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ANNUAL REPORT

County Extension Work

1953



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Agent

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COUNTY

Asst. Agent

COUNTY HOME DEMONSTRATION AGENT'S
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TAZEWELL COUNTY
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III. COUNTY SITUATION AS AFFECTING 1953 PROGRAM

The main sources of income are from livestock and mining. Tazewell County is divided in half as to income sources; one-half being farming, the other half being coal mining. The population is approximately 50,000. About two-thirds of these people live in the mining areas or are connected in some way with it. In recent years certain sections of the county have changed from farming areas to ones thickly settled with miners. This year many of the miners have been faced with unemployment which has greatly affected the income and family living in these areas. The farming section has changed very little except that small plots of land are being sold and miners are moving into the farming areas. The communities are recognizing a need to draw these people into community activities but due to a wide range of interest among the people, the county-wide Extension program must be varied to meet the needs.

The four towns in the county work independently of each other. One has increased in population and size to such an extent that the people are beginning to ask for the activities that used to be a part of the county seat. For instance, for the past seven years they have held a fair of their own.

The conditions in the schools have improved this year, however some schools are overcrowded, old, and lack modern facilities. Four new school buildings were completed this year, two more are under construction, and the construction of more will begin in the near future.

The overcrowded conditions that still exist definitely affect the 4-H Club work as far as room and time to meet are concerned.

IV. CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE 1953 PROGRAM TO BETTER FAMILY LIVING

Through Community Clubs, Home Demonstration Clubs, 4-H Clubs, and other groups much has been done in 1953 to improve family and community living. A planning group from each organization planned the year's program to meet their own needs and membership has increased throughout the year. It was felt that it increased because the program met their needs.

Many rural parts of Tazewell County are very isolated so a program for rural youth and community recreation was needed. Fourteen Home Demonstration Clubs assisted in carrying out the project and many rural young people enjoyed and benefited from the recreational program in the communities.

One objective of the Home Demonstration Clubs was to increase leadership activities and much progress was made in 1953. The participation in leadership activities in the previous year was very low; the Home Demonstration Clubs depended on the home agent to give all demonstrations each month and to take the lead in planning and carrying out all projects. By stressing the importance of attending leader training meetings, the fourteen Home Demonstration Clubs have had leaders trained to be entirely responsible for four meetings in each club in 1953.

The Thompson Valley Community Club was entirely responsible for securing a new school building for the community. The plans were to

transport the children from the community to the nearest town to school and by the various committees appointed from the Community Club meeting with the School Board, construction of the new school will be started in the very near future.

● Two Community Clubs were responsible for improving the secondary roads through the communities by re-locating and re-surfacing the roads.

V. ADULT WORK

● The County Home Demonstration Committee met in September, 1952, and the Community Club Planning Committee met in December, 1952, to plan the program for the following year. A general program for the year was planned to include the following subject matter fields: Parliamentary Procedure and Method Demonstration, Foods and Nutrition, Clothing, Home Care of the Sick, Housing, House Furnishings, Landscaping, and Rural Arts.

A. PROJECT WORK

1. Parliamentary Procedure and Method Demonstration

Since one of the outstanding objectives for the county was developing leadership, the demonstration on parliamentary procedure and method demonstration can be considered one of the most important. It was felt that the officers and members of all Home Demonstration Clubs needed to know more about their responsibilities and to have some training to be able to carry out their duties to the best advantage. The leaders in each club planned to give a demonstration for four projects so they expressed a desire to be trained to give a good demonstration

which helped the members as well as making the leaders feel more secure. As a result of this demonstration there was steady improvement in the business sessions of the Home Demonstration Clubs and leaders have been able to give more interesting demonstrations. This has also been carried to most all community organizations in the county by the Home Demonstration Club women. The program on parliamentary procedure was carried to more people and greater results shown than probably any other program of the year.

2. Foods and Nutrition

A three-month unit in foods and nutrition was selected by the Committee with the topics of "Simple Refreshments", "Quick Meals or Master Mix", and "Salads to Include Vitamin C".

(a) Simple Refreshments

The committee decided that help on this problem was needed to make entertaining in the home easier for the hostess. The meetings were carried out by the use of graphed material, recipes, and club discussions by members, led by the agent.

(b) Salads to Include Vitamin C

Realizing a definite lack of Vitamin C in the diet of the average rural family, the committee chose the topic of "Salads to Include Vitamin C" in hopes to get the people in the county to improve their diet. A demonstration was given by the home agent and the salads served for refreshments to the club members. Posters and charts were shown to stress the importance of Vitamin C and recipes given to the club members. Three hundred and seventy women attended the demonstra-

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tion and two hundred and sixty-eight reported an increase of Vitamin C in the diet afterwards.

(c) Saving Time with Quick Meals or Master Mix

One month the Home Demonstration Clubs were given a choice of demonstration. Miss Janet Cameron trained 28 leaders to be responsible for the program. When the clubs chose "Quick Meals", it was prepared by the leaders and served to the members for their lunch. By these demonstrations, busy homemakers learned to serve good nutritious meals with very little time.

3. Clothing

(a) Sewing Machine Attachments

Realizing that many homemakers had recently purchased new sewing machines and many others had machines with attachments that had never been used, a program was planned by the committee on the use of "Sewing Machine Attachments" to improve the methods of sewing. Mrs. Thelma Hale, a representative from the Bluefield, West Virginia, Singer Sewing Machine Company, assisted the home agent in giving the demonstration to approximately 380 Home Demonstration Club Women. One hundred and eighty five women reported that, as a result of the demonstration, they had used sewing machine attachments to improve their methods of sewing.

(b) Good Grooming for Good Health

In 14 Home Demonstration Clubs a discussion was led by the home agent on the importance of wearing well-selected hose, shoes, foundation garments, etc., also a movie was shown to emphasize good posture, proper dress, and cleanliness of hair and skin.

4. Home Care of the Sick

Because of the scarcity of nurses and also the expense involved, the homemakers wanted to learn to care for the sick in the home to make it easier for the homemaker and also to insure proper care of the sick.

The home agent gave a demonstration on improving the necessary equipment in the home and ways of making the sick person more comfortable in an easier manner. The club women made simple pieces of equipment at the club meetings such as bed tables, back rests, waste disposal bags, and foot rests.

5. Housing

(a) Simple Household Repairs

In every home occasionally there is a need for simple repairs and since trained mechanics, plumbers, etc., are hard to secure and very expensive, the committee planned a demonstration on "Simple Household Repairs" so the homemaker could learn to make their own simple repairs. Mr. C. D. Wheary, Associate Extension Agricultural Engineer, held a leader training meeting and the leaders gave the demonstration in fourteen Home Demonstration Clubs. The members felt that, as a result of this demonstration, they could eliminate the necessity of securing outside help for simple repairs.

6. House Furnishings

(a) Upholstery Clinics

Requests from club members indicated the need for an upholstery clinic to be held in two areas of the county. One in Richlands to

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include the Richlands and Raven Clubs and one in Burkes Garden for the Burkes Garden and Tasewell Clubs. Miss Ruth Jamison, Extension House Furnishings Specialist, conducted one clinic at which time eight pieces of furniture were re-upholstered. The home agent conducted the second clinic; nine pieces were completed then. Since the clinic the leaders have helped re-upholster seven more pieces.

7. Care of Home Grounds

The club women of Tasewell County have had as a long-time goal home and community beautification. The committee planned to have a demonstration on care of the home grounds to encourage continuous work on the goal. Mr. A. S. Beecher, Associate Extension Horticulturist, provided the leaders of the fourteen Home Demonstration Clubs with materials to use in giving the demonstration. As a result of this demonstration community projects were planned. Two communities held community-wide clean-up campaigns; one club was responsible for cleaning the community cemetery, and another responsible for working on a community recreation area. A program on "Landscaping" was given in each community club.

8. Recreation

(a) Family Recreation

The Federation Goal for the year was "Rural Youth and Community Recreation". Miss Lucille Graves gave a very interesting leaders training meeting on recreation for rural youth.

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9. Rural Arts and Crafts

(a) Basket Weaving

The planning committee decided to devote one month to handi-craft. Ten Home Demonstration Clubs wanted to learn to weave baskets. The home agent, assisted in some clubs by Mrs. Mustard Pruett of Shavers Mill, gave the demonstration. Approximately 450 baskets have been made since the demonstrations.

(b) Hooked Rugs

Three Home Demonstration Clubs expressed a desire to make hooked rugs. The home agent gave a demonstration on choosing colors, making designs, and hooking the rugs. Twelve hooked rugs have been started.

B. OTHER ACTIVITIES

1. Participation of an Outstanding Family

There are many outstanding families in Extension work in Taxewell County, however Mr. and Mrs. James F. Page can be considered typical of outstanding work. Mr. and Mrs. Page are most interested in seeing that the Extension program is carried to others and that their community of Burkes Garden receives as many benefits as possible. Mr. Page is secretary-treasurer of the D.H.I.A. in the county, president of the Taxewell Artificial Breeding Association, and one of the outstanding leaders in the Burkes Garden Community Club. Mrs. Page is president of the Home Demonstration Club, past president of the Community Club, and Vice-Chairman of the County Home Demonstration Committee. She has served as leader for her club for many years and gives demonstrations throughout the year.

2. Participation of a Club in a Community Project

The Raven Home Demonstration Club chose as their community goal for 1953 a Community Clean-up Campaign. After giving much thought to choosing a goal, the members of the club felt that community clean-up was the most important need of the town.

Work has already been started on building a new highway and sidewalks through Raven and each Home Demonstration Club member is encouraging the citizens of the town to clean up their property; they hope to have a cleaner, healthier, and more attractive town.

Each member brought to the group a slogan, and from these slogans the best one was selected as the slogan for the campaign.

Since Raven is an unincorporated town, the club women felt that one of the greatest needs of the community was to get the town incorporated and then the sanitation laws could be enforced.

When passing through Raven it was obvious that some of the people did not properly dispose of their trash, so this, of course, was another item that the people hoped to correct.

The Home Demonstration Club planned to solicit the help of the two 4-H Clubs when a specific week was chosen to concentrate all their efforts on removing trash from the town. Mrs. C. L. McGlothlin, of Raven, who is a member of the Home Demonstration Club and who also serves as leader for the 4-H Club, acted as co-ordinator of the two groups.

The club advertised their clean-up campaign in the local newspapers, over the radio station, put up posters in the local stores,

and then, of course, advertised by personal contacts.

Not only did they encourage the cleaning up of trash, but also the planting of shrubbery and the painting of buildings to improve their homes and have a more attractive town in which to live.

The Club felt that the community benefited greatly from their project and they plan to continue it in the coming year to continue the community beautification.

This club has a membership of 30 women, with Mrs. Roy Reedy serving as President.

3. Community Project Work

The four organized Community Clubs have been very active in 1953 and have done much to improve their communities. Two clubs entered the Community Club Improvement Contest sponsored by the Bristol Chamber of Commerce. The clubs have stressed better farm and home practices. Through the efforts of the community clubs, two communities have secured new school buildings to replace the old condemned ones. The County School Board had planned to consolidate the schools with ones in nearby towns. Members from the communities met with the School Board many times and reached their goal of a new modern school building in their own community. Another far-reaching goal that was reached in three communities in 1953 was re-building the road through the community. These clubs have completed numerous projects in the past year to improve their community and probably one of the most noticeable accomplishments has been improving the community cooperation and spirit.

4. Federation Goal Activities

Tazewell County carried Rural Youth and Community Recreation for the year 1953. In some communities it was easier to carry out the objectives of this goal than others, however, much has been done throughout the county. The Shawvers Mill Club gave community-wide parties for the young people. The parties were planned to take care of the different age groups. The Graham Club contributed to maintaining a youth center in the Bluefield Municipal Building. The Tazewell Clubs offered their assistance to the recreational director of Tazewell. Freestone Valley has done much for the youth in the community by sponsoring recreational activities. The Raven Club indicated their cooperation by including the young people in the community project they sponsored. The Paint Lick Club works with the young people in the school once each month providing recreation. A leaders training meeting was held for all Federation Goal Leaders and they gave a program in each of the fourteen Home Demonstration Clubs. It was felt that the young people in the various communities benefited greatly from the program.

5. County Objectives

The County Objectives were:

1. More effectively serve by reaching young homemakers and tenants.
2. Have club members attend all leader training meetings and be responsible for conducting five club meetings.

3. Each club have at least one representative at the Institute of Rural Affairs.

4. Sponsor community projects.

5. Each club continue work started on Federation Goal.

6. Cooperate with the 4-H Club program and have a 4-H leader from each club when possible.

As a result of these goals, the Home Demonstration membership increased, leaders conducted five meetings, eight women attended the Institute of Rural Affairs, and the community projects and the Federation Goal work was carried out very good.

VI. 4-H CLUB WORK

* A. PROJECT WORK

The girls in 4-H Club work chose projects in the following subject matter fields: Clothing, Room Improvement, Safety, Electricity, and Foods.

1. Clothing

The project in the clothing field carried was "So You'd Like to Sew". In this project the girls wanted to learn to make a few simple articles as they had never sewed before. The home agent gave a demonstration to the groups each month; members of the clubs took turns in giving demonstrations and the work was supervised by the leaders and home agent. Three hundred and eighteen girls enrolled in the project and 286 completed with 1,054 articles and 218 garments made.

2. Room Improvement

Three hundred and twelve girls enrolled in the project*Your

Room - Pep It Up", wanting to learn to care for their own room and to make it more attractive. The home agent and club members gave demonstrations at each club meeting and 215 girls completed the project.

3. Safety

A safety project was carried three months of the year by every girl enrolled in 4-H Club work. This was also done with all of the 4-H Club boys. The home agent and county agent gave demonstrations each month and a total of 653 club members completed the project by making their farm and home a safer place in which to live.

4. Farm and Home Electric

Thirty-five boys and girls enrolled in the electric project which was conducted by the Appalachian Electric Power Company and the county and home agents. Twenty-three members completed and Homer Allison, of Cedar Bluff, Virginia, won the contest and attended the Farm and Home Electric Congress in Richmond, Virginia.

5. Foods

The project, "Food for Pep", was chosen by eleven club girls. After learning to plan and serve meals, 42 dishes were prepared by the girls and eight complete meals were served.

B. OTHER ACTIVITIES

1. 4-H Camp

Tazewell County had 68 club members, the largest delegation of any of the seven counties represented, to attend the 4-H Camp held at Greenville, Tennessee. Tazewell County was well-represented among the honors received at camp. Jimmy Gillespie, of Pounding Mill, Virginia,

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was chosen "Big Chief" of the camp and Homer Allison, of Cedar Bluff, Virginia, was elected "Best All-Around Camper".

2. Achievement Day

One of the biggest and best Achievement Days ever held in Tazewell County was held in 1953. Credit for making it possible to have a big Achievement Day goes to the Richlands Chamber of Commerce for they sponsor the Richlands Fair and 4-H Calf Show which is part of the Achievement Day activities. Another feature of the Achievement Day activities in 1953 was the "4-H Share the Fun Talent Contest" sponsored by dealers of U. S. Royal Tires. Each club in the county had a contestant in the contest and John Tate, Bluefield, Virginia, won the county contest.

3. State 4-H Short Course

Seven 4-H Club members attended the State 4-H Short Course at Blacksburg. Two boys and 1 girl were taken into the All-Star organization.

4. All-Star Organization

A county All-Star Chapter was organized in Tazewell County in 1953. These members assist with county 4-H activities and in some cases with project work.

VII. YOUNG MEN AND WOMEN'S WORK

There is one Rural Youth Club in Tazewell County with a membership of 45. A program was planned in connection with that of the

Community Club in the section. Recreation was stressed since the members attended the Community Club meetings and got educational material from these meetings.

VIII. SCOPE OF WORK

	<u>1949</u>	<u>1950</u>	<u>1951</u>	<u>1952</u>	<u>1953</u>
No. HD Clubs or Groups	12	22	22	19	14
Membership	350	700	700	535	395
No. 4-H Clubs	14	26	26	26	22
Membership	702	1206	1200	1338	1181
No. YMW Groups	1	1	1	1	1
Membership	49	35	35	45	45
No. other families reached	2293	3490	3130	3218	2918
No. different families reached	6500	6500	5425	5237	3746
No. community clubs	4	4	4	4	4
Membership	250	250	250	250	250

IX. FUNCTIONING ORGANIZATIONS IN 1953 PROGRAM

1. County Home Demonstration Committee

The County Home Demonstration Committee is made up of the president and program development leader of the different clubs. They held two meetings in 1953, one in the spring to train the program development leaders, plan observance of National Home Demonstration Week, and discuss the progress of the year's work in the club and county activities. The second meeting was held in the fall to plan the program for the coming year. The attendance and participation for these meetings were excellent and the leadership in the county has definitely increased in 1953.

2. 4-H County Council

Two County 4-H Council meetings were held during the year with good attendance. The spring meeting was devoted to planning summer

activities, camp, and a check-up of the project work. The fall meeting was devoted to training officers, planning of Achievement Day, and planning the county talent contest.

3. County Chapter of 4-H All-Stars

A County Chapter of 4-H All-Stars was organized in Tasevell County in 1953. They assist with county activities and project work.

I. LEADERSHIP

A. Contributions of Volunteer Leaders

1. Organizational Leaders

The organizational leaders in each club have been very active in 1953. They have helped to promote the Extension program over the entire county and have promoted many club activities.

2. Program Development Leaders

One leader training meeting was conducted by Miss Edith Vaughan for these leaders. After a discussion of the county needs, the program development leaders discussed the needs to be included in the next year's program. After these discussions, they planned a very helpful year's program.

3. Subject Matter Leaders

The subject matter leaders conducted five meetings in each club without the assistance of the home agent. Other leaders gave helpful reports at various times throughout the year. This shows a definite increase in leadership over the past year; these leaders are assuming more responsibility.

B. Growth of Leadership by Project Leaders

<u>4-H CLUB PROJECT LEADERSHIP</u>	<u>1949</u>	<u>1950</u>	<u>1951</u>	<u>1952</u>	<u>1953</u>
No. project leaders (subject matter)	29	138	138	132	84
No. goal chairmen	12	22	22	19	28
No. training meetings held by specialist	4	11	4	6	7
by agent	4	104	96	11	1
Attendance at all training meetings	365	247	264	148	170
No. club meetings held by leaders without agent present	32	49	95	36	49
No. additional club meetings at which leaders assisted	98	152	192	176	28

<u>GROWTH OF 4-H CLUB PROJECT LEADERSHIP</u>	<u>1949</u>	<u>1950</u>	<u>1951</u>	<u>1952</u>	<u>1953</u>
No. adult project leaders	21	26	22	26	22
No. junior project leaders	15	35	37	19	5
No. training meetings held by specialist	0	0	3	0	0
by agent	0	0	1	3	2
Attendance at leader training meetings	0	0	63	18	139
No. 4-H leaders trained individually	21	54	59	45	20
No. club meetings held by leader without agent present	14	22	47	2	6
No. of additional club meetings at which leaders assisted	67	114	151	192	20
No. demonstrations given by leaders	0	0	0	0	4
by adults	26	46	54	28	18
by juniors	7	24	36	60	40

G. Activities of Outstanding Leader

One of the most outstanding leaders in home demonstration work is Mrs. R. O. Cruise, Tazewell, Virginia. Because of her interest and many efforts to promote the Extension program she is a great asset to home demonstration work in the county. Mrs. Cruise has served as president of her home demonstration club, has been various leaders, and for the past two years she has been the Chairman of the County Home Demonstration Committee. She has done excellent work in seeing that county activities are planned and promoted, she has met with each home demonstration club in the past year to discuss with them the work of the Federation of Home Demonstration Clubs. She attends leader training meetings, and many times trains other leaders who are unable to attend. She has assisted the home agent in giving many demonstrations. In 1953 she attended the Institute of Rural Affairs and encouraged others to do so. Mrs. Cruise can easily be considered the most outstanding leader in the county because of her keen interest in learning and seeing that others become interested in learning.

XI. WORK IN COOPERATION WITH OTHER AGENCIES

Throughout the year all work has been done in close cooperation with other agencies and organizations. By doing this, many families have been reached that would not have been otherwise.

Appalachian Electric Power Company

The agent depends upon this organization for help on club meetings, demonstrations, and some educational material. Two 4-H Clubs

carried the electrical project and were assisted in class work by a representative of the Appalachian Electric Power Company.

P. T. A.

The Home Demonstration Club members and agent cooperate with the various P.T.A. organizations in the county. Several 4-H Clubs gave the programs at P.T.A. meetings.

American Legion

The Home Demonstration Clubs and agent sponsor the Homemaking Department at the County Fair that the Legion puts on each year. The agent attends the fair planning meetings, then makes plans with the clubs as to how the fair committee's plans can be carried out.

Chamber of Commerce (Richlands)

The 4-H Fair and Fat Calf Show is sponsored by this organization. This fair came in May and it has a homemaker's department included. The Home Demonstration Clubs in that section of the county have charge of the work with the Richlands Home Demonstration Club handling the committee work.

Red Cross

Red Cross Drives in most of the rural areas are put on by some of the Home Demonstration Club members. Most of the clubs give a donation to the Drive.

Tuberculosis Association

The Home Demonstration Clubs and 4-H Clubs assist with this program by giving their time and funds. Educational material distribu-

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ted by the agent is in connection with the T. B. Association and Secretary.

Tazewell County School Board

The School Board cooperates by furnishing transportation to 4-H Camp and Achievement Day.

XIII. APPRAISAL OF YEAR'S WORK

The past 12 months of work that has been finished has shown growth in interest in the Extension program and a strengthening of the club programs. One new home demonstration club and one new 4-H Club has been organized. Requests are continually coming to the home agent for more clubs to be organized and will be as soon as time and personnel permit. As has been stated throughout this entire report, many projects and activities have been promoted by people cooperating with the Extension program that have been a definite contribution to better homemaking and better rural living. One of the greatest improvements shown has been that of leadership. In past years the work had been the responsibility of the home agent and throughout the past year the adults have accepted more and more of these responsibilities.

1953 has been a good year for Tazewell County.