on routes.

(2) Conservation

The use of the electric dehydrator was demonstrated at the May meetings. An electric dehydrator is not practical in this county since only 15% of the entire population have electricity. Canning non-acid vegetables was also demonstrated in May. How to use the various jar closures was a very important factor with the women as much food had been lost due to improper use. This was emphasized at all meetings and through news paper articles. Sixty-six thousand two hundred seventy-six quarts of vegetables were canned by club members and 14,304 quarts of fruits were canned. This is much higher than in previous years. There are five canneries in the county. The Home Demonstration Clubs were a great help in getting some of these organized and the women have canned more as a result of having this convenience. More meats were canned than in previous years especially beef. Two thousand one hundred fourteen pounds of vegetables were dried.

More jams, jellies and preserves were put up due to an abundance of fruits and the rationing board being more liberal with the sugar. Nine thousand one hundred ninety-six quarts were canned. Five hundred forty-six gallons were sulfured. Fifty-two thousand seven hundred sixty-four pounds of food was stored as reported. One thousand three hundred

seventy-two pounds of fruits were dried. Thirty-seven thousand five hundred thirty-two pounds of meat were stored as reported.

The garden chairmen gave instructions for proper storage of vegetables in September.

(3) Nutrition

Soybeans and soybean dishes was the topic of the demonstration in February. Some of the families planted the edible soybeans this year for the first time. It has not proved very popular as it is a bean one would have to get used to before liking it very much. With sugar still on the rationed list and farm families still having a hard time to stretch their given amount, Sugar Saving suggestions was the topic in March. A carrot pudding was demonstrated and has proved a successful dessert for the housewife.

In September articles on nutrition were written and published in the local paper.

Cold prevention by keeping the family fit was the topic in October. The importance of proper diets and how proper cooking affects these essential foods was stressed. Vegetable and fruit salads were made afterwards since raw vegetables have more of certain foods than do cooked vegetables.

Clothing

(1) Consumer Problems.

(a) No-month was devoted to consumer problems however it was stressed at all meetings. In July particularly when clothing was the main topic consumer problems of ready made clothes and materials were brought out. A majority of the clubs had a war information chairman. These chairmen discussed various consumer problems with the women. The clubs subscribed to the Consumers Guide so that these chairmen would have the latest information on these subjects—buying, care, war production regulations and substitute fabrics. One hundred six women were helped with buying of clothing and 144 were helped this year with "Saving Versus Buying" decisions.

(2) Conservation

(a) Laundering

Proper laundering was the topic of the demonstration for the June Home Demonstration Club Meetings. The main point stressed was how to save time and energy with the equipment they already had such as using blocks under work tables to raise them so that women do not have to bend their backs to do this strenuous job. Also proper washing technique and ironing methods were demonstrated. By washing and ironing properly clothes will last much longer. One hundred ninety-four women have been helped this year from the study of laundry problems.

(3) Construction

(a) Since there is such an acute shortage of clothing, the poor quality of workmanship and the extremely high price the public has to pay for clothing the women felt a great need for more information along this line. With only one meeting during the year devoted to clothing only a limited amount of this desired information could be given. Alteration and adjustments of patterns was given at the July meeting. The women were taught to alter patterns in order to have a better fitted finished garment which will encourage more women to make their own. Two hundred nine women were helped by this demonstration. There is not an accurate check on the number of garments made during the year but it has been much higher than in previous years.

(b) Remodeling

There were no remodeling clinics held during the year but from previous knowledge gained at clinics one hundred eighty-four garments were reported as remodeled. This has been a big help to club members as they realize the materials in pre-war garments are still better than the new materials on the market.

c. c. House

(1) Home Safety

Since Home Safety was the federation goal the past year much emphasis was put on it. The part women can play in making homes safer was stressed at the January meeting. A follow check-up was made at the May meeting and again in Sept. The women realized that much was left to them now if the fire and accident hazards were removed from the homes. Also that many practices could be changed to insure greater safety. At one club in January when we were assembling and the topic was Home Safety the hostess put a piece of wood in the fireplace, it began burning rapidly and she feared the chimney would "burn out" from it so she grabbed the first glass of water she came to and dashed it on the fire. The supposedly water was a glass of kerosene. This practice and carelessness was brought out at all other meetings as what actually goes on in our own county.

d. House Furnishings

(a) Care

Some housekeeping shortcuts was the topic of the May meetings. The women had realized that housekeeping problems required a large portion of their time, so they were anxious to learn how they could do some of these in less time. Two hundred forty-eight women learned to do these household tasks in less time which gives them additional time to do other work. Some of the things they learned to do proved to be a better method of caring for furniture as well as saving time.

(b) Furniture Clinics

Upholstering and tying springs was given late the previous year and the women have realized the results more this year than last. As they spent many days during the winter working on old furniture. One club member bought a chair for \$10.00 to make over-tie springs, restuff and re-cover at the tax day clinic held. She was so well pleased with the results she went back to the store and bought the davenport for \$5.00. The upholstery used for these came from a mill store nearby which of course meant a savings. The club member did all the work on the davenport alone during the winter months. She now has two pieces of furniture that costs around \$25.00 that any person would be proud to claim.

Making studio couches out of old discarded lounges with the hump at the head has been the greatest undertaking throughout the county. Then chairs are being reupholstered and beds remodeled. 232 articles were remodeled or refinished during the year.

e. Home Management

(1) Home and Farm Unit Demonstrations

Mr. and Mrs. T. Judson Sours, Chatham, Va., have been a Farm and Home Unit Demonstrator for a number of years. They have five children. The farm on which they live is small but with the good price tobacco has brought the past three years and other incomes, which this year have been small they have been able to manage. The farm was paid for last year. They invest now in war bonds which will be a nest-egg for a new home after the war. They have had the best garden this year ever. Henry, their only son, took gardening as his 4-H club project. He won a \$25.00 War Bond on his records. Their pasture has been very good because they give it special care with the help of the TVA.

The Sours started some fruit trees as they saw a need for more fruits. These have helped solve some of the food problem. They hope to realize some profits from their strawberries in another year.

All the crops were unusually good this year. They made around 175 bushels of wheat, 70 bushels of corn, and a good crop of hay. The tobacco has averaged so far 45¢ a pound and they had a small increase in their acreage, which means they will have slightly more to sell.

Mr. Sours and Henry have sold twenty-one pigs which he says did not bring what the corn would have had he sold the corn that the pigs ate.

The poultry did not yield a profit this year. Due to feed so high they feel that they have lost their time and efforts.

They do sell milk and butter and realize some profits from this.

Mrs. Sours still says she owes their success to keeping records. They can look back over a period of

years and see where their money goes. This year all of their living expenses have increased greatly.

Mr. and Mrs. Sours have not made any improvements on their house this year as they wish to build as soon as possible and materials were too high and scarce to do any remodeling to the one they now live in.

(2) Time and Energy Management

The Homemaker's Calendar was used at the December meeting. The women listed their jobs under the headings of Hope to Do and Must Do. This enabled them to see just what had to be done and mark off the things that could be left undone. One woman reported that she made hers out for a week at first and by Wednesday she had done all of those things listed as must do and hoped to do; come to club meeting on Thursday and made a report to the women. One hundred thirty-eight women were helped with time management problems.

(3) Home laundry was taken up in June. This is reported under clothing.

f. Consumer Problems

Each club had a war information chairman. The purpose of having these chairmen was to give the women all the latest information they should know about buying. Where the chairman was intensely interested most helpful reports were given and valuable benefits resulted.

(1) Foods

Two hundred eight members were helped with the buying of foods. Ceiling prices of foods was the most important information taken up. The members realized they had spent up in dollars more than they were supposed to due to a lack of a knowledge of ceiling prices and being in such a hurry when they bought they did not look at the chart required by law to be posted. In some cases the clubs appointed a committee to visit the merchants in their immediate communities and talk over the prices with them. In other cases where a merchant was a problem man they requested an outsider

to discuss them with the merchant so that their club would not be involved directly.

(2) Clothing

Consumer problems in clothing was brought out often by either the War Information chairman or some member who had tried to buy clothing, particularly children's clothing. The women realized that they must first weigh out the necessity for a new garment and whether it would mean to them what it was going to cost. They learned too that they must first examine a garment carefully to see the workmanship and its lasting qualities before buying. One hundred eighty-six were helped with the selection of clothing and textiles. One hundred forty-four were assisted with "Making Versus Buying" decisions.

(3) House Furnishings and Equipment

This is another item of importance the War Information chairman stressed. This was also stressed by the Home Agent occasionally. Eighty six women were helped in the selection of house furnishing and equipment other than electric. Buying large equipment was discouraged and buying second hand equipment was discussed. The women were encouraged to use what they had as best as possible, save their money and buy better equipment when it comes on the market. It has been rather hard for the tobacco farmers wife to see it this way and some are inclined to buy while they have the cash.

(4) General Household Supplies

The women have been buying household supplies more cautiously this year also. They realize that these items are higher and of a poorer quality as well.

g. Markets

A large number of the women in Pittsylvania County sell at the curb market in Danville. Most of these sell on Saturdays and only when they have enough produce to justify making the trip. The market is open every day. Tuesdays, Fridays and Saturdays being the biggest days. Mrs. Dewey White, Member of the Keeling Home Demonstration Club, raised

ryers to sell. In 1943 she cleared over \$3000.00 from them alone. With feed higher and the ceiling price enforced Mrs. White gave up the business in late summer. She has not figured her profits for 1944. The Whites were tobacco farmers until the tenants were all called to service. This left only Mr. and Mrs. White at home to run the farm which they realized was an impossibility. They resorted to raising fryers for the market as a means of livelihood.

Other women sold at the market until the OPA began enforcing the ceiling price.

2. Home Demonstration Club Activities

a. Federation Goal

Housing was the federation goal in 1944. In January the women were given a safety check list and asked to answer each question. They saw there were numbers of practices that they had not thought of as being accident hazards such as the clothes line too low. The women became more conscience of these hazards about the home and began doing something about them. In the summer another check was made and the women urged to continue working on these as they read daily of a loss of life somewhere which could have been avoided. As reported at Achievement Day over two thousand such hazards had been removed from the homes of Home Demonstration club women in this county. The number of accidents that have been prevented as a result of this may be great. Two hundred seventy-five club members cooperated in making the federation goal in 1944 a success.

b. Other Special Activities

(1) Achievement Day

At the Home Demonstration committee meeting which was held in April the women thought if an Achievement Day was held more interest would be stimulated. Plans went forward and October 31 was designated as Achievement Day. It was as well attended as in previous years and the clubs that had not been quite as active saw that others had done well home with the determination of doing more and better work in 1945 particularly for the war effort.

(2) Frozen Food Locker Plant

As mentioned elsewhere in the report, efforts

were made to organize for a frozen food plant to be established in Chatham which would serve the people surrounding their county seat. There seemed to be much interest in the beginning and then dwindled to the extent that the committee asked by the professional workers group to canvass for subscribers ceased functioning. Only about 60 paid for a locker out of the hoped for 300. The agents helped all possible with the prospective plant in Danville which also fell through.

(3) Brief Account of Year's Work of One Outstanding Club.

In November 1943 twenty-two ladies of the Mt. Cross Home Demonstration Club began their fourth year as a club. Mrs. W. E. Lewis began her third year as a most efficient president. She made the remark when asked by the nominating committee if she would serve another year she said, "Yes, I'd rather be president than anything else for I can be at the post office (where she works) and think of so many things we can do. When I get home I call the members by telephone and the work is done. I do the thinking and they do the work, but of course it is the fine cooperation of the members that makes being president a pleasure."

During the year they engaged twelve meetings with a picnic in September and a Christmas party in December.

They put into practice everything they learn at the meetings. If it is a new vegetable they have discussed, they go home and plant it. If it is a new dish, they try it out on their husbands immediately. So naturally they are greatly benefited by the club.

The Mt. Cross club made 147 garments for the Red Cross, and knitted 15. They contributed \$49.00 to the Red Cross besides donating \$10.00 to fill over-seas kits for the Navy. They sold \$256.73 worth of Christmas seals and at their Christmas party sold \$1050.00 worth of War Bonds. They gave \$5.00 to the Ambulance fund which the federation of Home Demonstration Clubs is to buy and send over-seas.

The leaders have had charge of four meetings. They have attended all leaders' training meetings and the president attended the home demonstration committee meeting. They had the largest representation at Achievement Day.

(4) Account of How a Home Demonstration Club Member Has Adjusted to War Conditions

Mrs. M. L. Keesee, president of the Keeling Home Demonstration Club and incoming president of the County committee tells of some of the changes and practices she has made due to war conditions.

Mrs. Keesee says she now makes all of the clothing for her family—a husband, step-son, and herself. The people in this county are a little fortunate in that most of the time shirting can be bought from the Dan River Mill store which encourages the housewives to make the men folk's shirts. Mrs. Keesee resorted to this practice since materials in ready-made garments were of a poor quality and workmanship poorer still. Mrs. Keesee makes all of her cakes and pies, she sweetens apples and potatoes with syrup. Bread is made once a day and is warmed over in a double boiler for the next two meals. She says her family likes it as well as freshly baked bread.

More foods are raised at home than in pre-war years—she never has any use for her food ration stamps other than sugar. More fruits, vegetables and meats are canned. Most of this is canned at home due to the distance to a cannery. The storage room where Mrs. Keesee keeps all of her canned foods is completely filled long before the canning season is over. Any city woman would be envious of that food supply.

Mrs. Keesee keeps a memorandum pad in her kitchen to write down the "outs." Then whenever she goes to town she has a complete shopping list already made and nothing is overlooked.

Last and far from least Mrs. Keesee does the family laundering only every other week. Some women still contend that they have to wash weekly

but Mrs. Keeses says "no." She hangs the sheets and towels carefully on the line which means if they are folded evenly; placed under other linens they do not have to be ironed--another time saver.

She has practiced short cuts to housekeeping which she learned in the club and realized the importance of having her laundry equipment adequate; these, too, gives her more time and energy to can that bountiful supply she has and to help her husband with the tobacco.

B. Agricultural Boards

The County Board of Agriculture has held five meetings this year. The attendance could not be considered good at all of these. The chief reason for it is the amount of gas it takes to come to such meetings in Chatham,

The first meeting which was held in January was a joint one with the AAA committee. This was well attended. The purpose of this meeting was to discuss the production goals for 1944 and to tell them how they could improve some farming tactics to reach this goal. The committeemen called meetings in each of their communities to discuss these goals. The home agent attended the one community meeting and led the discussion on goals and how best to reach them.

Shortly after the beginning of the year some interest for a frozen food locker plant was shown. It was discussed at all the group meetings of any nature and it was decided to call a meeting of the County Board of Agriculture. The board met and thought it worthwhile for the vicinity of Chatham to make an effort to secure one. The home agent attended the meeting and acted as temporary chairman of the locker committee.

Since rats do an inestimable damage to the grains each year efforts were made to conduct a rat campaign. A meeting of the board was held to discuss this matter and they agreed it was an important matter. Merchants in every community were asked to cooperate by ordering the Red Squill compound. Only three merchants acknowledged the letter sent out. These merchants ordered the Red Squill and reported favorable results. The home agents discussed this campaign at all club meetings and urged the women to do all that was possible to make this campaign a success. She attended two group meetings to discuss the campaign.

This meeting was held during a busy season for the farmer. Also at this meeting the Chatham community was selected by the board as the community to be studied by the Rural Sociologist of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics. The study is to determine how the war is affecting rural people. What adjustments have been made and the post war outlook.

Also at this meeting canning demonstrations were discussed and the home agent urged that the members arrange to have at least one canning demonstration for the people in those communities where none had been given.

In August the final meeting of the County Board of Agriculture was held. The purpose of this was to follow up the production goals, discuss regulatory work, stress the importance of planting cover crops, discuss the Agricultural outlook in the post war world, discuss farm inflation--urging the farmer not to buy additional land but to buy more war bonds instead. The home agent attended this meeting. Prior to the meeting she and the farm agent visited as many community chairmen as possible, going over the purpose of the meeting so that they will see a need to attend. However, this was at the busiest time of the year and they could not attend.

6. 4-H Clubs

1. Project Work

The 4-H program for Virginia girls has helped them to grow into happy useful members of their families and communities. With an acute labor shortage still, the girls had to assume more home responsibilities and did more work on the farm than in pre-war years. With the New Manuals in use for the first time the 4-H girls in Pittsylvania county were very enthusiastic when shown a copy of what they were to receive. After a month or so went by and no manuals to amount to anything had been received for distribution their enthusiasm soon was nil. Most of the girls in this county were young and could not understand a lack of laborers to print these manuals. This caused a sharp decrease in enrollment by the end of the year. However, the ones remaining in the club spoke highly of their likes for the continuation of the manual.

a. Breads

Eighty-two who had chosen breads for their foods project were still club members in September out of one

hundred-four. Of the eighty-two, 75 completed their project. Demonstrations on bread making were given at club meetings by the agent when it was impossible to give the demonstration out of school. Where an adult project leader could be secured she gave the demonstration to the girls taking this particular project. The clubs meeting in school—all but one—are handicapped for such demonstrations as the clubs meet only during a given class period which may be from 45—55 minutes long. However the demonstrations given in the school were better suited to the children as the agent followed the directions in the manual and the leaders used their own hand system of measuring even though they were asked not to. After a demonstration was given the girls were asked to bring a sample of their own to the next meeting and they were judged. Loaf bread was made one hundred seventy-four times; biscuits thirteen hundred fifty; muffins three hundred fifty-five; cornbread four hundred thirty-seven; other breads two hundred sixty-eight. Eighty-eight exhibited bread.

b. Clothing—Make and Remake

Forty-five girls out of fifty-nine who were enrolled in the beginning remained in the 4-H Club all the year. Forty-two completed their project. These were older children and quit school before the end or moved away. The girls completing made one hundred seventy new garments at a cost of \$242.29; seventy-four garments were made over at a cost of \$32.75; two hundred fifty-four garments were darned; one hundred ninety were dry cleaned and five hundred nineteen were laundered. The girls liked this project very much as they could take it because they liked to sew.

c. Home Storage

One girl enrolled in home storage and completed her project. She improved the family storage, needs of clothing, cleaning equipment, kitchen equipment and laundry equipment.

d. Home Laundry

Five girls were enrolled in home laundry and five girls completed all five. All helped with the family laundry the entire year. They did the entire family washing as many as four times and the ironing as many as four times. All five helped make improvements in the laundry set-up.

e. Poultry

Nine club girls enrolled in poultry projects-- baby chicks, egg production or special poultry. Three girls completed. Although I do not have the amount of profits, one girl who is not here but away in college has carried poultry for her project several years. In December her English class was making a trip to New York to see a Shakespearean play which they were studying. Egg production had dropped considerably due mostly to poor feeding. The assistant agent and home agent helped the family cull the hens and the culls were sold which enabled this club member to go with her class to New York.

f. Gardening

Most of the garden work was done by girls who entered the Sears Roebuck project. Eighteen girls began the gardens and eleven girls completed their gardens and nine turned in their records. The estimate value of vegetables in the nine gardens reporting was one hundred eight dollars. The girls could care for the gardens themselves and canned all surpluses. The only cost was for the fertilizer used. Of the nine handing in records one record was sent to be entered in the state garden record contest and was a winner of a \$24.00 War Bond. The girls not completing moved to other locations in the spring or early summer and one married. The seed were furnished by the Sears Roebuck Store in Danville and so were the prizes. Eight prizes were offered but only seven were given due to the quality of work done by the girls. The prizes for gardens amounted to \$18.00. This is the third year the contest has been carried on.

g. Child Care

Two girls chose child care for a project. Manuals for this project were never received. The two girls completed their projects. They bathed and dressed children seventeen times; prepared food and fed them five times and directed their play twenty three times.

h. Housekeeping

Housekeeping was one of the main projects taken due to the number of beginners in club work. One meeting was devoted entirely to housekeeping aids. Eighty seven girls began the year with the project, twelve of these dropped out before the end of the year. All

completing the year turned in a record sheet. Seventy girls cared for a room daily for at least 2 months; 62 rearranged rooms for easier care; all 75 washed dishes regularly; 72 made beds regularly; 69 set table; 41 cleaned lamps; 31 cared for garbage; 35 cared for stoves or fireplaces and 49 brought in fuel. Thirty-two provided a place for cleaning equipment; 39 for personal things; 27 a tool box; 31 lengthened sheets and 25 made table mats.

i. Stop-Food-Waste

Ten girls were enrolled at the last of club year and nine completed. All nine cooked and served greens, potatoes, other vegetables, prepared left-overs. One girl improved storage space for potatoes; and five improved storage space for canned food. Eighty-two pounds of scrap fats were salvaged.

j. Canning

A second part of the Sears Roebuck project was canning also. They made a canning plan in the beginning. They canned alone 1353 quarts and helped with canning 4949 quarts. Ten girls improved the storage space for their canned projects. There were seven prizes given in this phase of the project which amounted to \$13.00. The canned exhibit of these girls was on display at the Sears Roebuck Store in Danville for a week in September. At which time it was judged.

k. Milk, Butter and Cheese

Six girls enrolled in the milk, butter and cheese project. Four completed the project by milking regularly for twelve months; two cared for milk and utensils two months and two for four months; two made butter regularly for two months and two for four months; one made American cheese one time and three made cottage cheese.

2. Community Activities of the Clubs

The 4-H Clubs have been active again in the War effort. The clubs that have fair booths have contributed to the Red Cross and War Fund drives. The children collected scrap paper and turned it in through the schools. The schools also were asked to collect milkweed pods, the 4-H club members helped with this.

3. Other Activities of 4-H Clubs

(a) Dairy Calf Shows.

In 1943 livestock was eliminated from the fair exhibits. A small dairy calf and pig show was held at the county seat with much enthusiasm. So interested and proud were these boys and girls, another show much bigger and better was held this year. There were more entries and better calves were shown. There were 40 odd entries. The following week some of these boys and girls took their prize calves and cows to the district show where they won other prizes. This has stimulated a great deal of interest in some clubs.

(b) Fair

The Danville fair was held again in October. Six clubs had booths in which they displayed quality products and brought out the aims of 4-H club work. These clubs were on a competitive basis. Dan River won first place which was \$25.00, Sharon, second which was \$22.00. The total cash awards amounted to \$108.00. The clubs use this money for worthy causes. The plans are underway for the 1945 fair.

4. Brief Account of Work of the Sharon Club

The Sharon club held nine regular meetings and had two called meetings. They are unable to meet during the summer due to the distances they live from one another and too they have to work on the farm.

The club has exhibited at the fair four consecutive years, winning 4th place twice. The club uses this money wisely by contributing to worthy causes such as : Ambulance fund, dues, school library and Red Cross.

The club keeps a scrap book of their activities. They have pictures of the fair booths and any other pictures the children take of their projects.

They helped the 2nd and 3rd grade children collect scrap paper to buy books for their rooms.

The club has two active leaders which has meant more to their club than anything else.

Sharon is a junior club and they carry on all meetings without a hitch according to parliamentary procedure; this they learn in the club. They have a short program at each meeting where the members learn to get up and speak before a group.

D. Other Work Done by the Home Demonstration Agent

1. County Home Economics Worker

There has been less cooperation from the Home Economics teachers in Pittsylvania county due to unavailable conditions than in previous conditions. The home managing supervisor has been very cooperative this year. The home agent has cooperated with both of these at all times. The Home Economics teachers were given the privilege to attend the food preservation demonstrations which were given in this area in Halifax, Va., none went. The home agent gave the demonstration to these teachers later. Three new community canneries were opened during the year. The home agent cooperated with one of these and worked with the people in the communities where the two operated last year. She held two classes for one community. One home demonstration club was organized as a result of one of the new canneries.

2. County Nutrition Committee

There is not a nutrition committee in Pittsylvania. However, until recently there was a Red Cross Nutrition Committee. They arranged classes to be taught to senior high school girls as they felt that a majority of these girls would and their education in high school. Only a few of the classes went through as the school supervisor felt that the schools were overburdened after first consenting. The Home Economics teachers were more than willing to cooperate in this. The chairman resigned due to the size of the county.

3. Office of Civilian Defense

The home agent has cooperated with the office of civilian defense at all times. The coordinator asked the home agent to make a nutritional report however the blanks to be filled out newer were received.

4. Salvage Committee

The home agent has taken part in all scrap drives in Pittsylvania. There has not been a salvage chairman during the year so the drives have been hampered. The Home Demonstration

club women have collected scrap fat and the home agent brings the fat to the collector. Some clubs have cooperated with the schools in collecting scrap paper. It has been difficult to get anyone to collect the scrap paper and scrap fat.

5. Rationing Board

The home agent has worked with the rationing board at all times. She has carried applications for canning sugar to the members. She distributed food ceiling price sheets twice and urged the women to use them. She attended one meeting of the board and made a report on the drastic prices the women at the curb market were charging for their produce. This was investigated and stopped.

6. War Board Committee

The agent has urged all home demonstration and 4-H club members to buy war bonds and stamps. One Home Demonstration club had a Christmas social at which \$1050.00 in bonds were pledged. There was no check made on the number of bonds bought by club women.

7. Red Cross

The home agent and home demonstration clubs are cooperating whole heartedly with the Red Cross. The home agent carries articles of clothing to be made to the meetings and brings in the finished garments, after the next meeting. The production chairman of the Red Cross has said again this year, "Were it not for the Home Demonstration club women Pittsylvania county would not be able to fill its quota." Most all of the sewing quotas was done by these women. The clubs donated to the filling of Navy kits for over-seas service boys. Three clubs met regularly either in their respective communities or in Chatham to make surgical dressings. Had it not been for this the filling of the surgical dressing quota would have been lagging. The home agent cooperated with the Red Cross in arousing interest in remote sections for a home nursing course to be taught by a Red Cross nurse. Although none of the home demonstration clubs realized any of the benefits from these efforts others did. Most of the classes were negro classes, as the committee felt they were less able to afford a doctor's attention.

8. Production Credit Association

The home agent cooperates with the Production Credit Association. A monthly bulletin is published by the Association. The home agent often writes timely articles for this bulletin. At the annual stockholders' meeting,

the home agent made a talk on gardening and food preservation.

9. Danville Fair Association

The Danville Fair Association has been very cooperative this year. The Concord and Oak Grove Home Demonstration clubs had booths. The Concord club chose as their topic, "Housing" which was the federation goal. The Oak Grove club chose "Laundering" for their topic which made a very attractive exhibit. The clubs each received \$25.00.

10. County Newspapers

Since March there have been two county newspapers. One requested the home agent to write weekly articles on some timely subject for farm women. Thirty-four such articles have been written other than publicity articles.

VII. The Most Significant Contribution

The most significant contribution to the county in meeting war needs which was made by the home demonstration program this year has been in food production and conservation. In July a war emergency secretary was employed. Due to her inability to carry out instructions she did not be of much help. However, the home agent was able to go out into the county for more needed demonstrations in food preservation. The garden chairmen were active from January on through the fall months. They stressed the importance of ordering good seed early and from a reliable firm. They told the women the importance of selecting a desirable and convenient garden plot so that it could be prepared early. A garden manual with the information outlined monthly was given each chairman. This proved to be very helpful. Storage was not included in the manual but the chairman gave good information on proper storage from previous materials. The gardens were very good until the tobacco crop had to be harvested. Each club had a poultry chairman again. They, too, gave unusually good reports on their topic which proved very valuable to the women since feed has been high. Poultry was not increased during the year as the women were urged to raise only enough for their own family's use unless they had a market for the chickens and eggs. This they did. The women did buy better chicks or hatching eggs and fewer ones than in previous years. Culling demonstrations were held at all home demonstration clubs in September. This was a request of the Board of Supervisors as they were interested in poultry production and knew the need for taking out the non-layers since feed is high and

scarce. The February meeting was devoted to soybeans—their importance in the diet and preparing soybean dishes. March was devoted to sugar saving suggestions as sugar seems to be one of the scarce items with the average housewife. Also in March the poultry chairman demonstrated preserving eggs in water-glass so that during the high price egg season the women could use preserved eggs for home use and sell fresh eggs which would enable them more profits. In October the topic was keeping the family fit—cold prevention by serving the family nutritious foods. A general discussion on vitamins, their importance in the diet, how food should be properly cooked that contain them and where they are found. Also salads using fruits and vegetables were made. The November meeting was in charge of the garden chairmen. They discussed planting and care of small fruits such as boysenberries, raspberries and strawberries and care of asparagus and rhubarb in the home garden. The May meetings were devoted to the use of the dehydrator. The electric dehydrator was carried to all meetings with only 15% of the entire population of the county having electricity this does not prove worthwhile. The women still prefer to can their food. Since the women have lost much of their canned food in recent years due to lack of knowledge of how to use the war time jar tops this was discussed at length in May. Experiments were made on the amount of water to use in pressure cookers to insure a full jar of liquid after a food is processed. The home agent has cooperated with the schools in their course #15 this year. There are five community canneries and perhaps more will be added another year as the people in some sections had to be educated to their use and convenience. The home agent gave other canning demonstrations whenever called on to do so. Much information to local people was given by telephone. More food than ever before was canned this year and every woman canned all the fruit possible in case of another fruitless year. The Danville cannery operated again this year.

NARRATIVE REPORT FOR PITTSYLVANIA COUNTY

1944.

L. G. Jenkins
District Agent
Dec. 1, 1944

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SCOPE OF WORK
Home Demonstration Clubs

Number 25 Membership 620

Community Clubs

Number 3 Membership 113

4-H CLUBS

Number 10 Membership 350

Number reached through neighborhood and community leaders 623

Estimate total number of families reached 623

Number of families in county 1,806

Organization

The county advisory board is an organization of representatives from the home demonstration and community clubs and the neighborhood leaders.

The membership of this county advisory board is 84.

The county advisory board has cooperated with the home agent in helping to plan the county program of work.

Two meetings were held this year, one in the spring and one in the fall.

The State Community Live-At-Home Work which was carried on in the demonstration community was under the direct supervision of the county advisory board.

The work carried on in this community compared favorably with that of other communities in counties that are under the leadership of home demonstration agents.

This community rated second among the participating communities.

The breeding center for hogs that is sponsored by the county advisory board is still aiding in establishing purebred livestock.

25 additional families established brood sows on their farms, this year.

County advisory board members went on a farm and home tour that was sponsored by one of the clubs.

This activity served as a check and a means of measuring results, and aided in planning the 1945 program.

Representatives of other agencies working with farm families, have attended the county advisory board meetings and have explained their programs

Advisory board members are better able to see the entire county agricultural program, and they have been helpful in spotting the sections in the county where changes are developing and where help from the extension service is not being felt.

This information has been most valuable to the home agent in making plans for reaching new groups.

The county advisory board financed the trip of two club members to attend the Family Life Problem Conference which was held at Hampton Inst., August 2-4.

These club women have given other women and men the benefit of the information received at the conference.

The eight magazine subscriptions used in the reading unit in the home agent's office have been renewed for 1945.

These magazines are passed on the various clubs, thus making possible a larger supply of a available reading material for both adults and young people.

Leadership

The county is divided into 14 communities and 79 neighborhoods.

The leadership work extended over this territory.

The 174 local leaders gave 376 days this year, to conducting demonstrations, and supervising demonstrations carried on by farm people.

30 leader training meetings were held for training local leaders.

In these meetings, subject material for conducting method demonstrations was studied.

Plans were made for conducting group and individual activities to be used in putting over the extension program.

The county map which showed the areas of extension activities was most helpful in these meetings.

A chart was made of local leader activities and from this chart the leaders rated themselves.

This self-rating feature of the leadership training work stimulated interest on the part of leaders in county as well as club participation.

Local leaders have assumed a larger share in conducting club meetings this year than ever before.

This increased share in club responsibility gave the home agent more time in which to assemble demonstration material and more time for general office duties.

Local leaders concentrated more on leadership as an example, rather than the job of collecting data.

The home demonstration club leader for the New Mountain club said, "I wanted to make a special contribution to the food production program. I ordered garden huckleberries seed from a seed company in Pa., I sowed the seed in a box in the house, in April as soon as the plants were two and one half inches tall and all danger of frost had passed, I planted them in rows as I would cabbage plants. Cultivation was then same as for cabbage.

In August the berries were ready for canning, jelly and making of preserves.

I made two quarts of preserves, one quart of jelly, four quarts canned and several pies.

I planted only twelve plants this year. Next year I plan to plant one hundred and I hope to get my neighbors to raise some.

The Leader's Digest, a n extension service leaflet was mailed each month to leaders to supplement the leader training meetings and conferences.

The district home agent attended some of the leader training meetings and gave valuable help to the local leaders and home agent.

Some of the special meetings were followed up with home visits. Here the district agent helped in supervising the work of leaders.

Recognition to leaders that have given outstanding services to the extension service program will be given this year as in the previous year.

4-H Club leadership work was conducted through personal conferences and in small groups.

The method used in training was the same as that used in the adult group.

RESULTS

Home Demonstration Clubs:

Three new clubs were organized this year. This makes a county total of 25 home demonstration clubs with an enrollment of 620 women.

Fifteen of the eighty-two new members enrolled in home demonstration work this year were former 4-H club members.

Each club member has taken information received at club meetings to five or more non club members.

Club members made use of mimeographed material furnished them by the home agent. This material covered all phases of home and farm activities.

Giving out mimeographed material, was one of the methods that the home agent used in cutting down on the number of leaflets and bulletins distributed to individuals seeking information on farm and home problems.

Early in the fall of 1943, club members realized that "Food Production and Conservation" would be the big job in 1944.

Club members came to the County Planning meeting with the same idea.

Club program calendars for each club were planned by the officers of the clubs with the assistance of the home agent.

The program included better gardens, increased milk production, and better care of farm animals.

Canning, storage and dehydration of fruits and vegetables composed the major part of the program.

Packed lunches for children and adults received a larger space in the program than in previous years.

Gardens--The approach used to encourage better gardens was through the club garden demonstrator.

One family was selected by the club as the garden demonstrator.

This family agreed to have a garden near the house and fence it in, if this had not already been done.

The family further agreed to plant a cover crop and plow the garden early; to use only seed from a reliable seedman; to use corrective pest and insect control measures to keep a record of planting and harvesting dates; to make a canning budget, and to keep a record of the amount of canning done, and the cost of producing the garden.

Approximately 85% of the garden demonstrators lived up to their agreement.

Probably the greatest benefit derived from the garden demonstrator method was that the demonstrator served as chairman of the food production group and was the means of stimulating a rivalry among club members that was helpful in driving home the fact that food production and conservation was the home front job.

15 clubs purchased seed and plants cooperatively. Farmers realized more than ever the value of cooperative buying. Some farmers have already received dividends as the result of their purchases.

Club discussion meetings showed improvements due to the fact that more families had actual proof of results obtained because they had kept records of their garden activities.

The emphasis in poultry production was placed on improving the flock through good housing, culling and proper feeding.

Club members improved their flock by repairing the poultry houses, culling the

flock and by using better feeding habits.

Egg production has increased. With this increase in egg production, women preserved eggs by the water glass method. One club member reported having saved fifteen dozen from her flock of sixteen birds. This was done during the season that eggs were cheapest.

Club members reported that there has been an increase in the number of brooder chicks purchased cooperatively. Poultry flocks have been improved because these chicks were purchased from certified hatcheries, and the younger birds have replaced the poorer breed on many farms.

Hog production has been on the increase for several years. This trend has been continued towards the family brood sow. Just as great a need in the pork production program, was a assistance in the care and feeding of hogs.

There has been an increase in the number of hog lots established and in the number of houses built for hogs. The latter were constructed according to the extension service plans.

One of the highlights of the hog production program is given here:-
Mr. Andrew Jones of the Mt. Spring Community is trained to give serum to hogs for the prevention of cholera.

It is the usual procedure in each club meeting that a part of the time be given to the discussion of family and community problems that might receive solution through the home demonstration program.

It was during such a discussion that one of the members told of having lost five hogs, the cause of which could not be accounted for. Other club members told of similar losses.

Club members, present in that meeting, had lost fourteen hogs.

The home agent made a trip that afternoon to the county agent's office to see what could be done.

Upon the suggestion of the home agent a neighborhood leader was selected to be trained to treat the remaining hogs.

Within three days, with the help of the people in the community, a demonstration meeting was held with an attendance of twenty men.

The farm agent taught Mr. Jones how to give the treatment to hogs.

Mr. Jones's report shows that he has treated 46 hogs with the loss of only one.

These families did not have the money to pay for the services of a veterinarian. Therefore this community effort was of two fold value to them.

The only cost to the farmer is that of the serum. He estimated savings in this community project has been \$375.00.

These families will have meat in their food budget. They have their hats off to Mr. Jones.

Mr. Jones's wife, who is the home demonstration club leader, has worked right along with her husband in keeping the record of this activity.

Improved Milk Production was the goal set, but several other good results have been realized from this phase of the food production program.

Some pastures have been established in each community; however the greatest improvement has been made in providing feed for cows, especially during the fall and winter months.

A report of one club member is typical of what has been done on many farms.

"I terraced my field, seeded rye, then clover. My cows increased their milk by one-half gallon a day per head."

Five families purchased cream separators and are now selling cream on the county extension *milk route*

Report from one club woman: "I am selling butter fat from three cows at 45 and 46 cents per pound. I have sold 500 pounds of butter fat. The profit has been used in home improvement."

The county planning meetings that were held in January and August for the purpose of acquainting farmers with the situation as to the 1944 goals were helpful to the home agent.

Information was given by specialists on the agricultural situation, crop production, winter cover crops, soil conservation, livestock production, the AAA program and findings of the agricultural experiment station located at Chatham and changes in regards to the feed and feed outlook.

The agent also attended a vegetable garden meeting in February, in which the Vegetable Specialist from V.P.I. gave helpful information on the Home Garden the treatment of seed, the uses of fertilizers, harvesting and storage as definite parts of the garden program.

The material on food production sent to the home agent during the year from the extension department was helpful in carrying on the production program.

Club members have done a good job in food production. This is well accounted for in the conservation side of the program.

Conservation:-

620 women representing 25 clubs participated in the food conservation program.

Club members began the conservation work after careful planning for the work to be done.

This planning consisted of making the family food budget, checking canning equipment on hand, getting familiar with types of jars and lids, and reviewing the methods to be used.

The folder assembled by food and nutrition specialist from V.P.I. was used by club members in making their food supply budget.

The recommendations adapted at the State Food Conservation meeting were followed in checking and making preparation for the conservation work.

The home agent received help in the program by attending group meetings in which the food and nutrition specialist demonstrated the methods used in the conservation of food. Help was also received from the district home agent.

The home agent conducted 364 method demonstration meetings on the conservation phase of the program. Local leaders conducted 115 meetings.

These demonstrations were given in the canning of non-acid vegetables, tomatoes, meats; fruits and fruit juices, in the dehydration of fruits and vegetables and in the construction of storage spaces for food.

Amount of food conserved-64,150 quarts of vegetables and fruit, chicken, and other meats; 1,475 pounds fruit and vegetables dried and 1,850 bushels stored.

This report does not include the food that was canned in the community center.

Although families were encouraged to do bulk canning in these canning centers, the home agent did not work in these centers.

The home agent visited 68 non-club members and assisted them with individual problems in canning.

There has been an increase in the use of soy bean. Some soy bean recipes were given to growers of estate soy beans.

Canning exhibits were held in 19 clubs. This served to stimulate interest in club work.

Club members exhibited canned products at the Danville Fair.

Nutrition:-The breakfast score given the home agent by the district agent created much interest in the nutrition program.

Each club member checked on her food habits to find that ^{her} score in most cases, were very low.

The home agent used the "Food Model Display" by the National Dairy Council. These models gave activity in food selection that was helpful to home makers.

During the discussions which followed the method demonstrations, the nutritive value of the different foods ~~was~~ emphasized and recipes were given for the preparation of various dishes.

Special assistance was given individual families in working out diets for the sick and children ~~that~~ had been reported undernourished.

Assistance was given in the selection and preparation of school lunches to be served at schools.

Much time was spent on the nutritive value of foods when the garden plan was made. Club members were led to see the reason for including various vegetables in the food budget.

Home Demonstration Club Activities:-

The school lunch program was planned by two clubs and club members gave some time to meal planning for different types of individuals and groups.

Canning exhibits were sponsored by clubs with special emphasis on the family food plan, and cutting food waste.

One club conducted a "farm and home Tour" On this tour outstanding county officials saw the benefits that were being received from the expenditure of public funds.

The reporter of one of the county papers represented the editor on this tour and very favorable comments were given in the county paper concerning the home demonstration work in the county.

Farmers in this community were inspired and there has been requests for help, from the extension service, by non-club members.

One of the white neighbors sent the news article to a friend in another state. Since that time one of the club members has received congratulations from this individual who also requested further information concerning the club program.

Cooperative buying and sharing the hard to get and scarce farm and home implements has been an activity that has brought back the old neighborly spirit.

In such activities the home agent has had splendid opportunities to teach lessons of group responsibility and to put democracy into practice.

Salvage Campaigns:-

Home demonstration club members have been helpful in promoting these programs by enlisting the aid of housewives in the collection of tin cans, household fats and ~~miscellaneous~~ paper.

Leaflets explaining the necessity for the program and the use to which these salvaged materials are put were distributed. These leaflets were also helpful in explaining the urgent need for the cooperation of everyone in the program.

Club members gave publicity to the National Farm Safety Campaign. This campaign had for its purpose to teach people to take intelligent precautions to reduce accidents.

During the month of September, emphasis was placed on nutrition. Home clubs cooperated with the county nutrition committee in putting over the program.

Clubs assisted in the purchasing of material for demonstration purposes:-

Clubs have contributed to the purchase of a Speed-O-Scope to be used in the home demonstration work.

Other contributions went for materials used in giving method demonstrations.

Account of year's work of Mt. Spring Home Demonstration Club:-
Club Program: Food Production and Conservation- Completion of family food budget.

Total number of quarts of fruit canned- 5,872; no. vegetable gardens 28; no. quarts of vegetables canned- 2,110; no. quarts of meat canned 440; pounds of fruit and vegetables dried and stored- 920. no. storage spaces repaired- 20.

Total number of farms purchased- 2; total acreage 120; no. home improvements 176; no. of non-club members reached- 17.

Increase in enrollment this year- 7 members .

Total number of club meetings held- 10; no. of leader training meetings attended by local leader- 2.

Community project sponsored by club- treatment of hogs for cholera.

Club member finds way to maintain food and feed production to meet wartime needs:-

A Shields home demonstration club member by working from "soon to late," by cooperating with neighbors and by using the children, has been able to keep the production of her farm up to full capacity despite wartime shortages and serious lack of farm labor.

In prewar years two men lived on this farm and cultivated wheat, corn, tobacco and a garden.

The livestock consisted of two cows, five hogs, two mules and a poultry flock.

The men have been inducted into the armed services.

The entire farm activities were left to the mother, who is a woman of fifty-seven, and two girls who are her only help.

A good livestock has been developed. Through the aid of the soil conservation program a permanent pasture has been established.

A young cow has been put into production and the old cow was butchered, part of which was canned and part exchanged with neighbors for labor.

Two brood sows have made possible the sale of pigs to pay for a cream separator.

Milk is sold on the cream route at 46¢ per pound.

A brooder house was repaired which made possible an increase in the poultry flock and early chicks were sold.

This club member in making her report on how she managed to increase her income on the farm and make use of short cuts, stated that she sold the hide of her cow for two dollars and a half; we try to grow our own feed for the livestock, we have sufficient vegetables to ~~grow~~ and store. This supply will be sufficient for 1945.

Despite the rush of work on the farm and taking care of her home, this club member cooperated with neighbors in harvesting wheat and served as local club leader.

She is present at the monthly club meetings, sometimes walking three to four miles.

4-H CLUBS:-

Project Work:

Ten clubs with an enrollment of 230 girls and 120 boys participated in the following food production and conservation projects: gardening, poultry, canning, drying and storage.

Other activities that club members participated in were housekeeping, home accounts and salvage collections.

Projects requirements were discussed with club members.

Each local club leader assisted the home agent in helping club members in the selection of projects in which there was a need in their own homes and farms.

The projects selected were reported to the district agent and each club member was sent material on the special project that had been selected.

In addition to the material on conducting the projects, the club members were given a record book in which to keep an account of the progress of club members' activities.

Some of the results of the program were as follows:

The 350 club members attended 76 method demonstration meetings.

312 club members completed projects in the home gardens. This represented 25 acres.

85 club members completed projects in poultry, representing 550 birds.

15 completions in pork production represented 15 animals.

281 Four -H Club members' manuals on canning, drying and storage were used. Club members canned 1,615 quarts of fruits and vegetables.

Requirements to follow in "Stop Food Waste" were checked with club members from time to time.

Club members prepared dishes of leftovers from recipes given them by the agent.

50 club members used the Foods Habits Guides and improvements were made in school lunches, in the eating of leafy vegetables, drinking water and milk.

Club members did a good job in the paper collections and the distribution of educational material on War Bond sales. Some club members are still purchasing War Savings Stamps.

Club members assumed larger responsibilities in the homes and on the farms because of the labor shortage. These additional duties were grouped as Wartime Units.

The home agent has cooperated in the program of the F.S.A, the American Red cross, the T.B. association, the professional workers' group, the county health department and has served as chairman of the county nutrition committee.

Through the special assistance rendered in the clubs, farmers have been able to increase their milk supply by the growing of lespedeza. Many farmers this year started the development of permanent pastures and some are growing Kudzu as the result of their experience on growing on a small plot.

Farm Cash Wisely Handled-

Mention has been made of this before but the assistance that the home agent has rendered along this line should receive special emphasis.

Farmers are making use of wartime profits to reduce mortgage indebtedness.

Some farms have been purchased but farmers are following the suggestion of cash settlements rather than investing in land at highly inflated prices. Farmers realize that the remaining wartime farm income years are limited and that prices of farm commodities will return to prewar levels.

Other farmers have stated that they fear that they have lost their farm labor forever. Many of the farmers that take this attitude have passed middle age.

These farmers have been encouraged to make their investments of farm funds in War Savings Bonds. Investments made by such farmers have a range of one hundred to one thousand dollars.

Danville Fair Exhibits-

446 entries at the Danville Fair were good examples of the variety and type of canning that was done by club members in the 1944 Food Production Work, and was the answer to some of the food problems of wartime living.

\$4 first prizes were awarded club members for this work. The total money realized from this effort was seventy-two dollars.

The home agent has tried to keep up with the trend in farm and home management and to be intelligent on problems of interest to farm families and to make suggestions to the solution of these problems that will be helpful to them in their post-war planning.

Appraisal of the most significant contribution to the county in meeting war needs which was made by the home demonstration program this year.

The working farm population in Pittsylvania County has decreased due to the fact that most of the young men have been inducted into the armed forces.

Because of this decrease in male labor, women and children took a larger share in the crop and livestock production in 1944, than ever before.

620 women enrolled in 25 home demonstration clubs, placed their greatest emphasis on food and feed production and conservation.

The home demonstration agent through the 164 local leaders aided more than 900 farm families in the food program.

The organized clubs met under the supervision of the home agent and leaders, in monthly meetings in the homes of club members.

These club members studied the changes in economic conditions. They presented their farm and home problems and with the aid of the home agent ways of solving these problems were suggested and practical goals were set. Plans were made for undertaking the solution of the farm, home and community problems.

From time to time the local club leaders met with the home agent in County leader training meetings and personal conferences.

The valuable information on modern farm and home practices received through these contacts was carried back to the women in the communities and these farm people were inspired to do a bigger and better job.

Neighborhood leaders took this same information to families in the most remote sections of the county.

"Our job in helping to win the war, or fighting on the home front" was the reason for the selection of food production and conservation as the special emphasis.

Each family was given an extension leaflet of the family food requirements. This leaflet contained the garden, poultry, livestock, and milk product requirements to be followed in order to meet the family budget needs.

Poultry culling demonstrations, canning and drying demonstrations, meetings at result demonstrations were the most effective ways used to get the full cooperation of all the families in the county.

Some of the accomplishments:

Method demonstration meetings held 364, attendance at these meetings 3,571.

Meetings at result demonstrations 750.

20 training meetings for local leaders.

100% of the club members enrolled in home demonstration clubs cultivated a garden this year.

86,398 quarts of food ^{etc.} canned by adult and 4-H club members.

79 families were assisted in establishing permanent storage spaces for food.

97 families were assisted in making improvements in poultry production.

10 cows purchased. Five families were added to the cream route.

125 families established brood sows on their farms.

7 pressure cookers purchased. Demonstrations were given in the operation and care of the pressure cookers.

194 days spent by home agent on the food program.

Through the food production campaign the 164 local leaders gave food production and conservation information to 900 families.

The extension service program reached 163 new families this year. In this group assistance was given in gardening, canning, poultry and storage problems.

Another phase of the food program that the agent assisted the families in was that of the prevention of food waste.

Help was given 4-H club members in planning packed school lunches, housekeeping and salvage collection and ~~part~~time jobs in the home and on the farms.

The attendance at the 76 method demonstration meetings held for 4-H club members was 1,516.

75 club members were trained to judge canned goods.

Families were aided in better financial planning and home management. Most of the families have an increased income and there was a tendency to spend with making plans for the spending.

This assistance that the agent rendered along this line was most appreciated.

Families accepted and followed suggestions that were given in repair of homes and farm dwellings.

Assistance was given in better care and repair of household furnishings and equipment. More farm tools are under shelter this year than ever before.

26 plans for improving home grounds and beautifying lawns were worked out with families.

Eight new homes were built. 26 homes painted. 31 repaired and 18 roofs were repaired.

The home agent gave some type of assistance in each of these improvements. 131 homes were screened.

The home agent assisted in organizing five home nursing classes with an enrollment of 63 women.

In each of these meetings the home agent taught a lesson on nutrition.

30 families were assisted in cooperative buying of garden seed and pressure cookers.

This assistance was in the form of help in selecting the right variety of seed, and in the case of pressure cooker purchases, it took the form of giving advice on durability. Club members and groups made their own purchases.

The home agent made 552 farm and home visits in conducting extension work, received 772 office and 282 telephone calls relating to extension work.

Community clubs-The three community clubs have a total enrollment of 61 men and 52 women.

The work of these clubs has centered around farm and home problems growing out of discussion group meetings.

The county agent was been called in to lead discussions on crop goals and other farming activities.

Five tenants in this group purchased farms and are now established as farmers.

There are 15 new participators in the soil conservation service.

One club serves as an educational and social center where near-by neighbors come in to receive extension service information.

The neighborhood leaders have been most helpful along this line.

The attendance at some of these meetings has been as high as 126 at one meeting.

These clubs have taken the lead in salvage collection campaigns and the sale of war savings stamps and bonds.

The extension service has been helpful to families in other phases of work other than that of food production and conservation. The home agent has assisted families in making application for selective service dependency allotments.

The home agent was instrumental in getting scholarships for 18 ministers to attend the study course for rural ministers that was held at Va. State College in July.