

VIRGINIA

AMELIA Home demonstration agent Annual report 1942
county

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REPORT FILES
EXTENSION WORK

ANNUAL NARRATIVE REPORT
HOME DEMONSTRATION WORK
AMELIA COUNTY
VIRGINIA

- 1942 -

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Home Demonstration Agent

December 1, 1941 - May 31, 1942

Evelyn Byrd Hutcheson

Home Demonstration Agent

June 1, 1942 - November 30, 1942

HOME DEM AGENT ANNUAL REPORT

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III. Scope of Work

A. Home Demonstration Clubs

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>:</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>:</u>	<u>MEMBERSHIP</u>
1942	:	8	:	215

B. 4-H Clubs

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>:</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>:</u>	<u>MEMBERSHIP</u>
1942	:	8	:	125

C. Number families reached through neighborhood and community leaders; 1116

D. Estimate total number families reached 1100

Number farm families in county: 1487

IV. ORGANIZATION

A. County Home Demonstration Committee

The County Home Demonstration Committee is made up of the president of the Home Demonstration clubs and the charter members of the old Home Making Board. There are eighteen (18) members on the committee. The purpose of the committee is to plan the work for the Home Demonstration Clubs, including the major project, the federation goal, their part of the campaign, and to carry through other activities pertaining specifically to Home Demonstration Clubs. The committee meets about twice each year, or as often as is necessary. It met twice in 1942.

In January the committee met to change the original Home Demonstration Club program to be in keeping with the war program. Rural Youth was chosen for the Federation goal; Fly Control for the campaign. The committee decided to have year books for all club members, to take part in the campaign on saving paper, metal and rubber, and to have a Food for Victory program in the Home Demonstration Clubs from January through November.

The next meeting of the Home Demonstration Committee was held in September. At the meeting the project program was set up for the coming year and the Federation goal was chosen. The committee changed the demonstrations for the months of October and November due to the meat situation. "Meat Canning" and "Meat Substitutes" were chosen. It was also decided that the demonstrations should come in the month before the information would be needed in order that the club members would have the information in plenty of time.

In addition to a health and nutrition leader, Federation goal leader, garden leader, and poultry leader, a War Program leader was added to bring

timely information to the club.

B. County Agricultural Board

The County Agricultural Board is an organization made up of a man and a woman chairman from each of the seven (7) communities in the county. There are 7 men serving as community chairmen and 7 women. Each community chairman and chairwoman has a committee working under them which is composed of a man and a woman from each of the several neighborhoods in their respective communities. There are 47 neighborhoods in the county with 96 neighborhood leaders; 52 of them are men, 44 women. There are no older youth assistants or boys and girls on the board. There are 5 negro assistants, 5 of them men and no women.

Each neighborhood leader reaches the people in his or her particular neighborhood and gives to them valuable information concerning the War Program, Victory Gardens, anti-inflation scrap metal and rubber salvage, War Stamps and Bonds, bag collecting stations, meeting war-time crop quotas, and other valuable programs have been worked through the Agricultural Board.

The board advises with the professional or agricultural plans for the county

C. Professional Worker's Council

The Professional Worker's Council is made up of representatives from the following agencies;

Farm Security Administration, Welfare Service, A.A.A., Soil Conservation Service, Vocational Agricultural and Home Economics, Emergency Seed Loan, County School Board, and the Virginia Cooperative Extension Service. On the third Thursday of each month a meeting of this group is held. It each meeting one member gives a talk on the work of his particular agency.

The Professional Worker's Council works hand in hand with the Agricultural Board in that each professional worker is assigned to work with one particular community, training the leaders on information which is carried out to the neighborhood people.

The Home Demonstration Agent has taken part in this as well as in sending out information on vegetables, fruit and meat canning, fire prevention, fat saving, and storage of vegetables and fruits to every neighborhood committeewoman on the Agricultural Board.

V. LEADERSHIP

A. Adult Work

The Home Demonstration Clubs have the following officers: President, Vice-president, Secretary-Treasurer. Each club has a federation goal chairman, campaign chairman, project leaders, a garden leader, poultry leader, and health and nutrition leader. The community chairman and neighborhood leaders have been added to the list of adult leaders. Some of these leaders have been quite active while others have not taken hold to the program as well as they should.

There are 7 club presidents, vice-presidents, and secretary-treasurer; 19 training meetings were held with an attendance of 138; 99 days given by leaders and 42 demonstrations given by leaders.

The Home Demonstration Club presidents and vice-presidents seem to be much better trained as leaders than they have previously been. They have tried to learn better parliamentary law and have taken more initiative in getting things done.

The Home Demonstration project leaders gave five out of eight demon-

strations when the former agent was in the county. Since then no leader training meetings have been held in the county, other than individual training. Twenty demonstrations, however have been given by club leaders since June. Project leadership seems to be picking up in the county.

B. 4-H Work

In the 4-H Clubs the club sponsors and project leaders are the same. The project leaders have had only one leader's training meeting with an attendance of 9, however the agent gives individual training in a number of cases in order that the leaders might give the project demonstrations. There are 6 project leaders, 6 club presidents, vice-presidents, secretary-treasurers and song leaders; 80 days given by leaders; 25 demonstrations given by leaders.

C. Older Youth

There is no active older youth group in the county now, however one Older Youth girl is a 4-H club leader in her community.

VI. RESULTS

A. Home Demonstration Clubs

1. Project work

(a) Food

(1) Production

Better production was taken up by the Home Demonstration Clubs with goals to increase the production of the food supply. Each club chose one club member to have a demonstration garden and each member pledged herself to have a good garden and to help another member improve her garden. Special emphasis was placed upon raising the family meat supply

on the lines of cow and dairy products, poultry and poultry products, and pork. 42 women reported having an adequate spring garden, 60 summer, and 31 fall.

Production was used as a basis for radio talks given by the agents and some of the Home Demonstration Club women.

2. Conservation

The Home Demonstration Clubs placed much emphasis upon the "Conservation of Food" program. The "Conservation of Fruits and Vegetables by Drying" was taken up with great interest on the part of the members. 31 women reported drying 234 pounds of vegetables and 616 pounds of fruit. However, greater interest was shown in canning fruits and vegetables. 3855 quarts of tomatoes were reported canned, 7048 quarts of other vegetables, 1592 quarts of fruits and juices, 505 quarts of kraut.

The "Conservation of Breads and Cereals" was taken up. It was found that only a few club members used whole wheat flour regularly. As a result of the demonstration 39 women reported using whole wheat flour and 29 enriched flour.

"Storage of Fruits and Vegetables for Winter Use" also came under the conservation program. 622 bushels of sweet potatoes were reported stored, 608 bushels of Irish potatoes, 36 bushels of onions, and 9 bushels of other roots.

44 women were found to have fresh vegetables in their gardens now. These included mainly kale, turnips, turnip salad or other greens, parsnips, beets, and carrots.

Under the meat canning program 1373 quarts of meat were put

up. This included mainly pork, beef, and chicken.

3. Nutrition

Wider interest was shown in better nutrition by the club members. Each member received a leaflet containing the "Nutrition Yardstick" which was placed in their kitchens. The health and nutrition leaders gave a short report at each club meeting on the subject.

B. Home Management

(1) The "Care of Household Equipment" was taken up in the clubs. As a result of this program the women became more conscious of the need to take better care of the equipment which they have on hand.

(2) Kitchen Arrangement

This subject was taken up in the clubs and 26 women reported having made changes in their kitchen arrangement for better convenience. Many reported having painted or papered walls and painted woodwork and furniture in their kitchens.

(3) Storage

Demonstrations were given on the "Care of Woolens" In this demonstration, proper preparation for the storage of woolens was taken up, proper cleaning and laundering methods, and the care of rugs and upholstery.

35 women reported having stored woolens according to recommendations.

(4) Home Accounts

"Keeping Home Accounts" was the subject for demonstration

one month. 20 women reported having kept these records.

2. Home Demonstration Club Activities

a. Federation Goal

Rural Youth was chosen as the Federation goal for Amelia County for 1942. The goals set were as follows:

1. Have a committee on Rural Youth of one representative from each Home Demonstration Club to cooperate with the Home Demonstration Agent in developing and carrying through programs of work with youth.

2. In working for betterment of youth the county committee in cooperation with Home Demonstration Clubs will:

(1) Encourage study of the characteristics of the teen ages by Home Demonstration club.

(2) Know all youth programs and opportunities available to youth in the county and help the youth to take advantage of them.

(3) Cooperate with schools and other youth agencies functioning in the county.

(4) Sponsor rural youth where needed

In communities where there were 4-H clubs and Home Demonstration clubs Home Demonstration Club members acted as 4-H club leaders. At the Home Demonstration Club meeting the Federation Goal leaders gave reports on articles concerning youth.

b. Campaign

The campaign on "Fly Control" was chosen for the county for 1942. The goals for the campaign included:

1. Make survey and find out people in community not having

houses screened.

2. Study sanitary conditions to avoid flies:

- (a) Barnes
- (b) Hog Lot
- (c) Garbage, etc.

3. Study dangers of diseases carried by flies

4. Study modern methods of fly control

5. Encourage those not having houses screened, to screen

before spring

This goal was chosen as a result of a survey made in the county at which time it was found that many homes were not screened. Fly control was stressed in the clubs for the campaign leaders and printed information was placed in each member's hands.

C. Other Special Activities

1. As previously stated, each Home Demonstration Club has a Health and Nutrition leader, a garden leader, and a poultry leader in addition to the project, federation goal, and campaign leaders. These leaders brought to the meetings timely information on these subjects which were of interest to the club women.

2. A campaign was made through the efforts of the Agricultural Board to collect and market all scrap metal in the county which was of no use to the farmer. About 206,346 pounds of scrap were collected in the county.

The Home Demonstration Clubs cooperated with the drive and in

salvaging paper for the Red Cross. \$35.00 was realized from the sale of waste paper, up to the time that the campaign was slowed up. Razor blades, stamps, rubber and other articles were also salvaged for national war needs. There is no fat collecting center in Amelia County, however a number of women saved fat and turned in into a convenient place to them which handled salvaged fat.

3. A district federation meeting was held in Richmond this year in order to cut down on travel. There were five (5) women from Amelia County present at this meeting. Talks were given by Miss Maude E. Wallace, Miss Janet Cameron, Mr. John E. Hutcheson, and Officers of the Federation. State Federation dues were all paid before this meeting by the Amelia County Home Demonstration Clubs.

4. The Home Demonstration clubs cooperated whole-heartedly with the Red Cross Production Chairman. Many garments were made through the cooperation of the Home Demonstration Clubs.

3. Story Of Outstanding Work of Club Member

The outstanding work in the county by a club member, by the belief of the agent, was done by Mrs. F. S. Robertson, a member of the Earnest Worker's Club at Pine Grove. Mrs. Robertson was the secretary-treasurer of her club. She was also the Federation Goal Leader of the club, and at each club meeting she brought to the attention of the club members some article or report which was adaptable to that group. Mrs. Robertson was one of the project leaders in the club and did an excellent job not only through her demonstrations, but also in carrying through the theories

learned in her home. She gave five of the demonstrations alone and assisted with five. Although she is not a leader of the Pine Grove 4-H Club, she showed a definite interest in the club and was of great help to the club in assisting with the social activities of the 4-H Club.

On the Robertson farm, the number of hogs and cattle were increased for the year to help the national food situation. Seventy quarts of pork, beef, and fish were canned. From the garden, 167 quarts of vegetables were canned including corn, snaps, squash, butterbeans, soup mixture, and sweet peppers. 25 quarts of pickle, relish, and catsup were put up. Greens were dried as well and canned. 3 bushels of sweet potatoes were stored and a quantity of dried beans. 14 quarts of kraut were made. 170 quarts of cherries, peaches, apples, and pears were canned and 3 gallons of fruit dried. 10 bushels of apples were stored. Mrs. Robertson feels that with only she and her husband at home, she has a sufficient amount canned and stored for their needs.

In order to improve their health and nutritional needs, Mrs. Robertson has cut a great deal of the frying of foods previously done, and is using whole wheat and enriched flour altogether.

Mrs. Robertson proved to be an excellent community worker. Having a First Aid certificate herself, she realized how beneficial such a course was, and was instrumental in getting five women from the Pine Grove community to attend a First Aid class which was held in Amelia in the spring. She was chairman of Red Cross sewing in her community, and with the Home Demonstration Club members, contributed well towards this. It

has been her practice to put aside articles and magazines which she feels would be of benefit to others. Her magazines are passed on to her neighbors. Mrs. Robertson was made chairman of the County Federation Goal for 1943 which is library service.

B. Agricultural Boards

The programs sponsored by the Agricultural Board in which the agent participated were as follows:

1. Victory Gardens

The agent took part in this program through contacts with the community and neighborhood leaders as a professional worker. She trained some of these leaders and gave to them information for distribution among the neighborhood people. Throughout the summer she visited the neighborhood women leaders throughout the county and contacted them by letters with further information on conservation of the food from the Victory Gardens.

2. Anti-inflation

The agent attended two community meetings on the President's 7-point program and anti-inflation, and distributed information on these subjects to the community and neighborhood leaders. A number of the less active leaders were visited personally by the agent and she discussed with them the program and means of distributing the information.

3. Scrap metal and Salvage Drive

The agent worked with the leaders in her community on the effort to get in salvaged materials. She sent to each leader, information

on saving household fats and gave to them information for distribution. In her contacts with the Agricultural Board members, she stressed the importance of turning in all available scrap metal, rubber, etc. that would not be needed on the farm.

C. 4-H. Clubs

1. Project work

Because each locality has its own peculiarities, each 4-H Club makes its own plan of work. However, clothing was chosen as the major project for the girls with special emphasis being placed upon nutrition and the live-at-home program. About 50 girls felt the necessity of carrying a "Victory Garden" project along with their regular project work.

a. Personal

Under the personal project the following goals were set:

1. Make a dress or undergarment
2. Take better care of clothes.
3. Wash sweaters and press skirts when needed
4. Keep shoes polished
5. Keep hair, hands, and nails clean
6. Keep personal accounts for the entire year
7. Watch account so as to make better use of money
8. Take better care of clothing in order that there will be less buying of articles.

74 garments were reported made, and 22 remodeled.

b. Family

Each club member took as part of her club work a home responsibility on which she could improve. Some of these were to wash dishes, sweep floors, clean up own room, make beds, gather eggs, feed chickens, get in wood, cook and serve meals, set table, fix school lunches, keep grounds around house neat, and care for younger children.

Each girl had as her family project goal to:

1. Keep the living room and her bedroom clean
2. Make her closet more convenient
3. Learn to take better care of things about the house

As a result of a garden project 28 girls reported having had or assisted with garden work. 6117 quarts of food were canned.

c. Club or Community

Each club chose some community project for the year. Some clubs chose the salvage of scrap paper, some canned for the hot lunch project at the school. One club bought a War Bond and another club gave entertainments to raise money in order to buy a War Bond.

Under the club project the following goals were set:

1. Learn proper parliamentary procedure
2. Attend all meetings of the club
3. Learn to give demonstrations
4. Know how to make motions

5. Serve on committees when asked
6. Save waste paper and salvage articles
7. Bring 4-H book to all meetings
8. Keep records up to date
9. Endeavor to have a garden

2. Health

Each girl kept the food habits guide. In this way they found out what foods they lacked in their diets. Each season they checked the foods which they had eaten for one week and then tried to improve their diet by adding to it the necessary food essentials that had been left out. 22 girls reported being 5-pointers, 33 improved in personal cleanliness, 32 in food habits, 30 assisted in getting house completely screened, in having water supply free from surface contamination, in cleaning grounds around home and barn, and in having sanitary disposal of garbage in their homes.

The health goals set up for the clubs were:

1. Get teeth fixed
 2. Brush teeth twice a day
 3. Keep an accurate check on Food Habits Guide
- ### 3. Community Activities of the Clubs
- a. Recreation

All club members were taught games which would be used at home for the whole family. They were encouraged to play games with the whole family.

At all club meetings the members learned and sang songs and played

games. Usually some member of the club was responsible for seeing that there was at least one new game brought to the club.

Several clubs had picnics during the summer. The Pine Grove and Mattoax 4-H Clubs held a joint picnic and has as guest speaker, Mr. John Pryor Atkinson, Club Agent of Dinwiddie, Lunenburg, and Nottoway Counties.

Several clubs gave entertainments in order to raise money.

b. Camps

Amelia County has four 4-H Club members (3 boys and 1 girl) at the Holliday Lake camp during the week of July 13-18. They were accompanied by Mrs. L. P. Lord, a Home Demonstration Club Member

4. Story of Work of Club

The Jetersville 4-H Club showed considerable progress in their club work for 1942. This club is made up of twelve girls between the ages of 10 and 13. For a group of very young girls, they did a good piece of club work. They had as their major summer project, clothing. None of these girls had taken much responsibility in sewing. Each girl cut out and completed an undergarment. The agent was pleased with the interest and good workmanship shown by the girls.

During the school months the club met at the Jetersville school. Excellent cooperation was shown by the teachers in arranging to hold the meetings. During the summer months the girls made a great effort to carry on their club meetings. Although the members live, in some cases, quite

far apart, the attendance was very good throughout the summer.

Each girl carried a garden project throughout the summer and helped in canning the products from these gardens. 448 quarts of tomatoes were reported canned, 624 quarts of other vegetables, 509 fruit and juices, 116 meats, and 211 others, making a total of 1460 quarts of canned food.

An effort was made by the club officers to hold better meetings, using correct parliamentary procedure and preparing interesting programs. Each club member had a part on the program during some part of the year.

The club showed a keen interest in the salvage drive by collecting waste paper, scrap metal, and rubber. A good part of the girls are buying war stamps and one girl has bought a War Bond and has gotten a good start on another.

The club has been unable to secure a satisfactory club leader, however the agent has been gratified with the progress made and the keen interest shown by this club.

D. Older Youth

The Ammon Junior Homemakers planned a well-rounded program to include education on better living, health, citizenship, personality development, and better home-making practice. The program was set up very much on the same order of the 4-H Clubs. However, due to the tire and gasoline rationing and due to a great number of the members working in the Blackstone area, they closed to have regular club meetings. It was decided that they would meet on occasions, if there was some specific thing on

which they wanted a demonstration. Since the club disbanded, they met once for a demonstration on upholstering furniture.

E. Other Work Done by the Home Demonstration Agent

1. County Home Economics Workers

The Home Economics Workers organized in the spring to carry any type of the Home Economics program the office of Civilian Defense deemed advisable. The organization will make suggestions to the Office of Civilian Defense as to the work they felt most important. The agent is chairman of this organization. No program has come up which could be carried out before December 1st. Beginning then the Home Economics Workers will work with the "Share the Meat" Drive.

In the spring the Home Economics Workers started a class on nutrition. Due to a small attendance of mainly Professional Home Economics workers, the class was discontinued.

2. County Nutrition Committee

The County Nutrition Committee made up of two professional sponsors (a man and a woman) and the two county chairman has done no work other than encouraging better nutrition throughout the county in their contacts.

3. Office of Civilian Defense

The agent offered her services to the Office of Civilian Defense in any way possible that she could help. She took information regarding several blackouts to club meetings. A nutrition class was

The agent attended two Civilian Defense meetings at which the Airplane Observation Corps, Air raid Protection Corps, and First Aid classes were organized. The agent cooperated with these movements

4. Salvage Committee

The agent cooperated with the salvage committee through the Home Demonstration Clubs, 4-H Club, and Agriculture Board. She was in charge of the waste paper salvage.

5. Rationing Board

The agent helped the Rationing Board for sugar rationing.

6. War Bond Committee;

A county War Bond representative came to the Home Demonstration Committee meeting and talked to the committee on the purchasing of War Bonds. The agent notified every Home Demonstration Club member of "Women at War Week" in an effort to get them to buy war stamps and Bonds.

7. Red Cross

The Home Demonstration and 4-H Club cooperated in salvaging waste paper for the Red Cross. The agent was in charge of this. The Home Demonstration Clubs also made garments for the Red Cross and the agent saw to it that the materials were distributed and the garments collected and gotten back in to the local Red Cross Room

III. Appraisal of Most Significant Contribution to County Made by the Home Demonstration Program in 1942

The conservation program carried on by the Home Demonstration Clubs in cooperation with the war program seems to have made a tremendous contribution to the county. A marked change has been shown in the conservation of food and equipment in particular.

Women have become more conscious of the care of household articles and clothing because they realize that there will be no more of many of these things on the market for the duration of the War.

The conservation of food took best hold in the county. Through contact with Home Demonstration Club^s many women influenced people who have never made much of a point to have a garden, to plant, carry through the season, and can the products. There were a number of such families in the county. A good piece of work was done with many colored people. It is the general opinion that more food has been raised and conserved this year, than has been previously done.

Meat canning has taken a good hold in the county. People have made a real effort to learn more about the recommended means of meat canning.

The Home Demonstration Program has been quite instrumental in carrying out the conservation program. The club members have realized its vital importance and have made a special effort to spread the information to others in the county.