

VIRGINIA

AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICE
HOME DEMONSTRATION WORK

ANNUAL NARRATIVE REPORT

negro

DINWIDDIE COUNTY

1949

Agent GOLDEN Y. FORD Dec. 1, 1948 - Nov. 30, 1949
Date worked from to

Assistant Agent _____
Date worked from to

Agent _____
Date worked from to

Assistant Agent _____
Date worked from to

TABLE OF CONTENTS

TOPICS	PAGES
Summary of Accomplishments	1
Adult Project Work	2
Subject Matter Fields	11
Home Improvement	2
Home Water Supply	4
Food Preservation	4
Storage	5
Packing School Lunches	5
Poultry Improvement	6
Other Activities	10
• National Home Demonstration Club Week	6
• County Farmers Conference	7
• Picanies	7
• Achievement Day Program	8
• Project Work of 4-H Clubs	8
Subject Matter Fields	
Housekeeping	9
Clothing	9
Food Preservation	9
Other Activities	
National 4-H Club Week	10

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Pages	Topics
10	4-H Achievement Day
11	Girl's Life Sunday
11	Outings
12	Scope of Work
	Functions of Organizations in the County
12	County Advisory Board
12	County Home Demonstration Committee
14	County 4-H Council
14	Activities of Leaders
15	Significance of Work
	<u>TABLES</u>

Pages	Tables
12	Showing the Scope of Work in Daviess County
12	Activities of Leaders (Adult and Junior)

Summary of Accomplishments

During the year the thirteen (13) Home Demonstration Clubs and the twelve (12) 4-H Clubs covering nineteen (19) of the twenty eight (28) communities in the County worked on Food Preservation, Home Improvement, Home water supply, Storage, Packing school lunches, Home management, and Clothing.

The accomplishments made by the various clubs and organizations prove that the 1949 plan of work was well carried out as the objectives set up by the members, leaders, farm and home agent in terms of better farm living were accomplished. Home improvement was worked on this year for the first time as a result of this project more women have become interested in improving their homes. In small homes there are more desirable combination rooms, living rooms and dining rooms have been combined by using drop leaf tables, chester drawers and fold away beds and couches. Eight (8) homes were painted on the outside, windows were put in homes to provide better ventilation and light, rooms painted and papered on inside of homes. Remodeled furniture such as living room suits, chests, drawers, rugs, breakfast sets, vacuum cleaners, deep freeze, lamps and other accessories purchased. It has been planned that this project will be one of the county's long time goals and to be worked on for a period of five or more years.

Home water supply was begun as a main project in 1949, at this time information was given the people in this subject and plans made for the future, as a result in 1949 three complete water systems have been installed.

Another family has made definite plans for water which will be installed in the near future. To complete this project it has been included as one of the county's long time objectives.

As a result of the Food preservation and storage project more women prepared and used a canning budget, more fruits and vegetables were canned this year, quart jars were used, more vegetables were stored and adequate storage space was provided on twenty nine farms.

This year more time was spent with leaders, training meetings were held in each district. The leaders were trained in each phase of worked planned and conducted meetings in the absence of the agent, also assisted agent with demonstrations.

Adult project work

Subject matter fields in which work was done this year were: Home Improvement, Color scheme, selection of furniture, buying of furniture, making electric lamps and other accessories, renovation of living room furniture, arrangement of furniture in living room. Home water supply, Food preservation, meat packing, canning and storage, packing school lunches and poultry improvement. These were worked in terms of better farm living, and because of needs brought out and discussed at the county planning meeting in the fall of 1948.

Home Improvement

Home improvement included color scheme, selection and buying of furniture, making of electric lamps and other accessories, renovation of living room furniture and arrangement of furniture in living room.

The objectives set up for this project were to teach the importance of color schemes in beautifying the home, to emphasize the importance of selecting and buying furniture, to show how old accessories can be made useful and attractive in the home, to make old discarded furniture beautiful rather than discarding it and to create comfort and beauty in the home. Methods used to carry out this project were home visits method demonstrations, bulletins results demonstration and circular letters. Forty eight method demonstrations were given as a result of this project. More women have become interested in improving their homes, which was brought out by discussions of all Home Demonstration Clubs when it was stated that this project should be one of their long time objectives and worked on as a main project for a period of five years. There is as a result in small homes more desirable combination rooms. Mrs. Sarah Johnson of the Center Star Home Demonstration Club with a family of three and a four room house stated that "often the demonstration and discussion on arrangement of furniture, she was able to do away with her crowded living room which held a bed and living room suit by purchasing a fold away couch which was used as a main piece of living room furniture and in time of need for sleeping space, it served as a very comfortable bed." In working with the veterans in the county the Home Agent was able to get a large number of men to realize the importance of Home Improvement.

Some of the accomplishments made by members of the home demonstration clubs in this project were combining living rooms and dining rooms by using drop leaf tables, chester drawers, fold away beds, and couches; eight homes were painted on the outside, windows put in homes to provide better ventilation and light, rooms painted and papered, one home remodeled, fourteen pair of curtains made and purchased, other items purchased were as follows: rugs, frigidaires, ice boxes, kitchen cabinets, vacuum cleaners. Two homes were equipped with storm windows, forty six lamps from bottles and other accessories. Miss Ruth Jamerson, House Furnishing Specialist, was in the county for one day to help the Agent with this project.

Home Water Supply

The objectives set up for this project were to teach the amount of time and energy saved by having water in the home and to emphasize the convenience and health value to the house wife. Home visits, discussions, and bulletins were methods used to carry out this project. As a result, three homes installed water systems this year and one family made definite plans for water. The interest of the people in this project is such that it has been planned to be continued until there are more complete water systems in the county. Mr. Waller, agriculture engineer was in the county this fall and gave definite assistance to three families with this project.

Food Preservation

This project included meat canning and the modern or latest methods of preserving foods. Objectives set up were to teach the housewife to make and use the canning foods,

and to teach the amount that can be saved by canning. Methods used to carry out this project were: method demonstrations, home visits, circular letters and bulletins. Twenty method demonstrations were given for the project. Leader training meetings were held in each of the four districts. As a result of this project more women are interested in using quart jars for canning. Fifty three women prepared and used a canning budget and have also become more interested in using the pressure cooker for canning.

Storage

The project on storage was planned to teach the importance of having a closet or pantry convenient and near the kitchen for the storage of canned foods, and to teach the importance of methods used and what vegetables can be stored. To carry out this project home visits were made, sixteen method demonstrations given, discussions held and bulletins sent out. More families stored vegetables such as potatoes, carrots, and onions and more closets were provided in or near kitchens as a result of this project.

Packing School Lunches

Packing school lunches was set up to teach the housewife to recognize a well balanced meal in preparing school lunches, to improve the general health of the pupils and to make the lunch more attractive. Methods used to carry out this project were: sixteen method demonstrations, discussions, lunch menus and hints sent out.

As a result of this project, the Agent has found through visits to schools during lunch hours that more children were taking lunches to school and less money was being spent for candy and sodas. Miss. I. B. Pruitt, Home Demonstration Agent of Nettoway County gave a demonstration in this county on packing school lunches to two hundred and fifty persons.

Poultry Improvement

This project began in the county in 1947 with five women demonstrators. Since that time twelve other demonstrators have been added. Objectives for the project were to teach the importance of good housing, breed, feeding, and sanitation for health, and vigorous birds. Home visits, circular letters, bulletins, and result demonstrations, were methods used to carry out this project. Mr. O.L. Dean was in the county twice this year to score the poultry improvement and to hold culling demonstrations. As a result, it has been found that other poultry owners have become more interested in their flocks, especially in securing good breed.

Other Activities

National Home Demonstration Club Week

Method Home Demonstration Club Week was observed by holding a county wide program at Mt. Laurel Baptist Church, Sunday May 15, 1949 with approximately one hundred and forty seven in attendance. This group consisted of representation of eleven home demonstration clubs. To acquaint the public and non-club members with the work of the home demonstration clubs was the purpose of the week.

For this reason a county wide program was planned and held with all clubs in the county taking an active part. As a result of this program two other groups have asked to be organized. Plans are being considered to organize the groups in the near future. More non-club members have shown interest in the work and are participating with the organized group.

County Farmers Conference

The second annual farmers conference was held this year at the First Baptist Church, McKenny, Virginia March 24, 1949 with approximately two hundred and fifty men and women attending. The purpose of this conference was to acquaint the public with the work of the extension service and to spread information on home water supply, allotment of tobacco and peanuts, packing school lunches. As a result of this conference three families have installed water systems, twenty two families checked on safe water supply and better school lunches are being prepared.

Picnics

Eight of the thirteen Home Demonstration Clubs held picnics in August with an attendance of ninety seven adults. Objectives set up were to create more interest among the adults and to bring them together for a day of recreation. As a result the Home Demonstration Committee plans for more forms of recreation in the county next year (1950).

Achievement Day Program

The Annual Achievement Day Program was held Friday November 25, 1949 at the Dinwiddie Training School with an attendance of one hundred and sixty one persons. Objectives set up for this program were to bring the people together to determine how much of the years program had been accomplished, by giving reports on work done during the year, to make awards, to give recognition for outstanding service, and to display farm and home products and articles produced by the people. As a result of this program the public was able to see and hear of the work being done in the county. Clubs and farmers were inspired by work of others.

Project Work of 4-H Clubs

Subject matter fields in which work was done this year were: clothing, and Food preservation. These were determined by needs and desires as brought out and discussed by club members, leaders, and Agent.

Housekeeping

To teach the girls simple and practical methods of caring for the home, to set the table and make table mats, how to make a bed, to repair loose rounds in chairs and to make closet accessories were objectives set up for this project. Methods used to carry out this project were forty seven method demonstrations, discussions, circular letters, and home visits. One hundred and seventy five girls enrolled in this project and one hundred and twelve completed the requirements for the project. Reports from parents have shown that mothers have received much help in the homes as a result of this project. Members of the 4-H club have asked to take this project for a second time to learn more about it and to be of greater help in the home.

Clothing Unit II (Make or remodel)

Make or remodel your clothing was set up to teach the club girls how to plan their wardrobe, how to take body measurements, use a pattern, and to make or remodel a garment. To carry out this project discussions, circular letters, home visits and thirty seven method demonstrations were given. Three hundred and sixty eight girls enrolled in this project and sixty eight completed the requirements of the project. As a result eighty garments were made and seventy eight garments were remodeled.

Food Preservation

Food preservation consisted of the latest methods of preserving foods was set up to teach the girls how to plan the amount of can food needed for her family, to make a budget, to can tomatoes or fruits in boiling water baths, to judge quality in can foods, and to learn to use the pressure cooker.

-10-

Methods used to carry out this project were: home visits, circular letters, bulletins, and twenty seven method demonstrations. Leader training meetings were held with each group. One hundred and fifty seven girls enrolled in this project and ninety one completed the requirements for the project. As a result, budgets were made for the families, the girls learned to judge quality in canned foods, to use the pressure cooker and four thousand, five hundred and fifty quarts of fruit and vegetable were canned.

Other Activities

National 4-H Club Week

National 4-H Club Week was observed in March by the twelve 4-H Clubs in the county. Each club strived to increase its membership. Five 4-H Clubs programs were given with the general aim of the program being to acquaint parents and the public with the work of the 4-H clubs, and to recognize leaders. The Olive Branch 4-H Club sponsored a popularity contest as a means of choosing delegates for the State Short Course.

Six window displays were made and two movies given during the week. One new club was organized with twenty members.

4-H Achievement Day

The Linwiddie County 4-H Clubs held their annual achievement day in November, at the County Training School with seventy six in attendance. The President of the 4-H council presided at this program. The purpose of this program was to bring the members and parents together to determine how much of the years program had been accomplished. Reports were given, awards made for the recognition of service and excellent products.

The members displayed sixty eight exhibits. As a result of this program the public was able to see and hear of the work being done by the 4-H members. The clubs present were inspired by the work that was being done by the 4-H clubs.

Rural Life Sunday

The twelve 4-H clubs observed Rural Life Sunday by having a go to church Sunday in May, with one hundred and thirty eight 4-H and adults attending the program. The main speaker for the occasion was Dr. Alonza Myster of Virginia State College. A member from each club participated in the program.

Outings

The Dinwiddie 4-H club entertained their parents and leaders in July by providing an outing for them. The regular meeting of the club was held at this time to acquaint parents with work being done by the club. After which a period was set aside for recreation and refreshments. All food was prepared by the club members. Each member wore a play suit which she made and most of them were made from feed bags. Twenty one members, and thirty two parents and leaders attended the outing.

Scope of Work

Agriculture is the chief source of income in Dinwiddie County. Products produced are peanuts, tobacco and garden products.

The program for the county is planned by the County advisory Board, Home Demonstration Committee, 4-H Council, and Agent through work with other agencies in the county. From county and community needs a program is planned by these organizations.

Methods used by agent to carry out plan of work and to reach families are: method demonstrations, result demonstrations, farm and home visits, news stories, circular letters, exhibits, achievement day programs, and community meetings.

There are eight hundred and sixty nine farm families in the county.

Function of Organization in the County

County Advisory Board

The County Advisory Board consisting of fifty four men and women from various sections of the county, served as one of the main organizations for agricultural program planning to meet the needs of the people on individual, community and county wide basis.

TABLE I

<u>Showing the Scope of Work in Dinwiddie County</u>			
No. Home Demonstration Clubs	12	1948	1949 13
Membership		185	204
No. 4-H Clubs		12	12
Membership		190	264
No. Older Youth Clubs		0	0
Membership		0	0
No. of other families reached		20	27
Total number of Families Reached		220	569

The Board met three times this year and the members discussed problems affecting their farm families within their communities. The Board formulated workable plans for solving these problems.

County Home Demonstration Committee

This organization is composed of leaders and presidents from each Home Demonstration Club in the County. Objectives set up by the organization were as follows: to meet twice yearly, set up a county program calendar, set up county and club goals, and to check on progress of the program planned by them.

As a result of this organization which met twice this year, a program calendar was planned with goals set up for the county and clubs and a check was made on the progress of the program.

County 4-H Council

The County 4-H Council is composed of three representatives from each club. Two meetings were held by the council this year to make plans and to check on the progress of the work being done by the clubs. This organization also sends a representative to meet with the county Advisory Board in-order to present the 4-H program of work and to participate in the county planning.

Activities of Leaders

There are two types of leaders in the county among the adult and junior organizations, they are: club officers and project or subject matter leaders. Each organization elect their officers and leaders during the month of November.

The club officers preside at meetings and keep the organization functioning. The project or subject matter leaders give and assist in giving demonstrations, lead discussions, and give out bulletins and helpful information to club and non-club members. These leaders were trained by Home Agent and Specialist.

TABLE II

Growth of Home Demonstration Club Project Leadership		
	1948	1949
No. of project Leaders and goal chairman	43	46
No. training meetings held by Specialist	1	2
By Agent	8	8
Attendance at all training meetings	223	110
No. Club meetings held by leaders without agent	2	21
No. Club meetings at which leaders assisted	10	17
Growth of 4-H Club project Leadership		
	1948	1949
No. adult project leaders	20	32
No. junior project leaders	36	21
No. training meetings held By Specialist	3	
By Agent	2	7
Attendance at leader training meetings	12	50
No. 4-H leaders trained individually	1	3
No. Club meetings held by leaders without agent present	5	20
No. Club meetings at which leaders assisted	8	12
No. Demonstrations given by leaders	19	28
By adult	12	16
By junior	7	12

Significance of the Years Work

The program for 1949 was worked out in terms of better farm living from county and community needs brought in by club members, leaders and representatives of the various sections of the county.

By planning the program in terms of the needs of the people brought in by them, the agent was able to help in solving individual and community problems. The program was planned and carried out to improve the standard of living of the farm people, to introduce and teach the applications of improved practices, causing their work to prove more profitable. The people have been constantly informed of agriculture extension service, lectures and teaching through news letters, circular letters, personal contact and group meetings, thus contributing toward better homemaking and better rural living and improved people.