

ANNUAL NARRATIVE REPORT

OF

NANCY A. KELLY
COUNTY HOME DEMONSTRATION AGENT
SUSSEX COUNTY

DECEMBER 1, 1944 to AUGUST 20, 1945

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III. Scope of Work

A. Home Demonstration Clubs

No. 11 Membership 222

Other Groups Sponsored by Home Demonstration Clubs:

No. Clubs -	(White)	<u>0</u>	Membership	<u>0</u>
	(Negro)	<u>0</u>	Membership	<u>0</u>

B. 4-H Clubs, Girls:

No. 5 Membership 40

C. Older Youth Groups:

No. 0 Membership 0

D. No. reached through demonstrations given by Agent 238

E. No. families reached through Neighborhood and Community ~~Leaders~~ 500

F. Estimated total number families reached 998
No. farm families in County 1500 (Approximately)

IV. ORGANIZATION

A. County Home Demonstration Committee

There has been no increase in the membership of this committee but from the beginning the three main club officers, president, vice-president and secretary were included in all meetings and plans and so far I have seen no drawback in this plan. This then gives the committee a membership of 35. The committee is the executive body of the County Home Demonstration organization. Members of the committee plan the programs and have made plans for improvement of the clubs and the county in general. They have made investigations about getting electric power and telephone service in to several rural areas and in some cases have had very encouraging promises. They have encouraged members to participate in some hospitalization plan and to take advantage of the Federation Goal, Health.

The Committee had a very successful meeting in May. The presidents gave reports on the program that had been carried out and on the accomplishments of club members. Federation chairmen gave reports of their health work in their own clubs and all members were given help on conducting meetings by District Agent, Miss Ruth Hunter. Also, at this meeting a committee was appointed to investigate the possibility of doing some cooperative poultry marketing in the county. Other routine business committees were appointed and have met, and will

give results of their findings at the Fall meeting.

The Fall meeting has been planned to pattern after the 1944 meeting. It will be a combined Achievement and Planning meeting, to be held at Jarratt in September or October. The agent personally feels that the Home Demonstration Committee is made up of a dependable group of interested, hard working women and that they have become more active during the past year.

B. County Agricultural Board

This Board was organized about 3½ years ago and since that time has developed very slowly. There are 6 communities and 36 neighborhoods. There are 6 community chairmen and 6 community co-chairmen and 72 neighborhood leaders, both men and women. The negro board is a separate organization and is handled entirely by the negro farm agent. The agents do not feel that the organization functions well but feel that it would if the agents had time to work more closely with it. The women neighborhood leaders still carry the information given in the digest to their neighbors at church and meetings.

C. County 4-H Council

In Sussex there has been no 4-H Council organized and the agent does not believe that it is practical to organize one just now. Most of the club officers are small children and with transportation as it is, it seems to be a step which cannot be taken just yet.

D. Professional Workers' Conference

This organization is made up of representatives of the following agencies: Farm Security, Vocational Home Economics and Agriculture, Production Credit, R. E. A., Superintendent of Schools and Extension workers. Since this organization does not meet regularly and the chairman saw no occasion to call a meeting, there have been no meetings during 1945.

V. Leadership

(A) Adult Work

(1) Club Officers - There are 44 club officers and during the year they have kept their clubs going with very little supervision from the agent. They are responsible for planning their meetings and the extra programs. Each club has had at least one meeting not attended by the agent and most of them have had two and some, three.

(2) Project Leaders - To date 56 leaders have given demonstrations in their clubs. There have been 11 leader training meetings counting those given by the agent and approximately 200 days have been given by these leaders. Leaders have given demonstrations on "Food for the Sick", "Refinishing Furniture", "House-

hold Accessories" and "Food Preservation".

(3) Federation Goal Chairmen - are called health leaders in the clubs. There are 11 club leaders and of course the county chairman. Mrs. Selden Jones, the county chairman, has been very active. She has given the leaders their material and directions for the remainder of 1945. Under the supervision of the leaders, First Aid Kits have been assembled in most of the club members' homes.

(4) Neighborhood leaders have not functioned except to pass on information to neighborhood.

(B) 4-H Club Work

(1) There are 4 adult leaders in the county, 3 women and 1 man. We cannot specify which group they fall into since they have been active both in organization and project work. They have not been trained at leader training meetings since all demonstrations that have been given have been given by agents.

(2) Club Officers - There are 20 club officers in the county. They have been given individual help rather than training in a group.

(C) We do not do older youth work.

VI. Results

(A) Home Demonstration Clubs

1. Project work

(a) Food

(1) Production

While poultry and garden leaders have not had additional information since last year some of them have given good help to other members in food production. The agent urged members to plant gardens with good variety and to order supply of chicks early.

(2) Conservation

In the December and July meetings, members studied food preservation methods. They studied meat canning in December and January and worked with vegetable preservation in July. The agent stressed the necessity of food preservation and answered questions. She also assisted several members in using pressure cookers for the first time.

(3) Nutrition

In the January and February meetings, nutrition was studied, "Food for the Sick" being the subject in January. Members learned proper diets for sick people. In February the agent gave a talk using charts and posters on Feeding the Well to Avoid Sickness.

(b) Clothing

(1) Consumer problems

Have not studied this at any regular meeting. The Agent has from time to time given reports from "Wartime Family Living" and one club takes Consumer's Guide and gives a monthly report at each meeting.

(2) and (3)

We did not have any clothing work in the program until September so have nothing to report here.

(c) House

Have done no work on these subjects except through the care and prevention of accidents in the home which was given by the County Health Nurse. She gave in detail methods of preventing accidents and making home a safer place to live.

(d) House Furnishings

(1) Conservation

(a) No work done

(b) At leader training meetings Miss Jamison instructed the furniture leaders on how to care for, repair and remodel old furniture. Leaders then gave demonstrations in their own clubs. In the regular club meetings, at least 35 pieces of furniture have been refinished and 10 of these were large pieces. Club members have learned to clean their furniture by using pumice stone and linseed oil. They have also learned to mend furniture by glueing it. I believe that the work with furniture has been the most outstanding and certainly the most satisfactory that has been done during 1945.

(c) As reported above, all the clubs have had furniture clinics. Most of these were actually refinishing ones. There have also been about 5 pieces of spring tying done by the agent and members individually. There have been two chair bottoming clinics and 8 chairs were bottomed at them.

(2) Construction

(a) No actual construction work has been done. However, at the clinics several pieces of remodeling were done.

(b) The Agent has assisted 4 members in slip cover making but no clinic work has been done.

(c) The only thing that has been done on curtains, draperies and shades is to discuss what is available and something of color in relation to other furnishings.

(e) Home Management - No work done on this.

(f) No work done on Consumer problems other than that mentioned in consumer problems under clothing, and a general discussion as to various shortages of materials and supplies.

(g) No markets in the county.

2. Home Demonstration Club Activities

(a) Federation Goal

Health is the County Federation Goal and as mentioned above, Mrs. Selden Jones of the Friendly Club is the chairman. In addition to the planning of the health work for the clubs, Mrs. Jones took a very active part on the Spring Committee Meeting program. She gave the health conditions of the state and had a representative from the County Health Department to give a summary of Sussex County health goals. The references to first aid kits has already been made. One of the goals that has been set is to sponsor and promote telephone systems in rural areas.

In planning the year's program last fall, 4 months were given over to health work. The agent feels that the greatest contribution of the health work is that it has made people aware of the needs in the county.

(b) No Campaign.

(c) The clubs are extremely interested in securing telephones and have been putting in requests with their local companies. The County Committee Chairman and the agent made a survey of the power and telephone companies, as to what their postwar plans are.

Sussex County acted as hostess to the 1945 District Federation Meeting. The luncheon and meeting place arrangements were made by the Home Demonstration Chairman and the agent, but the Waverly club members served as a welcoming and registration committee. The Newville club made violet boutonnières for the Federation visitors.

A special committee has been appointed to investigate the possibilities of having a cooperative poultry market in the county and the agent understands from the chairman that she has already gotten definite information

as to the proper procedure to follow.

3. The Victory Club has up to the present been one of the most outstanding clubs in the county. As was reported by the president at the Spring Committee Meeting, the greatest accomplishment of this club is its increase in membership, and interest. At the December meeting, there were 4 members present, and all absentees had legitimate excuses. The 4 members and the agent had a heart to heart talk and decided something must be done. The president suggested that she knew some neighbors across the river who did not belong and how about an intense membership drive. So it begun. At the January meeting, there were 6 new members and since then there have been several more. This club now has 20 members, 15 of which are very active. Mrs. John Owen, president, is County Home Demonstration Committee Treasurer and is also her club's Health Chairman. To date, 4 leaders have given demonstrations. The club owns materials for making cheese and each member has the use of them when desired. Early in the spring the garden leaders put in a joint order for seeds for all members. They have carried on their meetings without much help from the agent.

4. There is no one person in the county who stands out for her adjustment to war conditions. Many of them are doing outstanding work. Farm labor shortage has become increasingly acute and women are all helping with the outside work. Many are doing all their work and in addition transporting help to and from the farm from nearby. The homemakers' contributions are important ones but it's likely that the homemaker will remain the unsung heroine of this war.

(B) Refer to B under IV

(C) 4-H Clubs

(1) Project Work

The only projects that are being taken this year are Bread, Canning and Stop Food Waste. The girls who have a breadmaking project have in club meetings learned to measure and sift together ingredients accurately. They have also made biscuits under supervision and are scheduled to make yeast breads at their next meeting.

Girls taking canning have made a canning plan with their Mother and brought to club meetings jars of canned food for purpose of setting up good canning standards. A few have been helped individually in their homes with their canning projects. Since only a few girls are taking Stop Food Waste in one club, they have not had any project instruction other than that given them on visits and at school individually.

(2) and (3) No work done.

(4) The Waverly 4-H Club has been fairly active during the 1945 school year. The girls are all taking canning but also entered a garment contest sponsored by the agent. Kathleen Sherer, a high school girl, won for selection of material, construction and attractiveness of a dress that she made.

This club had a picnic in the spring and invited the members' parents, only 2 of which attended. Since the parents were invited, members arranged and participated in a very effective fire lighting ceremony. The boys of this club have had various contests sponsored by the 4-H Agent. While the Waverly Club is a small one, it has done better work than any other.

(D) No work done.

(E) Other Work

(1) Have cooperated with these workers in any way requested. Probably the important thing was urging members of Home Demonstration Clubs to take advantage of the community canneries.

(2) None organized.

(3) Have not been asked to cooperate during 1945.

(4) Have passed on salvage information to the club members and urged them to cooperate.

(5) Have not been asked to cooperate during 1945.

(6) Have not served on any committee except in cooperation with the Home Demonstration Clubs' part in the 7th War Loan Drive.

(7) and (8) No work done.

(9) The clubs in the county all assisted in the last clothing drive. Members collected clothing in the neighborhood and the agent picked it up and carried it to collection points.

VII. In the 1944 Narrative, the agent stated that food preservation was the most significant contribution. The same holds true for 1945. Club members have preserved a maximum of foods and have cut down on buying as much as possible. This has been significant in that it left a greater supply for those that must buy all food.

ANNUAL NARRATIVE REPORT

OF

ELIZABETH S. ROBINSON
COUNTY HOME DEMONSTRATION AGENT
SUSSEX COUNTY

AUGUST 20, 1945 to NOVEMBER 30, 1945

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III. Scope of Work

A. Home Demonstration Clubs

No. 12 Membership 232

Other Groups Sponsored by Home Demonstration Clubs:

No. Clubs -	(White)	<u>0</u>	Membership	<u>0</u>
	(Negro)	<u>0</u>	Membership	<u>0</u>

B. 4-H Clubs, Girls:

No. 5 Membership 40

C. Older Youth Groups:

No. 0 Membership 0

D. No. reached through demonstrations given by Agent 232

E. No. families reached through Neighborhood and Community Leaders 100

F. Estimated total number families reached 250
No. farm families in County 1500 (Approximately)

IV. ORGANIZATION

A. County Home Demonstration Committee

The county home demonstration committee is made up of club officers and is the executive body of the county Home Demonstration organization. The members of the committee help plan the programs and in some cases, they have made plans for improving the clubs and communities. They have been successful in helping securing electric power in several of the rural areas and have had encouraging promises for telephone services in two of the rural communities.

The Achievement and Planning Meeting was held in Jarratt on October 11th with a very good attendance of about 115 persons present. All clubs were represented and participated in the program. Each club had an exhibit of one month's work done during the past year. There was also a panel discussion led by the home agent with club presidents, of some of the accomplishments of the clubs. Miss Maude E. Wallace, Assistant Director of Extension

Work, was the guest speaker for the meeting and gave some very helpful information to the women and agent about the reconversion conditions.

B. County Agricultural Board

This Board is not a very active organization. The Neighborhood Leaders carry information given them to their neighbors.

C. County 4-H Council

In Sussex County, there has been no 4-H Council organized.

D. Professional Workers' Conference

This organization has not had a meeting during 1945 but in previous years, I am told, it was made up of representatives of the following agencies: Farm Security, Vocational Home Economics and Agriculture, Production Credit, R.E.A., Superintendent of Schools and Extension workers.

V. LEADERSHIP

A. Adult Work

(1) Club Officers - Club officers in each of the clubs have worked very nicely in carrying out the program planned, and did a great deal toward making the Achievement Day a success. There are 34 club officers in the county.

(2) Project Leaders - In the afternoon of August 29th, a Leader Training Meeting was conducted by Clothing Specialist on "Basic Dress and Accessories" with 9 clubs represented and 16 women present.

(3) Federation Goal Chairmen - Each club had a health leader which gave to the clubs information passed on to her by the county chairman, Mrs. S. W. Jones, who has been very active. A large number of first aid kits have been prepared for the club members' homes.

(4) Community And Neighborhood Leaders - The Neighborhood Leaders have not functioned except to pass on information to the neighborhoods.

B. 4-H Club Work

There is only one 4-H Club adult leader for the girls in the county and she takes a very active part in the club work. The home agent has given the demonstrations with the aid of the club members. The leader has helped a great deal in carrying out some of the work demonstrated.

The club officers in each club have received training in the earlier part of the year as to the duties and responsibilities of a club officer.

C. Older Youth

A few of the older youth attend the home demonstration meetings and take an active part in the work but there is no separate program for the older youth in the county.

VI. RESULTS

A. Home Demonstration Clubs

1. Project Work

(a) Food

(1) Production and (2) Conservation

The production and conservation program previously planned was encouraged to be carried out. Very good reports have been received as to the conservation program. The two canneries have done a wonderful job and have been a means of the people conserving as much food as they have, although many garden products and fruits were inferior and there was a small crop due to weather conditions. At present, the canneries are not open except by appointment but the operators have been cooperative.

(3) Nutrition

The earlier part of the year, two demonstrations were given, "Food for the Sick" and "Feeding the Well to Avoid Sickness". Very nice exhibits of these demonstrations were prepared for the Achievement Day. The October meetings, which were conducted by the county nurses, on "Making the Patient More Comfortable in the Home". It was also emphasized the importance of proper diets.

(4) Preparation and Selection

No special work has been done. Information has been passed on to the club member and assistance.

(b) Clothing

(1) Consumer Problems

One club in the county subscribes to the "Consumers' Report" and have reports each month of the important developments. The other clubs have not done much about the consumers problems. The agent occasionally passes on information to the clubs and find the women interested in it.

(2) Conservation and (3) Construction

The September meetings were conducted by the clothing leaders on "Basic Dress And Accessories". At these meetings, many made over garments and used materials were used in the demonstration which proved to be very successful. The November meeting on "Christmas Suggestions", the home agent used toys and garments made of old materials or small quantities of material. Many of the club women are making stuffed animals and toys to use for children's presents. Feed bags and old buttons and materials are very handy for this.

(c) House

- (1) House Repair
- (2) Home safety

No special work has been done on these.

(d) House Furnishings

- (1) Conservation

The work done has been individual help on re-finishng, repairing and upholstering. Little has been done but there are three pieces in the process of being fixed now.

- (2) Construction

Very little work is being done except for curtains made from feed bags, unbleached cotton and occasionally from regular curtain material. The agent has helped make plans for curtains.

(e) Home Management

- (1) Household Equipment

Information is being collected by agent and when possible she passes on to the club members some of the information.

(g) Markets

No markets are in the county.

2. Home Demonstration Club Activities

(a) Federation Goal

The Federation Goal for the county was health. Mrs. Selden Jones, of the Friendly Club, was the chairman. Each club had a chairman who worked with the county chairman. The Health Department has been very helpful in carrying out the plans by supplying information and the nurses have given some of the demonstrations.

(b) Campaign

The home demonstration club members cooperated with the bond drives and the food bank.

(c) Other Special Activities

A group of people are very much interested and are working towards securing telephones in two of the communities. The women have gotten favorable replies from the representatives of the telephone services.

Mr. Moore, of Southern States Cooperative, talked to the women at the Achievement and Planning Day in Jarratt about the cooperative poultry market for this area. It is thought that a broiler plant will be available in early spring.

3. Work of Outstanding Club

The "35" club has done very nice work. Mrs. Dale represented the club at the Leader Training Meeting on "Basic Dress and Accessories". Three club members wore dresses which they thought to be basic ones and brought some of the accessories they had available. They exchanged many ideas.

Each club took one month's work to exhibit at the Achievement and Planning Day. This club took the June meeting, "Know Your County". A committee prepared a most interesting exhibit of the products, natural resources, expenditures, activities and organizations of the county.

4. Club Member Who Has Made Adjustments to War Conditions

No one club member in the county stands out for her adjustment to war conditions. Many have done much war work. Many homemakers have had to take on many more duties and responsibilities at home due to the labor shortage. The club members have also cooperated with the Red Cross and other organizations who do an excellent work. At present, there is a drive for canned goods for war relief and the home demonstration club members have contributed to it.

B. Agricultural Boards

Refer to IV - B.

C. 4-H Clubs

1. Project Work

(a) Bread

The girls have continued with their bread making projects as had been planned. They made muffins and yeast breads at the August and September meetings. The members have also made breads in the homes.

(b) Stop-food-waste

The projects were continued as had been planned. A Jarratt 4-H Club girl, Doris Pair, has done outstanding work on this project. She has taken over some of the food preparation for the family.

(c) Canning

Majority of the girls taking canning projects did not do as much as was planned because of the shortage of fruits and vegetables this year. A total of 99 quarts was canned by the 4-H girls alone and they helped with the canning of 1,591 quarts. Much of the canning is done in the canneries in this county.

2. Health

No work done.

3. Community activities

No work done.

4. Work of One Club

The Homeville 4-H Club has done very nice work with bread making. There are only five in this group, which meet in the homes. The parents of these girls have cooperated beautifully. Each girl helped make bread at the club meetings and then they made breads at home afterwards. At the November meetings, Christmas gifts are being made.

D. Older Youth

No work done.

E. Other Work Done by Home Demonstration Agent

1. County Home Economics Worker

Have cooperated with these whenever requested and have urged the use of the two canneries in the county.

2. County Nutrition Committee

None organized.

3. Food Bank

Meet with committees of the civic organizations, school and churches to discuss ways of collecting and making this a success.

4. Salvage Committee

No work done.

5. Rationing Board

No work done.

6. War Bond Committee

Have passed on information and encouraged the purchasing of bonds.

7. School Lunch

Have encouraged the cooperation with lunch programs and, when possible, contribute to it.

8. Red Cross

Helped deliver some of the yarn to be used in knitting garments.

9. Clothing Collection

No work done.

VII. Most Significant Contribution to the County in Meeting War Needs Which Was Made by the Home Demonstration Program This Year

The home demonstration club program has done a great deal to be more health conscious. Many have prepared first aid kits

and have found much use of them. Each month, some work has been done on health problems such as (a) Caring for the Sick in the Home, (b) Feeding the Sick and (c) Study of the Different Common Diseases. The Health Department in the county has done much to cooperate with the program of the home demonstration clubs.

ANNUAL NARRATIVE REPORT

For

Sussex County

By

Elnora Lee Stewart
Local H. D. Agent

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SCOPE OF WORK

Home Demonstration Clubs

Six home demonstration clubs have been organized since beginning work August 16, 1945. These clubs have a membership of fifty-nine.

Approximately thirty farm families have been reached this year through project leaders.

There are approximately six hundred (600) farm families in Sussex County.

Approximately seventy families have been reached this year in Sussex County.

ORGANIZATIONS

• County Home Demonstration Committee

• The County Home Demonstration Committee is composed of thirteen farm women representing six Home Demonstration Clubs in Sussex and Dinwiddie Counties.

The Committee is governed by a chairman and a secretary.

• One meeting was held by this committee at which a program of work for 1946 was planned.

• Professional Worker's Conference

• The Professional Worker's Conference is held once each month in the County Farm and Home Agent's office at Sussex Court-
house, Virginia.

The Agencies represented are as follows: (1) the County Farm and Home Agents and (2) the Local Farm and Home Agents.

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LEADERSHIP

Adult Work

There are two types of leaders in Sussex County-- (1) club officers and (2) project leaders. There are nineteen club officers in the six Home Demonstration Clubs. There are six project leaders, one for each organized Home Demonstration Club.

The club officers and project leaders have helped in selling the Extension Program in their own as well as nearby communities.

• Two home demonstration club meetings were held by project leaders in the absence of the home agent during the month of November.

RESULTS

Home Demonstration Clubs

Foods

After the food had been produced, some of it had to be saved for future use, therefore, demonstrations in canning and cheese making had to be given. As a result of these demonstrations approximately 200 quarts of vegetables and 800 quarts of fruits were canned and 25 pounds of cheese made.

The club women were interested in making American Cheese at home and pledged to make more of it; not only for table use but to sell as well.

Discussions were given on "The Seven Basic Food Groups." As a result of these discussions, more farm women became interested in the family health, and they pledged to plan and serve balanced meals.

CLOTHING

Consumer Problems

"Buying Versus Making" aroused the interest of many farm women, therefore, they are making rather than purchasing ready-made garments for themselves as well as their families. One reason why they are making their own is that the ones made at home are cheaper and more durable.

Because of the poor quality and high cost of clothing today, everyone is urged to take care of what he already has and purchase only that which is absolutely needed. As a result, more bags have been used to make aprons, rugs, table cloths, scarves, and many other useful articles.

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HOUSE FURNISHING

Construction

and

Discussions and demonstrations were given on the uses of the Felcy Feed Mill, a very useful piece of household equipment. As a result

of these discussions and demonstrations were given on the uses of the Speed-D-Weave Frame.

The Speed-D-Weave Frame may be used in making rugs, dollies, table cloths, hand bags, and many other nice Christmas gifts and other useful household gifts.

As a result of these demonstrations and discussions, four of these frames were purchased by home demonstration club members.