

ANNUAL NARRATIVE REPORT  
HOME DEMONSTRATION WORK  
MONTGOMERY COUNTY  
VIRGINIA

1944

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Home Demonstration Agent

December 1, 1943 - February 7, 1944

Mrs. Blanche L. Beamer

Acting Home Demonstration Agent

February 7, 1944 - May 31, 1944

Mrs. Kate Estes Hoge

Home Demonstration Agent

July 1, 1944 - November 30, 1944

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### III. SCOPE OF WORK:

#### A. Home Demonstration Clubs:

Number 16

Membership 412

#### B. 4-H Clubs:

Number 16

Membership 326

C. Number families reached through neighborhood and community leaders 1600

D. Estimate total number of families reached 1700

Number of farm families in county 1942

### IV. ORGANIZATION:

#### A. County Home Demonstration Committee:

In May the Executive Committee decided to send Mrs. Ted Lucas, President, and Mrs. Frank Gardner as representatives to a meeting of the Federation of Home Demonstration Clubs, which was held in Blacksburg. The meeting was attended by these delegates, along with four other women, who did not go as delegates.

A meeting of the Home Demonstration Committee was held on July 1, 1944 for the purpose of meeting the new Home Demonstration Agent; reviewing the work to date, and to decide whether or not any changes were desired in the program set up for the remainder of the year. It was decided that no changes were needed.

#### B. COUNTY BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

Three meetings were held of the County Board of Agriculture. The first meeting was to launch the Food Fights for Freedom Program in the county to determine how the committees would be reached with

#### IV. B. (Continued)

the information and a discussion of the information to be given out.

In January a County Production Goal meeting was held. This meeting was held for the purpose of discussing the county production goals for 1944 and how these goals might be reached.

In August another meeting was called, at which time the agricultural situation was discussed and the latest outlook material was presented by representatives of the Extension Staff. The members showed a great deal of interest and gave excellent cooperation.

#### C. PROFESSIONAL WORKERS COUNCIL

The members of the professional workers council attended the meetings of the County Board of Agriculture and helped with the Food Fights for Freedom Program. The Professional Workers Council has the following organizations represented: Farm Security, Welfare; Board of Education, which includes Vocational Agriculture and Home Economics; Production Credit, Southern Dairies and Extension Service.

#### ✓ LEADERSHIP

##### A. Adult Work:

The agent feels that one of the greatest contributions made by Extension Work has been in the development of leadership among rural women. It is remarkable the improvement that has been made in poise, self confidence and their ability to stand on their feet and express themselves.

V. A. (continued)

LEADERS - ADULT

Leaders	H. D. Club Officers	H. D. Leaders	Garden Chairman	Poultry Chairman	Federation Chairman	Community	Neighborhood
No. Leaders	48	43	16	16	16	25	151
Training meetings	1	3	2	2	1	2	2
Attendance	48	96	30	30			73
Demons. given		40					
Days given	56	96	23	23	16	25	75

1. Club Officers:

Each organized Home Demonstration Club in Montgomery County has the following officers: president, vice-president, secretary and treasurer.

2. Project Leaders:

There are four types of project leaders in the clubs. The Foods and House furnishing leaders, who gave the demonstrations at the regular monthly meetings at which their subjects were scheduled to be studied. The garden and poultry leaders gave a five to ten minutes talk at the club meetings from time to time on timely information. Two leaders training meetings were held for the garden and poultry leaders. They were trained in material to be used for a period of six months at each meeting.

3. Federation Goal Chairman:

At the Home Demonstration Committee meeting last fall it was decided that Montgomery County would continue Conservation as its Federation Goal. Five different phases of Conservation were set up under this goal toward which to work. Each club appointed a Conservation leader, who was responsible for keeping the club members conservation conscious. This chairman was

V. A. 3 (continued)

also responsible for fat and scrap collection in her club.

4. Community and Neighborhood Leaders:

There are 74 neighborhood chairmen in the county and 77 chairwomen.

During the month of January the community chairmen were given material on rationing to be distributed to the various neighborhoods by their respective neighborhood leaders.

B. 4-H Club Work:

There are 70 4-H Club officers in the county. Each of these officers have been given instruction on their respective duties as officers at the various club meetings. In most cases these officers have done a good job and it is most gratifying how these leaders can preside over meetings. These leaders have given a total of 80 days.

There are 15 4-H Club leaders and sponsors combined. They have given a total of 25 days. There are 12 junior project leaders, who gave a total of 12 days during the year.

Plans are now under way to have one or more junior project leaders in each community where there is an organized club, and to have an officers' training meeting in the near future.

VI. RESULTS:

A. Home Demonstration Clubs:

1. Project Work

a. Foods

(1) Production

The women as a whole realize the importance of food production toward the war effort.

Seventy percent of the club women reported producing 75% or

VI. A. I (continued)

more of their food at home. Only five club members reported producing less than 50% of their food, and they were club members living in a small town.

A garden chairman was appointed in each club, who gave timely information from time to time on gardening. This chairman, who was trained by the garden specialist from V. P. I., proved to be of great help to the club women in having a year round garden.

Ninety five percent of the club members produce their own milk and 90% produce their own butter.

A poultry chairman was appointed in each club, who was trained by the poultry specialist from V. P. I. This chairman gave timely information from time to time on poultry production. Importance was placed on increased quality of poultry, rather than increased flocks, considering the feed shortage. The importance of continuous culling was also emphasized. 80% of the club members reported producing their own poultry.

Eighty four of the club members produced their own pork; 23% report raising a beef for home use.

(2) Conservation:

The club members as a whole are thoroughly familiar with the approved methods of food preservation and conservation, due to the work done in previous years. This year the importance of planning the family food supply was stressed and a great deal has been accomplished along this line.

(See Conservation section of statistical report)

VI. A. (continued)

(3) Nutrition:

Better nutrition has been stressed in all food phases of the program this year, namely: February - Planning Family Food Supply; March - The Packed Lunch; June - Food for Health, which included a study of the Basic Seven Food Groups.

Eighty Eight percent of the club members reported having prepared their food in order to retain their full food value.

Clothing:

(1) Consumer Problems:

In 1943 the Home Demonstration Clubs had a demonstration on Buymanship, which included war production regulations, substitute fabrics etc. This year the homemakers have been urged to stay off the market and buy only the essentials and when necessary to buy, to study labels as to care of fabrics etc.

(2) Conservation:

In 1942 the Home Demonstration Clubs had demonstrations on storage, laundering and dry cleaning. One phase of the Federation Goal as set up in the county was conservation of clothing. 88% of the club members reported having stored their woolen garments according to recommended methods. 89% reported laundering their clothing according to recommended methods for the particular kind of material. A number of garments were also dry cleaned according to approved methods.

(3) Construction:

From time to time stress has been put on the importance of home construction of garments due to the shortage of labor and the poor quality of workmanship.

VI. b. 3. (continued)

The club women report having made 2288 adult garments, 1972 junior garments and remodeled 1764,

c. House Furnishings

(1) Conservation:

a. In the Home Demonstration Clubs one month was given to care and repair of household equipment. 216 club members reported having repaired, or had repaired, one or more pieces of household equipment. 176 electrical appliances were put in servicable condition.

b. Furniture and Furnishings:

one month was given to care and repair of furniture. The club women reported having reseated 276 chairs; refinished 272 pieces of furniture; remodeled 192 pieces and put into usable condition 20 other pieces as well as having added many dowels and gluing many others.

d. Home Management:

(1) Time and Energy Management:

During the month of January the clubs had their demonstration on Calendar for Better Management of Time. 148 members reported having made and used the calendar. 72 persons reported having helped 100 other persons in making and using the calendar. 267 members reported having divided the household tasks among the members of the family. 148 reported having made improvements in having all homemaking tools and equipment in good condition. 236 reported having made rearrangements in some of their equipment to save time and energy.

VI. B. (continued)

e. Markets:

- (1) The organization of the market is the same as last year.

No. workers selling 1943 - 11      Total sales - 6, 832.25

No. workers selling 1944 - 10      Total sales - 5, 160.32

Mrs. T. B. Hall, who comes from the Riner community, has made a real name for herself by the products she puts on the market, especially with regard to her chickens, both friers and roasters. Many people feel well fixed if they have one of Mrs. Hall's chickens. She has sold \$485.70 worth of chickens on the market this year. Mrs. Hall has a good market for her fresh pork and pork products, such as sausage, liver pudding etc. She also sold her seasonal abundances, such as; tomatoes, turnips, string beans, peppers, squash, early apples; crab apples for pickle and jelly making. Often orders are taken for a peck,  $\frac{1}{2}$  bushel or a bushel of certain products. Butter, eggs, apple butter and jelly were sold by her on the market. Orders are taken before Christmas for fruit cakes. Flowers, both cut and potted are often seen displayed on her table. The market hours are from 8:30 A. M. to 1:00 P. M. on Saturday. As a rule Mrs. Hall has sold all of her products by 11.00. Mrs. Hall is very enthusiastic about the market and has made a real effort to have satisfied customers.

2. Home Demonstration Club Activities

a. Federation Goal as worked out by the Conservation Committee.

- (1) Conservation of Human Energy:

a. Budget time, so that each household task maybe done in a well organized way.

VI. c. 1. L. (continued)

- b. Divide tasks among members of family, so the homemaker does not bear too much of the burden.
- c. - Strive to have all home-making tools and equipment in good condition and arrange to save labor.

(2) Conservation of Health:

- a. Be sure the foods served to your family are cooked so as to retain their full vitamin contents and that all meals are well balanced.
- b. Maintain proper living conditions and cleanliness in the home.
- c. See that each member of the family has regular physical and dental check-ups.

(3) Conservation of Food:

- a. Can, dry and store enough food for your own family.
- b. See that no food goes to waste through lack of proper storage space.
- c. If you have a surplus of garden products, share with someone who hasn't, and who will make use of it for his own family.

(4) Conservation of Clothing and Household Linens:

- a. Study correct methods of storing winter and summer clothing.
- b. Hold remodeling clinics.
- c. Pay particular attention to laundering methods.
- d. Mend each garment as needed.

(5) Conservation of Transportation:

- a. Have a car pool in each neighborhood.
- b. Eliminate every unnecessary trip.
- c. Observe carefully the speed limit of 35 miles per hour to conserve tires.

Note: See results under Conservation of Food, Clothing, House Furnishings, and Home Management.

b. Other Special Activities:

(1) Yearbook

The Home Demonstration Club Yearbook was prepared by a group from the Home Demonstration Committee. This book was attractively set up. The members feel that it has been a real help to them. They have especially asked that the Yearbook have a space for recording accomplishments each month. They feel that by doing this they will have a much more accurate record of the years work.

(2) County Chorus:

The Montgomery County Chorus, composed of 25 members, has been active since 1935. During the past year they have not had as many meetings as usual, due to the rationing of gas and illness in the home of the leader; although they did hold a total of 16 meetings.

(3) Account of Year's Work of One Club:

The Riner Home Demonstration Club has done an excellent piece of work this year. They have held all of their regular meetings with good attendance and have done a great deal of community work. You will find as much, or more real community spirit and cooperation among this group as any in the county.

They have been much interested in their community cannery, which is now located in the community house, previously built by the club members and their families, but not yet entirely completed on the inside. The club members have raised this year \$910.00 to be used in completing the community house and starting a building for the cannery. Plans are under way to start on this soon. The plan is to build the cannery of cinder block. One of the club members is supervisor of the cannery. They have canned 8,434 cans of food.

These club members have also helped with the school garden and canned 787 qts. of food for the lunchrooms. One of the members has charge of the lunchroom and serves around 220 children per day. She has the help of one other paid worker.

The club members have also done their part in helping with the Red Cross drive. One of the members served on the committee and over \$200.00 was donated by club members and their families. They contributed \$100.00 to the War Fund Drive. They have also bought War Bonds and Stamps \$15,175.00 in War Bonds is held by club members - \$8,250.00 of this has been bought this year.

(4) An Account of Home Demonstration Club Member's Adjustment to War Conditions:

One club member has done a very good job of adjusting to the war conditions. She is the mother of five children. The two older ones are married and have their own homes; two boys are in the armed forces and are now on foreign duty; one daughter is working in a war plant at Winston-Salem. The mother has been able to carry on her house work and make a home for her husband and children when they come home, but has charge of the school lunch room, in which over 200 meals are served daily. She and her husband own a small farm and she does many chores about the farm and home. It is not necessary that she do this work from a financial stand point, but she wants to feel that when her boys return that she has done her part on the home front in helping to win this war.

C.

C. 4-H Clubs

1. Project Work:

There are 459 boys and girls enrolled in 4-H Club work in 16 organized clubs. 10 of these clubs were organized jointly with boys and girls. One club was organized with only boys and three clubs with only girls. These members are taking a total of 729 projects. Of these, 529 were Homemaking projects and 200 Agricultural projects. 21 of these Agricultural projects were carried by girls.

a. Bread. III

This was the most popular Victory Food Project. There were 81 club members completing this project. Demonstrations on breadmaking were given by the home agent in each club, and the members were requested to make bread at home and bring samples of the various breads exhibit. Each member was provided with a Bread Manual, which had been developed by the State Foods & Nutrition Specialist. A number of the members of one of the clubs exhibited breads, but the program was not carried out as planned, due to Polio in the county, which prevented having summer meetings.

b. Clothing - Make or Remake:

An excellent Clothing Project Manual has been developed by the State Clothing Specialist. Those members carrying the clothing project were first required to make an inventory of their clothing, along with a list of what could be used in it's present condition; what needed to be mended or remodeled; then a list of new articles needed. After this had been accomplished it was then decided what each club member would make or remake for her project. Samples of materials were collected by the agent

and club members and studied, taking into consideration: suitability, durability and washability. The home agent was able to make home visits in some cases and help the girls individually. In other cases the girls received aid, either from their mother or some neighbor who had had experience in sewing.

c. Home Storage:

There were five members taking and completing the Home Storage Project. Each girl taking this project was asked to discuss with her family storage needs. It was decided just what each member would work on and plans were worked out with the club member's family and the agent. Each member was provided with a well developed Storage Manual, which gives excellent suggestions on various kinds of home storage.

d. Home Laundry:

Every club member taking laundry was provided with an excellent 4-H Club Manual on Home Laundry. This was gone over with each member and it was discussed just how she would carry out her job. The type of equipment that she had to work with etc., was discussed and how she could improve the job laundry in her own home. 18 club members were enrolled and completed the project.

e. Poultry:

See report of Assis't Co., Agent, in charge of club work.

f. Gardening:

" " " " " "

g. Child Care:

There were 18 club members who took and completed this pro-

VI. C. 1. g. (continued)

ject. These girls were given 4-H Manuals on Child Care. These were gone over and discussed with those taking this project and plans were made as how this could be carried out.

h. Housekeeping:

This was the most popular of other projects taken by the club members of the county. There were 56 members completing this project. The home agent gave demonstrations on housekeeping, such as bed-making. A large doll bed was used for this part of the demonstration.

Each club member was given a copy of the H- Manual on Housekeeping. This is an excellent manual, showing pictures of how the job should be done.

i. Stop Food Waste:

A manual on Stop Food Waste was given each club member. This was gone over with her carefully and plans made on what she would do. There were 16 members taking and completing this project.

j. Canning:

There were 58 club members enrolled in this project and 24 completing. Each member was provided with a Canning Manual, in which she was requested to make a canning plan with her mother for the family. Demonstrations on canning were given. They were requested to keep a record of what they had accomplished in canning, drying and storing. Material on drying and storage were also discussed and put into the hands of the members.

VI. G. I. (continued)

K. Milk, Butter and Cheese:

Material on milking, making butter and cheese was given to and discussed with the members. There were 7 members completing this project.

2. Community Activities of the 4-H Clubs:

All of the 4-H Clubs in the county participated in the purchase of War Saving Stamps and Bonds. They have also helped with the salvage of fats and paper; have cooperated with the gathering of milkweed pods and gathering walnuts.

3. The Shawsville, Sr., 4-H Club did the outstanding work in the county. The club was organized jointly with boys and girls. 3 members of this club attended the State Short Course, one of which was taken into the All Star organization. One member attended the Montgomery-Giles-Pulaski 4-H Camp held at Camp Summers, Hinton, W. Va. One member was chosen to attend State Conservation Camp at Holiday Lake, Appomattox, Va. This camp was cancelled, due to Polio. This member also participated in the milking contest in the county and she also won a \$25.00 War Bond in The Food for Victory contest on a poultry project. 4 members of this club were selected to receive the Sears, Roebuck registered gilts; one member purchased a registered Guernsey heifer. This club also cooperated in the scrap drives, and in the purchase of War Bonds and Stamps.

Eleven monthly meetings were held during the year. 3 of the members carried both agricultural and homemaking projects. One of these girls carried 9 homemaking and 2 agricultural projects. Accurate records were kept on each of these.

VI. C. 1. (continued)

Other:

State Short Course:

Five girls from this county were selected to attend the State Short Course at Blacksburg, June 12-17.

C. 2 Other-Work Done by Home Demonstration Agent

1. County Home Economics Work:

There are only 2 Home Economics workers in the county besides the Home Agent. They work closely together and there is almost no overlapping of work.

2. County Nutrition Committee:

During the month of September--exhibits on the Basic Seven Foods were displayed in some of the grocery store windows of Christiansburg. The Home Demonstration Agent worked with the committee on plans for the window exhibits.

3. Office of Civilian Defense:

The agent helped with training of leaders for the Food Fights for Freedom Program, which was gotten under way early in the year.

4. Salvage Committee:

The agent is a member of the County Salvage Committee. She gave information from time to time on the various salvage drives to the Home Demonstration Clubs of the county.

5. Rationing Board:

The agent served as a Community Service Representative and carried information from time to time to the communities in which she worked.

VI. C. 2. 6. (continued)

6. War Bond Committee:

The agent was a member of the county War Bond Committee. Every Home Demonstration Club had a War Information Chairman, who brought timely information to the groups and encouraged the sale of War Bonds and stamps in her club.

7. Red Cross:

The Home Demonstration Club members made a number of Red Cross articles. They cooperated 100% by making all garments that they were asked to make by the Red Cross. In addition to this some of the members of 4 different Home Demonstration Clubs helped with rolling bandages. These club members lived near Blacksburg and Christiansburg, the two centers where bandages were being rolled. One member gave as much as one day each week to the rolling of bandages.

8. Other:

1. Freezer Locker Plant

The Home Demonstration Agent has been asked to serve on the Educational Committee of the Freezer Locker Plant. The first public meeting on plans for the plant was held Dec., 11, 1943. By the end of January, 1944 175 people had signed for a locker. The freezer locker is now nearing completion and plans have been made for a meeting to be held in December on "How to Prepare Meat for the Freezer Locker Plant". To date, 300 families have signed for lockers.

VII.

The Home Agent believes that the most significant contribution to the county in meeting war needs made by the Home Demonstration Program this year was made in Food Production and Conservation.

(See Project Work - Food Production and Conservation)

VII. (continued)

Not only have the Home Demonstration members made a real effort to produce and conserve food for their own families, but have shared their seasonal abundance with someone who did not have them and would make good use of them for their own family. Nutrition has been stressed through all food projects and all club members report having made improvement along this line. For example they have made an effort to prepare food in such a way that all possible food value can be maintained.

These people realize one of the best ways we can do our part on the home front is by keeping our minds and bodies fit by proper nutrition. The families of the county are better fed, due to the latest information on nutrition they have received through their Home Demonstration Club meetings.