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VIRGINIA AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICE

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ANNUAL NARRATIVE REPORT

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION WORK AMONG NEGROES

PRINCE EDWARD COUNTY, VIRGINIA

DECEMBER 1, 1947 to NOVEMBER 30, 1948

ETTA LITTLE SMITH • HOME DEMONSTRATION AGENT

PRINCE EDWARD COUNTY

VIRGINIA

1948

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SCOPE OF WORK

Prince Edward County is located in Southside Piedmont Virginia. The climatic conditions are such that a variety of crops and livestock can be profitably produced. It is ideally suited to livestock production and fruit growing. However, the main cash crop has been tobacco with a few farmers capitalizing on livestock, grain, and truck crops.

Home demonstration work under the supervision of a home agent has been conducted for four years. During that period eight home demonstration clubs have been organized with one hundred twenty five members. One hundred of these members are from farm homes and twenty five are from non farm homes. These club members have worked cooperatively with the home agent this year in carrying out the program that was planned to meet their needs.

Home Demonstration clubs meet each month and demonstrations are given either by the home agent or by a leader. Each project that was planned for Home demonstration clubs was carried out this year and results will be tabulated later in this report. Each year the Agent tries to measure the interest in Extension Work by the members and the results of the program in terms of better homes and surroundings.

Three hundred and twelve women were reached this year by the Agent and the twenty three leaders who executed the program. These members carried information gained at each meeting to neighbors each month. Each member appointed herself to carry information to other women and thus enhance the value of the program. The work and assistance of the leaders have proved to be of inestimable value and with their continued help in the future a still larger enrollment in home demonstration clubs is forecast.

Eighteen 4-H clubs with three hundred and forty nine membership are organized in Prince Edward County. Two projects were carried during the winter with three hundred twenty four girls enrolled. Out of this number one hundred ninety seven completed their projects. Four projects were carried during the summer and with three hundred and forty nine members enrolled. One hundred twenty three members completed the work. This made a total of six projects carried with six hundred and seventy three members enrolled and three hundred ninety members completed their projects.

Meetings were held each month in these 4-H Clubs to carry out the Extension program. Demonstrations were given either by the Agent, leader of club member.

Adult leadership is one of the most important assets to good 4-H club work. Eighteen such leaders worked with the Agent on all projects this year. One hundred and four demonstrations were given by junior and adult leaders during the year. Members gave twenty one demonstrations.

Two hundred and ninety seven 4-H Club members are from farm homes and fifty two are from non farm homes. There are two hundred thirty seven different club members in school and one hundred twelve club members out of school.

- Neighborhood and community leaders carry the extension program throughout the twenty seven neighborhoods in the county. There are ninety five of these leaders. Fifty nine of these leaders are men and twenty six are women. These leaders reached two hundred seventy
- five families this year. Methods used by these leaders to reach these families were demonstration and discussion.

Three hundred and thirty six families were reached through farm and home visits and office calls. Most home visits were made to check on demonstrations, to get information and carry information to families. These calls and visits served several purposes, namely: to get acquainted with people; help to distribute needed information and bulletins, help to collect data on needs and gather results of activities.

Approximately six hundred and eleven of the seven hundred thirty two farm families in the county were reached this year by the Extension Program. Although these families have been reached by some phase of the program there is still a lot of work to do.

HOME DEMONSTRATION CLUB PROGRAM

The Home Demonstration Club Program is planned through the Home Demonstration Club Committee which is made up of two members from each Club. This Committee met with the agent this year and helped to plan the Program of Work. During the year each member of the committee studied the needs of the families, their communities and those surrounding them. The Home Agent had listed needs as they had come to her attention during the previous year. With these facts as a basis to work from a program calendar for the year was formulated. A month by month by month calendar was set up. Projects to be worked on this year were: Clothing with emphasis on cleaning and remodeling hats and renovation of clothing; house furnishing with emphasis on Upholstering and re-finishing of furniture. Foods and Nutrition with emphasis on Meal Planning and Meat substitutes, making menus for all income groups and preparing desserts and Holiday treats; Gardening and Poultry were discussed in March and July. These were the projects we thought were most needed according to the survey we had made of the communities.

Due to the changes in styles clothing was carried this year. It was found out that a good many of our people had a good many clothes hanging in their closets that could not be used because of the lengthening of skirts and other alterations in styles. There were many hats that could be used provided they were cleaned and remodeled. With the above picture in mind the following objectives were set up for this project.

1. To get the most out of the clothing dollar.
2. To make use of old hats on hand.
3. To determine the type of hat for different individuals.
4. To determine the type of clothes best suited for different occasions.

A leader training meeting was held in February. At this meeting discussions were held on remodeling and selection of hats. Details, materials and procedures for a hat clinic were brought out. Four leaders attended the hat clinic conducted by Miss Iva Byrd Johnson. Seven hats were cleaned and restyled to fit present styles and faces of the persons to wear them. Hat blocks were also made.

As a result of this clinic demonstrations were given in each Home Demonstration Club by the agent or leaders. One hundred twenty seven hats were cleaned and remodeled by these club women. Each club made a hat block for use of the members of their club.

As previously stated in my report renovation was in great demand. The first discussions dealt with materials and colors. We determined the clothes that should and were worth renovating. After this procedure each member had an idea as to the colors that would possibly blend in the dress or skirt to be fixed. In making dresses and skirts longer and larger we had to take into consideration the lines and sizes of the people to wear them. Sleeves were also on and in some cases pieces had to be inserted. Demonstrations were given on different ways to lengthen and enlarge skirts. As a result of these demonstrations fifty six skirts and thirty three dresses were renovated.

UPHOLSTERING AND REFINISHING

Upholstering and refinishing of furniture was a most needed project. In many homes good furniture is discarded because of lack of knowledge of just what to do with it. Because of this fact we decided to try to do something about it and the following objectives were set up:

1. To save money by upholstering and refinishing furniture.
2. To be able to make own paint remover.
3. To be able to determine the value of furniture.
4. To know how to repaint furniture successfully.
5. To be able to upholstering successfully.

An upholstering and reclaiming clinic was attended by the agent at Boydton, Virginia. This clinic was conducted by Miss Ruth Jamison. She demonstrated the techniques involved in upholstering and reclaiming furniture.

After this two day meeting a clinic was held in the county by the Home agent. Eight leaders were present and worked on an overstuffed sofa. These leaders were taught to tie springs, to put on webbing, pad and cover furniture. A discussion was given on the use of materials used. After this clinic demonstrations were given by the agent or leaders. As a result of this project nineteen chairs, one sofa, eight chair cushions, and six vanity stools have been upholstered. It is our intention to continue this work until more people are reached.

Refinishing of furniture was carried in all of the Home Demonstration clubs. Demonstrations were either given by the agent or a leader. Leaders and club members were shown how to make paint remover as recommended by Miss Jamison. This remover worked effectively on most of the furniture fixed. Before repainting any furniture the quality and kind of wood was discussed so that paint would not be lost on a piece of wood that wasn't any good. Members and leaders were given a list of materials needed in carrying out this project. Each member was shown how to remove paint from surfaces and how to smooth down surfaces for repainting. Mixing of shellac and other materials used were thoroughly discussed. As a result of this work thirty seven chairs, eight vanity stools, eleven kitchen stools, ten end tables and four kitchen tables were refinished.

FOODS AND NUTRITION

Foods and Nutrition was worked on again this year because of the great need in the county of better nutrition. The Home Demonstration Committee along with the Home Agent felt that we should continue to work on Foods and Nutrition until all of the people in the county became more conscious of their eating habits. With this in mind the following objectives were set up:

1. To know how to make menus and go by them.
2. To be able to prepare foods for the holiday seasons.
3. To be able to use substitutes instead of meat.
4. To know how to plan meals successfully.
5. To prepare desserts successfully.

Meal planning was discussed in each Home Demonstration Club. Each member was shown to plan menus for her particular income. In making these menus all foodstuffs necessary for the maintenance of life were included.

After showing club members how to plan their meals each member planned meals for their family for a two week period. Each member seems to think that planning meals beforehand is more economical in time and money.

In keeping with desserts and holiday treats demonstrations were given to club members on making different varieties in Roll making and other special desserts that may be used during holidays to make a party, tea, or dinner more appetizing.

Candies and cookies were made and members were instructed as to the wrapping of them for Christmas presents.

Meat substitutes were prepared in club meetings to show that a meal can be complete without meat. Many of the women acknowledged that they had used a meat substitute and meat at the same meal and didn't know it. To date most home demonstration club members have learned the value of meat substitutes.

In order to carry the food and nutrition work a little further we included in our program this year Home gardens and Poultry. Realizing

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their important bearing on the Family Food Supply the following objectives were set up.

1. To increase home production of family food supply and preserve a good winter supply.
2. To be able to have a year round supply of eggs.
3. To know the importance of having good poultry.
4. To use adequate fertilizer and certified seed.

Care and selection of poultry was discussed in our March meetings and each member was given literature on poultry production. Sanitation and disease control, adequate feed and water, and general management were discussed in detail. The importance of getting chicks from a reputable hatchery was pointed out. As a result of this project nineteen additional club members increased the family egg supply. Last year's total was eighty one.

Fall and Winter Gardens were discussed in the July Meetings. These gardens did not do as well as thought because of the weather conditions. The summer gardens were excellent. Ten thousand two hundred fifty quarts of vegetables were canned and ten thousand five hundred eighty pounds were stored. This is the result of two hundred eighty eight families including all home demonstration members.

Mrs. Tellie Berryman of the Pamplin Home Demonstration Club has done a splendid job this year in improving her home food supply and surroundings. Mrs. Berryman with the aid of her husband bought two hundred chicks last spring to increase her family flock. Eighty pullets were carried over for laying purposes. This fall she culled her flock after attending a culling demonstration.

Mrs. Berryman had a good supply of vegetables and from that garden canned three hundred twenty five quarts of vegetables. A basement has been dug at the home for the purpose of storing vegetables and canned foods. A part of this basement is planned for home recreation. Mrs. Berryman is a leader in her club and has given demonstrations to the club in the absence of the Agent. With the aid of the Agent and leaders she upholstered and overstuffed a divan. She figured the approximate saving amounted to sixteen dollars and three cents. The cost of materials was thirteen dollars and ninety seven cents. Labor was figured at fifty cents per hour. She worked sixteen hours making the labor cost eight dollars. The cost of having a sofa upholstered at the local upholstering shop is approximately thirty eight dollars.

COUNTY ADVISORY BOARD

The County Advisory Board is composed of thirty two members. Each Community club sends two men delegates and each Home Demonstration Club sends one woman delegate. This board met four times this year to plan make more effective the Extension Program. The objectives were:

1. To meet at least four times each year.
2. To support Farmers Conferences and other Extension Programs.
3. To send delegates to the State Advisory Board
4. To conduct the Community Live at Home Work.

The County Farmers' Conference was held on March 11 with one hundred twenty farm men and women present. The topics for discussion were:

1. Family Relationships by Mrs. T. T. Hewlett Home Agent at large
2. Fertilizers for efficient Farming Dist. Agent S. E. Marshall
3. Gardening by Mr. J. S. Higginbotham from Hampton Institute

Forty six men and thirty two women attended the State Farmers' Conference .

One women delegate attended the State Advisory Board meeting in Mecklenburg County in September.

HOME DEMONSTRATION COMMITTEE

The Home Demonstration Committee is made up of two members from each of the eight Home Demonstration Clubs in the county. This Committee met once this year to help plan the program of work and select delegates for the prospective District and State organizations of Home Demonstration Clubs.

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FIVE COUNTY FAIR

The Five County Fair was larger than it has been since the war. One hundred eighty one people exhibited their products at the fair this year and received four hundred seventy five dollars in prize money.

LEADERSHIP

There are twenty three project leaders actively engaged in carrying out the Extension Program. Eighty five leaders are in the Community and neighborhood leader system. Twenty six of this number are women. Each project leader is trained on each project so that she can carry out demonstrations in the absence of the agent. Project leaders are responsible for a specific project in her community. These leaders held forty three meetings with an attendance of six hundred and sixty two. Thirty method demonstrations were given to members by these leaders.

Community and neighborhood leaders have helped to carry the Extension Program to the last man on the last row. Each leader is responsible for reaching ten to twelve families assigned to them with specific information from time to time.

4-H CLUBS
COUNTY COUNCIL

The Junior 4-H Council is composed of fifty one members with Leaders and Agents as advisors. This Council met twice this year to map out programs and to be trained for their respective duties in the local clubs. The first meeting was devoted to training of officers, planning for the Annual Achievement Day, planning for Rural Life Sunday, Planning programs and goals for the year. The Five County Fair, the State Short Course and Annual Wildlife Conference also were discussed and plans for participation mapped out. The following goals were set up for the year:

1. The Council will meet at least twice a year
2. Sponsor Annual County Achievement Day
3. Collect 25¢ per member for the club treasury
4. Sponsor County 4-H Picnic, Tours and Trips
5. Send delegates to State 4-H Short Course and Wildlife Conference.
6. Plan exhibits for the Five County Fair.
7. Sponsor Rural Life Sunday

The following goals were set up for the clubs:

1. Clubs will meet once monthly.
2. Clubs will follow outlines for conducting meetings
3. All members turn in record books.
4. Each club will assume financial responsibility for their activities and pay into the Council Treasury 25¢ per member annually.
5. Each club work out plans to raise its own funds.
6. Each club will participate in all phases of the Council program stated above and others that may be planned.
7. All members be required to meet the standards of a 4-H Club member.
8. Each club will carry out a Unit Project or Program

The following standards were set up at this meeting :

1. Attend at least six meetings
2. Keep a record book
3. Follow requirements as set up for project work.
4. Each member will take an active part in the club such as:
 - a. Serve on a committee
 - b. Present a demonstration or show how you did something well.
 - c. Lead a discussion
 - d. Make exhibits as required
 - e. Learn to make motions
 - f. Bring helpful suggestions to club meetings
 - g. Turn in a record book.

The last meeting of the Council was to complete plans for Achievement Day and check on standards of clubs. Three hundred ninety members completed

out of the six hundred seventy three enrolled in summer and winter projects. The Council Program regarding Achievement Day, Rural Life Sunday, State Short Course and Wild Life Council was carried out.

PROJECT WORK

There are eighteen 4-H Clubs in Prince Edward County which meet monthly for the purpose of carrying out the Extension Program. Adult and Junior leaders helped the Agent carry out the program this year. Each project was discussed in the clubs and each club was given the right to select a project with reference to their particular needs. Each member had a right to express his need and the leader and the agent derived from the needs the most important ones from the number that wanted each project. After a project was suggested to the club with reference to their needs they readily accepted.

During the winter Care of Clothing and Small Laundry Equipment were carried by members as projects. These projects were selected because as the saying goes "cleanliness is next to Godliness." The agent, leaders and members felt that these were most needed in the clubs. It was thought that by starting with the young on Small Laundry Equipment it might encourage the adults to become more conscious and try to save time and energy. Objectives for the Laundry Project are as follows:

1. To save time and energy in washing.
2. To protect clothes when taking them to and from the line
3. To iron better by having a good ironing board.

There were nine clubs carrying the laundry project with two hundred twenty eight members enrolled. Of this number one hundred fifty six made clothes basket covers, one hundred fifty six made clothes pin bags, one hundred fifty six made ironing board pads and covers. Twenty seven exhibits were made in clubs, Achievement day and Five County Fair. In this project two demonstrations were given by members, six by adult leaders, six by junior leaders and twenty one by the agent.

There were nine clubs in which clothing was carried as a project with ninety six members enrolled and forty one completing the project. The objectives were as follows:

1. To be able to wash own sweater.
2. To know how to press own skirts.
3. To know the value of how to take care of clothing.

Fifteen leaders aided the Home Agent in putting over this project. Nine of these leaders were adults, and six were junior leaders. Three demonstrations were given by members, seven by adult leaders, seven by junior leaders and nineteen by the agent. As a result of this project forty one mending baskets were outfitted, eighty three skirts pressed, one hundred twenty seven sweaters pressed and forty one girls stored their clothes.

Four projects were carried during the summer by 4-H Club Members namely: Garden, Poultry, Food Preservation and Breadmaking. The following objectives for the projects were:

1. To encourage production of family food supply
2. To increase production of vegetables

Ten clubs participated in the garden project. Ninety 4-H members were enrolled in the project and forty seven completed. Seven acres of land was involved in the garden project. Total receipts were \$2,744. Expenses totaled \$462. Profit to the members amounted to \$2,282. Prizes won by members at the Five County Fair amounted to \$16.75. These 4-H members have progressed under leadership and continued guidance on fertilization, certified seed, proper tillage and planting time.

Since there are many families in the County that do not have a family poultry supply the agent thought it advisable to include poultry in the 4-H projects. In doing this we thought it would serve two purposes:

1. To prepare 4-H members for later life and leadership today.
2. To encourage other farm men and women to increase their poultry supply.

With these thoughts in mind the following objectives were set up:

1. To increase the family supply of poultry through leadership and example.
2. To get improved methods on poultry raising.

Six of the eighteen 4-H clubs in the county had poultry in their program. Forty six members from these clubs were enrolled in the projects. Proper instructions were given each member on care, selection, feeding, and housing of poultry. From time to time the projects were checked to note results. As a result of this project twenty one members completed. There were nine hundred sixty six birds involved in the project. Total receipts from these birds amounted to \$10,622.60. Total expenses were \$666.54. The total value of prizes amounted to \$5.50.

There was a need for canning according to a budget in the county. There were many people who canned a great deal of food but they had no set plan and therefore canned less of some food than would meet their needs. The objectives of the projects were:

1. To instill the need of preserving food for the future
2. To teach correct methods of canning
3. To be able to make a planning budget and go by it.

Each member in this project had to make a planning budget for the amount of canned goods needed by the family. Nine clubs participated in this project with one hundred and twelve members enrolled and sixty eight members completing. Three thousand nine hundred and twenty seven jars of food 4-H members canned alone and of this number two thousand one hundred and twenty eight were fruit, one thousand one hundred and ninety six jars were vegetables and six hundred and three jars were meat.

There were adult project leaders and three junior leaders helping the Agent with this project. Six demonstrations were given by members, nineteen by adult leaders, eleven by junior leaders and eighteen by the Agent.

Due to the fact that so many County people do no measure correctly thus making poor bread we thought it wise to start on the A-H Members and keep on working on bread until we overcome this deficiency. With this in mind the following objectives were set up:

1. To show how bread can be more palatable by using correct measurements.
2. To show the nutritional need of preparing food correctly.

Nine clubs with one hundred one members were enrolled and fifty seven completed. Biscuits were made eight hundred and seventy five times, corn bread nine hundred eighty seven times, muffins nine hundred sixty seven times, griddle cakes five hundred thirty three times, waffles two hundred eighty five times, loaf bread three hundred one times, yeast rolls two hundred ten times and Sally Lunn bread one hundred ninety times by these members. A-H club members gave eight demonstrations, adult leaders gave nineteen, junior leaders twenty one and the agent twenty four. Twenty two members entered exhibits at the Five County Fair and Achievement Day.

Lizzie Barksdale of the Felden Club did a wonderful job in breadmaking. She made biscuits twenty times, muffins ten times, worn bread seventeen times, griddle cakes ten times, waffles ten times, yeast roll ten times loaf bread four times and Sally Lunn three times. Lizzie gave eight demonstrations in breadmaking. She has helped eighteen people to make bread and states that the project has meant the following to her: "This project has helped me to make good bread for the family and to teach others to make good bread."

She also thinks this project has helped the family in that it takes that responsibility off her Mother.

ACHIEVEMENT DAY

Two hundred thirty one A-H members attended the Annual Achievement Day this year. It is one of the most important ways of stimulating A-H Club participation. The idea of recognition for good work done is an inspiration to those who have wrought well and to those who were not so fortunate it is a means of stimulation. All A-H clubs in the county were represented at the Achievement Day program. Prizes were given to A-H Clubs who put on the best exhibits of A-H Club project work.

LEADERSHIP

There are thirty leaders in eighteen A-H clubs. Twelve of these are Junior leaders and eighteen are adult. These leaders gave one hundred four demonstrations this year. These leaders assist the Agent in arranging exhibits for the Five County Fair, the Achievement Day, gave demonstrations announced meetings and held meetings in the absence of the Agent. Eighty nine meetings were held this year by leaders for A-H Club members with an attendance of one thousand two hundred seventy seven. It is hoped more leaders can be trained for the coming year and that more work can be done with A-H club members.

The health of the people was taken into consideration this year in making the program of work. Each A-H and Adult club was asked to help combat tuberculosis. The disease was discussed in meetings and each member was asked to have a chest X-ray during this year. As a result all A-H and adult club members cooperated with the movement. The clubs also cooperated with the Seal Sale. Last year they were responsible for seventy two dollars worth of seals and bonds.

EVALUATION:

Progress has been noted in all projects carried by adult and A-H groups this year. Most of these projects were concerned with the interior of the home. Although progress was evidenced we hope that next year will bring better furniture, better clothing, and increased improvement over all projects carried. With this in mind we have changed next years program to include the yard and surroundings as well as inside the home.

THE END