

PLAN OF WORK

CHARLOTTE COUNTY

1956

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1956 PLAN OF WORK

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CHARLOTTE

County

I. COUNTY SITUATION

Charlotte County is an agricultural county located in the Southern Piedmont plateau with an area of 496 square miles.

- o Agriculture is the main source of income, although in recent years several small textile manufacturing plants have located in the county. These plants employ around 600 workers, mostly white farm women. Nearly all women living on tobacco farms assist with preparing the tobacco for markets.

According to the 1954 Census there are 1904 farms averaging 112.7 acres in size. The Census states that 75% of the population lives on farms. The county population is 52% white and 48% negro.

Tobacco both flue-cured and dark fired provides more than one half of the value of sales from farm products. Timber manufacturing and cutting pulpwood are also important industries.

The 1954 Census states that 81% of the farm homes are wired for electricity, 33% have piped running water and 6.5 have telephones.

Drakes Branch, Charlotte Court House, Phenix and Keysville are incorporated towns having a total population of 1,787 in 1950.

There is one consolidated white high school serving the entire county with an enrollment of around 600. There are seven white elementary schools. Each school operates a cafeteria. Four community canneries are operated seasonally. These are located at Wylliesburg, Aspen, Madisonville and Charlotte Court House. There is no community frozen food locker within the county. The 1954 Census reported 230 farm homes with home freezers.

II. THE COUNTY HOME ECONOMICS PROGRAM - ADULT

A. The County Home Economics Committee

Early in the year several representative farm women will be invited

to consider together certain pertinent background facts on home conditions in Charlotte County. These women will form the nucleus of a home economics committee of approximately six members which will select a problem and make recommendations for both immediated and long time goals.

B. Home Demonstration Clubs

1. Home Improvement Receives Major Emphasis in 1956 Program

Four demonstrations will be given on Home Improvement. These will be Selection of Furniture for Comfort and Durability; The Comfortable and Attractive Living Room (Arrangement); Planning the Kitchen for Step Saving and Convenience; and Flower Arrangement for Home and for Church.

Objectives are as follows:

- a. To enable women to look for and to recognize good design and good quality in house furnishings.
- b. To help them develop standards by which to select articles that will be attractive and give good service for the money expended.
- c. To enable them to arrange their furnishings and equipment more attractively and for more comfortable living.
- d. To help them to arrange their kitchen equipment so as to save time and energy by keeping in mind the job to be done and the tools needed to do the job.
- e. To encourage them to beautify their homes and churches with attractively arranged flowers in suitable containers.
- f. To help them to enjoy and use to advantage the things that they have, thereby making their homes more attractive and enjoyable for themselves, their families and their friends.

Two leaders training meetings will be held prior to the time when these topics will be presented. At these meetings the 24 home furnishings leaders from the 12 clubs will be trained by the extension specialists. The agent will secure appropriate bulletings, slides and illustrative material for the use of the leaders. Field trips will be arranged to nearby furniture store in order to make comparisons of quality and good design in the construction of furniture. A tour will be planned to visit step saving kitchens and those especially planned for convenience. Nearby garden club members will be invited to assist with training leaders in artistic flower arrangements.

Two special interest groups in rug making have been planned for January.

Upon request the agents will give individual assistance in selecting

colors, materials, and other problems relating to house furnishings.

2. Meal Preparation and Service Continues to Hold Interest of Club Members

Always alert to new ideas for preparing and serving the inevitable three meals a day, home demonstration club members have planned four demonstrations on this topic for 1956. These are Making Doughnuts; New Ways With Old Vegetables; Party Refreshments and Preparing and Serving Buffet Meals.

Objectives are as follows:

- a. To enable members prepare and serve more interesting and nutritious meals.
- b. To enable members to entertain with greater ease and less effort by demonstrating the advantages of buffet service.
- c. To demonstrate variety in the preparation of simple and inexpensive refreshments.

Prior to the time that these demonstrations will be given, two leaders training meetings will be held to train the 24 foods leaders of the 12 clubs. The agents will supply the leaders with recipes and other material to use in connection with their demonstrations.

3. Homemakers Plan Study of Business Facts

Upon many homemakers rests the responsibility of the business side of farming and home making. Feeling the need for more information along business lines, two discussions have been planned for 1956, namely, Legal Papers Women Should Understand and Business at the Bank.

Objectives are as follows:

- a. To give homemakers a better understanding of the legal business of the farm and of the home.
- b. To enable the homemaker to more intelligently transact business pertaining to farming and to homemaking.
- c. To acquaint the homemaker with the different types of bank accounts and banking facts applicable to family finances.

A leaders training meeting will be conducted, prior to these discussions, by the extension home management specialist. At this time the home management leaders of the 12 clubs will be trained for the discussions which they will conduct in their respective clubs. The agents will supply these leaders with suitable bulletins and mimeographed material pertaining to these topics.

The radio and newspaper will be used to reach others.

Leaders will have the privilege of inviting local bankers and businessmen to lead these discussions in their respective clubs.

4. Homemakers Interested in Improving Sewing Skills

A representative group of homemakers felt that they could effect a considerable saving to the family budget by properly caring for their woollens and knitwear and by learning to do a more professional job in home sewing. Two topics were planned for demonstration in the 1956 program, namely; Laundering and Care of Sweaters and Knitwear, and Tailored Fishishes for Homemade Garments.

Objectives are these:

- a. To prolong the life and appearance of knitwear by proper laundering and care.
- b. To save cleaning bills by learning to correctly launder sweaters and knitwear.
- c. To give a more professional appearance to home made garments.
- d. To save money by improving sewing skills, thereby enabling the homemaker to make successfully, some of the garments formerly purchased.

The extension clothing specialist has held a meeting to train the leaders of the 12 clubs for these demonstrations. Special interest groups in clothing construction will be offered where there has been a request for this type of assistance. There will be held as workshops, enabling members to work closely under the direction of a trained person.

C. FARM AND HOME DEVELOPMENT

Charlotte County is a pilot county in farm and home development in which work is being done on an area basis. The two areas selected by the committee which the board of agriculture appointed, include around 45 white families.

Since July 1, 1955, thirty of these families have been contacted by home visits. Planning has been started with thirteen of this number and complete plans have been developed for seven.

Plans for 1956 include:

1. Periodic home visits to the 30 families already contacted to assist with further development and carrying out plans.
2. Make introductory visits to all families not previously visited.

3. Begin long time plans with at least 12 other families within designated areas.
4. Introduce the family record book and assist each interested family in keeping home accounts.
5. Encourage families to make a household inventory.
6. Encourage enrollment of all member families in H. D. and 4-H Clubs.
7. Use all available source material in assisting families with development of plans.
8. Supply member families with all current information which may be of interest to them.

D. Federation Program of Work

Citizenship and International Understanding was selected by the County Federation for the second year.

Prior to the planning meeting, club discussions were held at which time members were given an opportunity to state their preference for their federation goal. These choices were then presented by the program planning chairman and voted on at the county wide planning meeting. After the selection of the program, the county goal chairman met with her committee and set up the following objectives:

1. To become better acquainted with the organization and functions of county government.
2. To better understand the people of other nations by inviting exchange students or those who have visited foreign countries to talk on the customs of other nations.
3. Continue to contribute to CROP and Pennies for Friendship.

The County Federation Chairman will be responsible for supplying local club chairmen with appropriate material and suggested activities for their monthly programs. Each club will devote a short period each month to goal activities. At least once during the year, each club will have a program either individually, or in cooperation with a neighboring club, on some topic related to the Federation program.

E. Other Activities

1. Water Systems

A continued effort will be made to encourage farm families to install pressure water systems. According to the 1954 census, 67% of rural farm families in Charlotte County are without running water. Publicity will be given in club discussions, through local papers, and on radio and television programs.

Services of extension specialists will be requested when needed.

2. Result Demonstrations

Result demonstrations are being conducted on home grounds improvement which were begun during 1949-52 when Home and Community Beautification was the federation goal. These demonstrations which are strategically located throughout the county, are accessible for individual or group visits and are becoming increasingly effective as the plantings develop.

These places will be visited during the year either by groups or by individuals as the occasion demands.

Three others were started in 1955, one at Red Oak and the others at Drakes Branch, will become of value as the plantings develop.

The Agent will assist individual families with developing plans for home ground improvement. Bulletins and other leaflets will be secured for them and specialist help will be requested in problem cases.

3. National Home Demonstration Week

National Home Demonstration Week will be appropriately observed. Publicity will be given through news articles, radio and television. A committee will be appointed to arrange a window display in at least one of the local stores.

An especial effort will be made to enroll new members during the month of May. Observance will continue throughout the month in order that each club may have an opportunity to participate.

4. Tours

A countywide tour will be planned during the year to visit result demonstrations and remodeled homes. This is designed to stimulate interest in home improvement, to add interest to club work and to publicize certain phases of home demonstration work.

5. Fairs and Judging

Trained leaders will assist as superintendents and judges of local fairs. These leaders not only make a valuable contribution through their time and efforts, but they encourage club and individual exhibits which publicize effectively, some of the activities of home demonstration members.

6. Red Cross and Other Drives

Home demonstration club members will serve as chairmen for annual drives such as Red Cross, March of Dimes, T. B. Seals, Cancer and Heart funds.

7. Community Improvement

The Eureka H. D. Club is cooperating with the Keysville Civic Club in Community Improvement. This Community was selected by the Civic Club because of the excellent community spirit there. The first project will be uniform mailbox posts and markers, farm name plates and community identification signs. It is hoped that this project will eventually be adopted by other communities.

8. Work in Unorganized Communities

An attempt will be made to reach people in unorganized communities through news releases, bulletins, radio and television.

Requests for assistance will be given through home visits insofar as time will permit.

Home visits to 4-H Club members will offer opportunities for becoming acquainted with families otherwise not contacted through club organizations.

9. District and State Federation Meetings

Each club will be urged to send representatives to the district and state federation meeting. The county federation will pay the expenses of one or more delegates to the state federation meeting and of an adult sponsor to the State Short Course.

Individual clubs will be encouraged to pay the expenses of a delegate to the state federation meeting if means are available.

III. 4-H CLUB WORK

A. Project Work

1. Safety

Each of the 16 in-school 4-H Clubs will carry Safety as an in-school project. This will be carried as a joint project in which both boys and girls will take part.

Objectives are as follows:

- a. Finding hazards and removing them whenever possible or, when necessary, learning to live with them.
- b. Developing safety knowledge, skills and desirable attitudes.
- c. Participating in safety demonstrations.

Method demonstrations will be used. Members will be trained in presenting demonstrations at each club meeting. Agents will furnish necessary project material.

2. Food Projects

Food preparation, including bread, will be carried as a year around project by 154 members and by 2 out-of-school clubs.

Objectives are as follows:

- a. To enable girls to read and to follow a simple recipe.
- b. To help members to acquire basic skills in preparing simple meals.
- c. To stimulate interest in preparing simple, nutritious foods.
- d/ To encourage the girl to become a more responsible and useful member of her family group.

Method demonstrations will be used whenever possible. Members will work under the direction of experienced project leaders or with their mother's help. Members and leaders will be supplied with project bulletins and appropriate mimeographed material by the agents.

Members will be encouraged to exhibit at fairs and farm shows.

3. Clothing Projects

There are 88 members enrolled in clothing projects, 15 have selected "Good Grooming".

Objectives of these projects are as follows:

- a. To enable members to develop basic skills in the construction of a simple garment.
- b. To encourage the club member to make a clothing plan.
- c. To enable the girl to select appropriate pattern and material and to construct a simple fitted garment.
- d. To help the girl improve her personal appearance.

Method demonstrations will be given by trained leaders or by the agent in the basic techniques of clothing construction. Group instruction will be given where possible, otherwise members will work under the direction of their mothers.

Members will be encouraged to exhibit at fairs and farm shows.

4. Home Improvement

"My Room" has been selected by 26 members as a year around project.

Objectives are these:

- a. To encourage the member to assume responsibility for the care of her room.
- b. To encourage the member to arrange her room for appearance and convenience.
- c. To help the member to develop judgment in the selection of furnishings for her room.
- d. To help the member to develop skills in making or refinishing articles for her room.

Individual assistance will be given members by the agents or leaders. The agents will supply the necessary bulletins and information for the completion of this project.

5. Housekeeping

Housekeeping has been selected by ²⁸members of three clubs as an

out of school project.

Objectives are as follows:

- a. To teach the member correct methods and techniques in caring for her room and other rooms of the house.
- b. To encourage her to assume responsibility for certain selected tasks and thereby become a more efficient member of the family group.
- c. To help her to develop habits of neatness and orderliness in caring for the house.

Club members will be supplied project material and instructions by the agent and will work under their mothers' direction. Most of these members have carried this previously as an in-school project.

6. Food Preservation

Food preservation, freezing and canning, will be carried by approximately 50 members as out of school projects.

Objectives are these:

- a. To teach the member correct methods of canning and packaging foods for freezing.
- b. To encourage the member to make a family food plan.
- c. To enable her to judge quality in canned and frozen foods.
- d. To add variety and interest to family meals with home canned and frozen foods.

Method demonstrations will be used for group instruction by agents and trained leaders or experienced homemakers. Project material and mimeographed material will be supplied by the agents. Members will be encouraged to exhibit at fairs and farm shows.

7. Garden

Club members will be given an opportunity to enroll in the garden project at the February meeting. There will probably be around 50 members enrolled in Units I and II.

Objectives are these:

- a. To teach the member to make a garden plan.

- b. To encourage variety in planting the vegetable garden.
- c. To help the member gain experience in planting and in cultivating a garden.
- d. To teach proper methods of pest control.
- e. Through record keeping, to help the member to appreciate the value of the home garden.

Members will be given individual instructions by their agents who will advise with them and will visit them at least four times during the summer. Girls will work closely with their parents who will supervise and advise them and give needed assistance. Circular letters will be mailed monthly carrying timely information. Members will be encouraged to exhibit at available fairs and contests.

8. Home Ground Improvement

Home Ground Improvement will be selected as an out of school summer project by around 12 members.

Objectives are these:

- a. Encourage the member to improve the appearance of her home grounds with orderly arrangement, flowers, trees and shrubs.
- b. Encourage members to assume responsibility for the care of her yard and surroundings.
- c. To teach an appreciation of flowers, shrubs and shade as they contribute to attractive, comfortable surroundings.

Individual instruction will be given members by the agents who will visit members twice during the time that this project is in progress. Bulletins and mimeographed material will be supplied by the agents.

9. Ironing

Around 10 members are taking Family Ironing as an out of school project.

Objectives are these:

- a. To enable the member to acquire skills in ironing different types of garments and different fabrics.
- b. To encourage the member to improve her techniques and her

equipment.

- c. To enable the member to assume responsibility for the care of her clothes and those of other members of her family.

Members will work under the direction of their mother or an adult leader. Project material and illustrative material will be supplied by the agents.

B. Other Activities

1. Camps and Short Courses

An estimated 25 girls will attend district camp at Holliday Lake. Two or more older members will go as junior leaders.

Four girls will attend State Short Course in addition to any who may be district contest winners.

An effort will be made to send the county quota to state conservation camp.

2. Club Contests

An effort will be made to enter the county winner of each project in the district contest. Adult 4-H leaders will assist in preparing the girls for the contests.

3. Honor Club

An honor club, composed of older 4-H Club members, will be organized during January. These members will be used as junior leaders to assist younger club members with records and project activities and to help with fairs, exhibits and special programs.

4. 4-H Club Week

4-H Club Week will be observed with appropriate posters and window displays, with radio and television programs put on by club members, and with newspaper publicity.

5. Rural Life Sunday

Rural Life Sunday will be observed in several communities with appropriate services. This observance will be sponsored by All Star and Honor Club members with 4-H Club members taking part in the service.

6. Achievement Day

Achievement Day will be observed as in the past in cooperation with the F.H.A. and F.F.A. organizations. A one day fair will provide an opportunity for club members to exhibit their project work. With the school officials cooperating as they have done in the past, every club member will have an opportunity to attend and to participate.

7. Fairs and Farm Shows

Club members will be encouraged to exhibit at the Five County Fair and the Lynchburg Farm Show in addition to the Charlotte County fair.

The County Council will assume the responsibility for an exhibit of over all club activities.

IV. YOUNG MEN'S AND WOMEN'S WORK

A. Program Areas

An effort will be made to reach individual young men and women needing the assistance of the extension service, especially young couples. Information available in such areas as housing, furnishings, equipment and landscaping, will be brought to their attention.

Objectives will be as follows:

- a. To acquaint young men and women with the many types of assistance which extension service has to offer.
- b. To assist them in solving their individual problems.
- c. To guide them in making satisfactory choices.
- d. To help them to develop standards for a satisfactory standard of living.

Methods used will be individual visits, supplemented with bulletins and other appropriate material. The radio, press and television will be other means of contact. An especial effort will be made to enroll young homemakers in home demonstration clubs in communities where these exist.

B. Other Activities

1. Camps

Young men and women will be used as leaders at 4-H district camp.

An effort will be made to encourage attendance at Young Men's and Women's Camp at Camp Ferrar in August.

2. Tours

Young homemakers will be especially invited to join tours to result demonstrations and to home improvement projects.

3. Fairs

Young homemakers will be encouraged to make exhibits at community fairs. They will be invited to serve as superintendents and to assist with putting on the fairs.

4. Leadership Activities

An especial effort will be made to use young women enrolled in home demonstration work as project leaders. These girls may be teamed with a more experienced person until they develop sufficient self confidence to work alone or with others of their age group. They will also be invited to work with 4-H Club members as project leaders and in assisting with contests.

V. SCOPE OF WORK

<u>A. Organization</u>	<u>No. in 1955</u>	<u>Goal 1956</u>
Number of home demonstration clubs	12	13
Membership	242	270
Number of 4-H Clubs	18	19
Membership	309	320
Number of young men and women's clubs	0	0
Membership	0	0
Number Community Improvement Clubs	0	1
Membership	0	12
Number other organizations	0	0

VI. PLANS FOR USING OTHER ORGANIZATIONS TO STRENGTHEN THE EXTENSION PROGRAM IN 1956

A. County Home Demonstration Club Committee

The home demonstration committee is composed of the presidents of each of the 12 clubs, the county federation goal chairman, and its executive

officers, president, vice president, secretary and treasurer. They will held two meetings a year, one in the spring to check on the progress of the program and to plan for the observance of Home Demonstration Club Week, attendance at state and district meetings, and other pertinent business. At the fall meeting the program of work is set up, goals established and objectives set up for the next year.

B. County Board of Agriculture

The county board of agriculture, composed of representatives from each of the 10 communities within the county, meets upon request to make decisions and to serve in an advisory capacity in matters relating to the agricultural interests of the county as a whole. This group has appointed an especial committee which has been used to select areas in which the Farm and Home Development Program will be offered.

C. County 4-H Advisory Committee

The County 4-H Advisory Committee, composed of 16 adults and 2 senior 4-H Club members, meets upon request to advise in matters regarding the establishment of a more effective 4-H Club program. This committee which met for the first time in November 1955, will be of great help in securing project leaders, in training judging teams and in publicising 4-H Club work. It will serve as an excellent public relations group.

D. County 4-H Council

The County 4-H Council is composed of officers of the 18 clubs. This council will meet twice a year. The first meeting will be held immediately after club organization has been completed to train officers and to set up goals for the current year. The second meeting will be held in the spring at which time progress on goals will be checked and plans will be made for participation in camps and other summer events.

E. County Honor Club

Plans are being made to organize an honor club early in January. This organization will be used to develop leadership and to assist in planning and carrying out plans for such observances as 4-H Club Week and Rural Youth Sunday, for a County wide rally day and with fair exhibits.

F. County All Stars

County All Stars will meet early in the year to select candidates for recommendation in 1956. This group of five is unorganized, however, they are of great assistance in helping with fair exhibits and Achievement Day and in serving on other committees relating to 4-H Club work. One All Star, Janice Metcalf, is one of two junior leaders for an out of

school 4-H Club of 12 members which meets twice monthly in the homes of the leaders.

H. Professional Workers Council

The County Professional Workers are unorganized, however, they meet at irregular intervals to act upon matters relating to the group as a whole. The members are at present working with the Ruritan Club in an effort to obtain a medical doctor for the county. Each member of the Council has been assigned a definite responsibility on this project.

I. Women's Clubs

The agent will serve as chairman for the spring flower show for the Deepville Woman's Club and will serve as advisor for the spring flower show which is a joint project of the Charlotte Court House Woman's Club and the Charlotte Court House Home Demonstration Club.

J. Red Cross

The agent will serve as chairman of emergency feeding on the disaster committee of the County Red Cross.

K. Civil Defense

The agent will be responsible for distributing literature and other material relating to Civil Defense to clubs and neighborhood groups throughout the county.

VII. PLAN FOR LEADERSHIP

A. Home Demonstration

	<u>Number in 1955</u>	<u>Goals 1956</u>
Number project leaders (subject matter)	81	106
Number federation program of work chairmen	12	12
Number program development leaders	12	12
Number result demonstrators	8	11
Number meetings at which leaders were trained by specialist	6	5
Number meetings at which leaders were trained by district agents	0	0
Number meetings at which leaders were trained by agent	1	1
Attendance at training meetings	69	350
Number club meetings held by leaders without agent present	13	15
Number club meetings in which leaders assisted	25	50
Total number demonstrations given by leaders	38	65
Total number of talks or discussions by leaders	33	20

1. Home Demonstration Club Officers

There will be 12 presidents, 12 vice presidents and 12 secretary-treasurers whose responsibility it will be to preside over the club meetings and to transact other businesses of the club. New presidents will be elected before the fall meeting of the county federation and will be trained in the duties of their office at that meeting.

2. Project Leaders

There will be 22 home management leaders, 23 foods leaders, 17 clothing leaders, 22 house furnishings leaders and 22 rural arts leaders. There will be six leaders training meetings, five to be conducted by the extension specialists and one by the agent. These

leaders will be responsible for presenting to their respective clubs demonstrations for which they have been trained.

3. Federation Program of Work Chairmen

The 12 federation program of work chairmen will work directly with the county program chairman in presenting a program of activities to their respective clubs. They will meet as a committee early in the year and will at that time plan together for activities to be presented throughout the year.

4. Program Development Chairmen

The 12 program development chairmen will be charged with the responsibility of ascertaining needs on a community and countywide basis and for suggesting a program to meet these needs. They help to formulate objectives and long time goals. With suggestions from the members they will prepare a summary of recommendations for the county planning meeting and will collect information from their members for the annual club summary of activities.

5. L-H Club Leaders

The L-H Club leaders will be responsible for keeping their clubs informed as to L-H Club activities within the county. They will assist in securing project leaders for out-of-school clubs and for supervising projects of members working individually.

B. 4-H Club

	<u>Number in 1955</u>	<u>Goal 1956</u>
Number 4-H Club officers	90	114
Number adult project leaders	12	14
Number junior project leaders	3	5
Number result demonstrators	0	2
Number meetings at which leaders were trained by specialist	0	0
Number meetings at which leaders were trained by district agent	0	0
Number meetings at which leaders were trained by agent	3	2
Number meetings at which leaders were trained by personnel in 4-H Department	0	0
Attendance at leader training meetings	8	16
Number 4-H leaders trained individually	4	2
Number club meetings held by leaders without agent present	18	30
Number club meetings at which leaders assisted	4	4
Number demonstrations given by adult leaders	8	12
Number demonstrations given by junior leaders	4	12

Plans for Training and Using Leaders for 4-H Club Work

1. Organizational Leaders

There will be 20 club presidents, 20 vice presidents, 20 secretaries, 14 treasurers, 20 song leaders and 20 reporters whose responsibility it will be to preside over each club meeting and to transact the business of the club related to their offices. These officers will be trained at the fall meeting of the County Council immediately after their election. Those not attending will be trained individually.

2. Project Leaders

Adult project leaders will be secured for at least four out of school summer groups and for three out of school year round clubs. These and other leaders who will work with individual club members will be instructed by the agents.

3. Junior Leaders

Junior leaders will be used to assist with three out of school clubs for younger members. They will also assist with exhibits for fairs and Achievement Day, and with 4-H Camp activities.

VIII. PLANS FOR WORKING WITH OTHER AGENCIES

1. Woman's Clubs

The agent is Garden Chairman for the Keysville Woman's Club and as such will gain serve as co-chairman in putting on the spring flower show. She will also assist the Charlotte Court House Woman's Club in putting on their flower show.

2. County Health Department

The agent will at all times cooperate with any program of the county health department, and will help in publicizing any program which is to the best interest of public health in the county.

3. T. B. Association

The agent will be a contributing member of the T. B. Association and will encourage her club members to cooperate through participation and services.

4. County Fair and Five County Fair Associations

The agent is an active member of the board of directors of the above mentioned fair associations and will again assist local leaders in putting on their annual fairs in the fall. She will encourage club and individual exhibits from adults and 4-H Club members.

5. County P.T.A.'s.

The agent is a paid member of the Keysville P.T.A. and will cooperate with this and other organizations of this nature in any way possible.

6. Ruritan Club

The agent will again cooperate with the Ruritan Club by arranging

for groups to serve at their monthly dinner meeting.

IX. PLANS FOR DEVELOPING AND STRENGTHENING PUBLIC RELATIONS

A&B. Elected Representatives and General Public

The agent will endeavor at all times to develop good public relations with elected representatives and with the general public by using every opportunity to inform them of the work being done by the extension service and by cooperating in answering requests for services in-so-far as possible. She will at all times avoid participation in activities of a political nature or those of a controversial nature or anything that would savor of partisanship.

C&D. Co-workers and Other Professional Workers

Public relations with co-workers and other professional workers will be strengthened through a discussion at staff meetings of problems of mutual interest that arise from time to time. An effort will be made to understand the duties and responsibilities of each and to exhibit professional courtesy and understanding at all times.

E. Commercial Interests

When advisable, commercial demonstrators will be asked to assist with leaders training and special interest groups.

X. PLANS FOR RECORDING AND EVALUATING PROGRAM AS PLANNED FOR 1956

The agent will review her plan of work at intervals to check the progress that is being made. She will also study monthly and annual reports and check her own progress against state summaries and statistics as received from the state extension office. These will be reviewed with the district supervisor for help in correcting weaknesses that may be evident.

XI. PLANS FOR PROFESSIONAL IMPROVEMENT

The agent will continue to maintain active membership and to fill an office in both the State H. D. Agents' Association and in the State Home Economics Association.

She will endeavor to keep herself informed by reading subject matter articles in the several professional magazines to which she subscribes.

She will attend agent work shops and short courses when available in order to develop needed skills and techniques which will contribute to her efficiency.

She will avail herself of any trips, field or educational, and will attend district and state professional meetings which will enlarge her capacity for service.

XII. PLANS FOR COOPERATING WITH OTHER EXTENSION AGENTS IN MY COUNTY TOWARDS A UNIFIED COUNTY EXTENSION PROGRAM

Through frequent staff conferences and discussions of the several plans of work and by careful planning of countywide activities by the staff members, it is believed that a Unified Extension Program may be accomplished. This will be especially important in working on the Farm and Home Development Phase of the program. Not only will frequent discussions be needed, but joint visits to the farm family in order that each member of the family partnership and both agents may understand the problems to be solved and may join together for their solution.

XIII. PROBLEMS IN CARRYING OUT THE EXTENSION PROGRAM AND PLANS FOR MEETING SAME

1. Locating and training additional leaders - both for the adult and for the 4-H program

A constant effort will be made to contact and train leaders, other than those who are already over worked who will be used in carrying out a more effective program.

2. Stimulating Interest of non-members

Through an effective use of news media and the enthusiasm of active members, an effort will be made to reach a greater proportion of the public than is now being reached. An effort will be made to organize at least one other club in an area which is at present unorganized.

3. Lack of transportation

According to a recent survey only 5% of the 90% of members surveyed can drive. This percentage is doubtless much higher among non-members as many women state this as a reason for not attending club meetings. Driver training courses which have been given at the high school for the past few years will in time improve this condition, and in the meantime others will be encouraged to learn to drive.

4. Lack of telephone service

The 1950 Census reported telephone service available to only 96 farm families. While this service has been extended to two other communities since that time, the majority of rural people are as yet without this service.

5. Limited income of farm families retards progress

According to the 1955 survey of H. D. Club members, the median net income is only \$2,200. This many families are limited in the amount of home improvement they can do because of this. Many farmer members and leaders are employed in the several textile mills in and around Charlotte County in an effort to supplement the family income. This deprives club organizations of many of their valuable leaders and members.

Problems affecting the 4-H Program are:

- a. The need for more adult leaders where the members are located. This can be partly remedied by contacting and educating more adults in this phase of the program. An effort will be made to discover and to train more leaders and to establish at least two more out-of-school project groups during the year.
- b. Competing organizations and a 30 minute activity period make it difficult to conduct satisfactory 4-H Clubs in high school. An effort will be made to maintain interest with these members through visitation and closer supervision of out of school projects and through the activities of the honor club.
- c. Many members have a long school day leaving little time for the persurance of project activities and limit home visits to Saturdays. An effort will be made to use every opportunity for home visits and to encourage leaders to do the same. This will have a tendency to discourage indifference in project work and to encourage completion of project requirements.

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Annual Report

COUNTY EXTENSION WORK

Virginia Agricultural Extension Service



1956

Bessie R. Yates
agent

Dorothy B. Campbell
assistant agent

Charlotte
county

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ANNUAL REPORT

COUNTY HOME DEMONSTRATION AGENTS

CHARLOTTE COUNTY, VIRGINIA

1956

BERTIE R. YATES

COUNTY HOME DEMONSTRATION AGENT

DOROTHY B. CAMPBELL

ASSISTANT COUNTY HOME DEMONSTRATION AGENT

GLADYS C. CRUTE, SECRETARY

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RM

ANNUAL REPORT

IV. COUNTY SITUATION

Charlotte County is an agricultural county located in the Southern Piedmont plateau with an area of 496 square miles.

Agriculture is the main source of income, although in recent years several small textile manufacturing plants have located in the county. These plants employ around 600 workers, mostly white farm women. Nearly all women living on tobacco farms assist with preparing the tobacco for markets.

According to the 1954 Census there are 1904 farms averaging 112.7 acres in size. The Census states that 75% of the population lives on farms. The county population is 52% white and 48% negro.

Tobacco, both flue-cured and dark fired, provides more than one half of the value of sales from farm products. Timber manufacturing and cutting of pulpwood are also important industries.

The 1954 Census states that 81% of the farm homes are wired for electricity, 33% have piped running water and 6.5% have telephones.

Drakes Branch, Charlotte Court House, Phenix and Keysville are incorporated towns having a total population of 1,787 in 1950.

There is one consolidated white high school serving the entire county with an enrollment of around 600. There are seven white elementary schools. Each school operates a cafeteria. Four community canneries are operated seasonally. These are located at Wylliesburg, Aspen, Madisonville, and Charlotte Court House. There is no community frozen food locker within the county. The 1954 Census reported 230

farm homes with home freezers.

V. ADULT WORK

A. Project Work

1. Home Improvement Received Major Emphasis in 1956 Program

Two demonstrations were given on Home Improvement. These were Selection of Furniture for Comfort and Durability and The Comfortable and Attractive Living Room (Arrangement).

Objectives were as follows:

- a. To enable women to look for and to recognize good design and good quality in house furnishings.
- b. To help them develop standards by which to select articles that would be attractive and give good service for the money expended.
- c. To enable them to arrange their furnishings and equipment more attractively and for more comfortable living.
- d. To help them to enjoy and use to advantage the things that they have, thereby making their homes more attractive and enjoyable for themselves, their families and their friends.

One leaders training meeting was held prior to the time when these topics were presented. At this meeting the 16 house furnishings leaders from the 13 clubs were trained by the extension specialist. The agent secured appropriate bulletins, slides and

illustrative material for the use of the leaders.

Method demonstrations were used, supplemented with slides, charts and other illustrative material. These subjects were further discussed in part on the agents' weekly radio program. Members were given an opportunity to study furniture construction first hand at local furniture stores. Twenty eight members indicate that they have used the information presented in selecting furniture and 31 stated that they had rearranged their living room since this demonstration.

Upon request the agents gave individual assistance in selecting colors, materials, and other problems relating to house furnishings to around 20 homemakers.

2. Food and Nutrition

Always alert to new ideas for preparing and serving the inevitable three meals a day, home demonstration club members included four demonstrations on this topic in 1956. These were Making Doughnuts, New Ways With Old Vegetables, Party Refreshments, and Serving Buffet Meals.

Objectives were as follows:

- a. To enable members to prepare and serve more interesting and nutritious meals.
- b. To enable members to entertain with greater ease and less effort by demonstrating the advantages of buffet service.

- c. To demonstrate variety in the preparation of simple and inexpensive refreshments.

Method demonstrations were given following the to leaders training meetings which were held by the extension specialist to prepare club leaders for the demonstration. The agent supplied appropriate mimeographed materials. Club members particularly enjoyed the series of demonstrations and leaders gave alone or assisted with all except 8 of the 32 demonstrations.

Timely nutritional information was included in weekly radio broadcasts as well as in club discussions.

Information gathered from club questionnaires indicated that 108 of the members are using information received in these demonstrations resulting in better planned and prepared meals.

2. Housing Receives Emphasis in County Program

One club discussion was given on Planning the Kitchen for Step Saving and Convenience. Special emphasis was placed on Improved Water Systems.

Objectives were as follows:

- a. To improve kitchen arrangement to save time and energy.
- b. To stimulate more interest in the installation of home water systems.
- c. To make available house plans and other information to families who are building new homes.

One leaders training meeting was held for the 20 leaders of

the 13 clubs prior to the club discussions by the housing specialist. She also made charts and slides available for their use in presenting their discussions. These visual aids were used effectively by the club leaders.

Further discussions were given on weekly radio broadcasts.

The Water Systems committee submitted a series of articles to the county paper and also presented information on water systems on several radio programs.

Plans were made available to five families who were building. Mr. C. D. Wheary also assisted several families with plans for remodeling. The result of these efforts are as yet undetermined. The demonstration on Improving Kitchens was given in November and there has not been sufficient time to show results.

4. Home Management

Homemakers Study Business Facts

Upon many homemakers rests the responsibility of the business side of farming and home making. Feeling the need for more information along business lines two months in 1956 were devoted to discussion on Legal Papers Women Should Understand and Business at the Bank.

Objectives were as follows:

- a. To give homemakers a better understanding of the legal business of the farm and of the home.
- b. To enable the homemaker to more intelligently transact

business pertaining to farming and to homemaking.

- c. To acquaint the homemaker with the different types of bank accounts and banking facts applicable to family finances.

A leaders training meeting was conducted prior to these discussions, by the extension home management specialist. At this time the home management leaders of the 12 clubs were trained for the discussions which they conducted in their respective clubs. The agents supplied these leaders with suitable bulletins and mimeographed material pertaining to these topics.

The radio and newspaper were used to reach others.

Leaders invited local bankers and businessmen to assist in the discussions in several clubs.

Discussions were led by club leaders and local business men and bankers who were invited to assist. Members of the Eureka Club had the privilege of visiting the newly built Bank of Keysville at the conclusion of their discussion on Business at the Bank. One hundred twenty seven members indicate that they have a better understanding of the business side of homemaking and 101 state that they have provided a satisfactory place for important documents following these discussions.

5. Clothing

A representative group of homemakers felt that they could effect a considerable saving to the family budget by properly

caring for their woolens and knitwear and by learning to do a more professional job in home sewing. Two topics were demonstrated in the 1956 program, namely; Laundering and Care of Sweaters and Knitwear, and Tailored Finishes for Homemade Garments.

Objectives were these:

- a. To prolong the life and appearance of knitwear by proper laundering and care.
- b. To save cleaning bills by learning to correctly launder sweaters and knitwear.
- c. To give a more professional appearance to home made garments.
- d. To save money by improving sewing skills, thereby enabling the homemaker to make successfully, some of the garments formerly purchased.

One leaders training meeting was held by the extension clothing specialist prior to these demonstrations. Method demonstrations were given and additional illustrative material prepared by the leaders.

One special interest workshop on clothing construction was held in the Red Oak Farm and Home Development Area. Six meetings were held with seven people taking part in part or all. A total of 208 garments have been made using tailored finishes; 76 members state that they have improved their workmanship. They also estimate a saving of \$289 in unnecessary dry cleaning bills since

learning to launder knits and woolen garments.

6. Rural Arts

One demonstration was given on Arranging Flowers for Home Church as a result of the awareness of members of their need to improve their skills and because of their desire to create more artistic arrangements for their home and their churches.

A nearby garden club member held a leaders training meeting which was well attended by leaders from the 13 clubs.

Local leaders also held a training meeting in an adjoining county on dried arrangements as well as in assisting with similar demonstrations for the Drakes Branch Junior Woman's Club and for each club within the county.

The extension Rural Arts Specialist provided mimeographed material. Members have derived a great deal of pleasure from these demonstrations as well as improving their skill in making both fresh and dried arrangements. It has served as an outlet for their creative interests and has afforded much pleasure to those who have participated in local flower shows.

Again, the radio and newspaper have been used in further presenting these topics.

B. Community Projects

1. The Red Oak H. D. Club has cooperated whole heartedly with community leaders in the establishment and erection of a community house. This has been built through the combined effort of club

members and other leaders, and is now in regular use. It is equipped with kitchen facilities and meets a real need in the community. The club has as its objective for 1957 landscaping as well as making other improvements to the building itself.

2. The Lebanon Club cooperated with the Keysville Civic Club in erecting community markers. At the entrance and exit of their community. Individual families are also erecting these at the entrance to their homes. These are being made for a nominal sum by the Randolph-Henry High School Shop.

VI. FARM AND HOME DEVELOPMENT

A. Local Leaders Aid in Selection of Families

At the time that the Farm and Home Development program was initiated, the County Board of Supervisors, and around 20 local leaders were advised as to what was being attempted and what the program had to offer. A map of the county was then prepared in the county office showing natural community divisions. A listing of families within each area was made to be used with this. Other maps showing the distribution of dairy, beef cattle, and various crops had been previously made in a county study from the University of Virginia. These proved valuable aids in determining a cross section of the county. Two meetings were held of the representative committee with county and district agents present. This committee was composed of key men and women of the county with each district represented.

At the first meeting the district agents gave an explanation of what the Farm and Home Development program had to offer and gave them an opportunity to decide whether it should be accepted.

With the decision in the affirmative, a later meeting was called to determine the area to be chosen. With the maps and lists to assist them, the committee, after serious discussion selected two areas instead of one, one in the Madisonville area in which dark fired tobacco, dairying and small grains were the most representative industries, and another in the Red Oak area in which bright tobacco was the principal crop and in which there were some part time farmers and homemakers who were employed in nearby industrial plants. There were around twenty families in each area chosen. Group meetings were held in each area to explain the program and ask acceptance.

There were also a few negro families in each area.

Every family has been visited in both areas at least once. Work of some type has been done with eleven families in the Madisonville Area, namely: E. E. Jones; A. H. Morris; J. H. Carville; Lewis Carville; C. H. Carson; Howard Carson; J. A. Roberts; J. F. Metcalf; Proctor Carville; Allen Hamlett; W. T. Carville. The following families have been worked with in the Red Oak Area: J. M. Crowe; H. R. Toombs; B. S. Adams; R. P. DeJarnette; H. H. Jones; H. H. Shelton; D. M. Howerton; F. S. Howerton; D. R. Pulp.

At the beginning of the year each family was visited and given a record book. The use of the book was explained to each family. On later visits garden information was taken to each family.

The following group activities have been conducted: (1) Meeting held in each area in January conducted by Mr. Nuckolls on Social Security; (2) Series of meetings on Clothing Construction in the Red Oak Area; (3) Demonstration in each area in November on Meat Cutting given by Dr. Bob Kelly and Mr. Roie Godsey of the Animal Husbandry Department.

B. Methods of Acquainting Local Leaders With Farm and Home Development

Approach

As mentioned above, the district agents appeared before the County Board of Supervisors and explained the Farm and Home Development Program. They then appeared before a group of twenty representative leaders and explained the program to them. A news article at the time that additional workers arrived served further to explain the program. An explanation in the way of a progress report has been made to the County Federation in their semi-annual meetings. The progress of the program has also been discussed with leaders on home visits at intervals during the year.

C. The E. E. Jones Family Shows Progress

The E. E. Jones family are a young couple in their late thirties with two young children of school age. They are progressive and alert to better ways of doing things. Both are considered leaders in the Madisonville Community in which they live. They welcomed the Farm and Home Development approach, seeing in it the possibility of receiving some much needed help. Prior to the time that their

plan was developed, they had secured the services of Miss Mary B. Settle and Mr. Cecil Wheary in making plans for remodeling and enlarging their home. Immediately after the plan was developed, construction was begun. Two rooms and a bath were added. The home agent then assisted with planning the lighting, locating kitchen equipment, selecting colors and floor finishes and furniture.

Mr. Jones has used the assistance of the S. C. S. technician and the area forester in planning his land use and his forestry program.

On a recent visit to the county, Mr. Albert S. Beecher's services were requested for planning the landscaping program.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Jones are keeping family records and appreciate the value of records in family planning. They feel that with extension help available that they can proceed with confidence with the plans that they have made.

VII. 4-H CLUB WORK

A. Project Work

1. Safety

This year 13 4-H Club groups carried safety as a joint project with the boys. A total of 171 girls carried the project.

The objectives were as follows:

- a. To recognize hazards in the home and ways to eliminate them.
- b. To become better acquainted with highway safety rules and laws.

- c. to practice safety on the farm.
- d. To discuss medicines, chemicals, and insecticides and how to handle them.

The assistant agent supplied appropriate bulletins and project material. The Division of Motor Vehicles cooperated with the agents in presenting Highway Safety.

Records indicate that 125 completed the safety project and that a total of 699 hazards were removed.

These hazards included picking up broken glass, removing nails from boards, repairing frayed iron cords, picking up bottles and tin cans around the house, cleaning out medicine cabinets and clearing attics and stairways of trash.

2. Food and Nutrition

A total of 213 girls enrolled in food and nutrition projects. This included food preparation, bread, canning and freezing.

Objectives were as follows:

- a. To teach simple skills in food preparation.
- b. To recognize the value of well balanced meals.
- c. To recognize the value of food preservation at home.
- d. To study and use approved methods.
- e. To judge quality of foods.

Records indicate that of the 169 members enrolled in Meal Preparation, 124 completed, serving a total of 2,487 meals and prepared 11,472 dishes. Of the 24 enrolled in Bread Making, 8 completed and made bread a total of 235 times.

3. Electric Project

This year 6 clubs carried the electric project in their schools. Time was allotted out of the school day for the program. A total of 36 reading lamps and 3 pairs of pin-up lamps were made.

Peggy Philbeck of Keysville Sr. Club was awarded the all-expense paid trip to Richmond to the Electric Congress.

The objectives of the program were:

- a. To learn more about electricity and its use in the home.
- b. To learn the do's and don't's for better home lighting.
- c. To learn to repair electrical cords.
- d. To learn to wire lamps.

Four method demonstrations were given by trained representatives of the power suppliers of this area. Record books and other mimeographed material was furnished by the extension agents. These demonstrations were given in two hour workshops.

At the conclusion of the project, members were given an opportunity to build a study lamp. Thirty six of these were completed at a minimal cost.

A committee of club members assisted by representatives of the power company and adult leaders prepared an exhibit for the Electric Congress which was awarded first place. This was later used at the Five County Fair and the Charlotte County Fair.

4. Food Preservation

Food preservation, freezing and canning, was carried by 30 members. Objectives were as follows:

- a. To demonstrate to members correct methods of canning and of preparing and packaging foods for freezing.
- b. To encourage the member to make a food plan designed to meet the needs of her family.
- c. To enable her to judge quality in canned and in frozen foods.
- d. To help her to add variety and interest to family meals with home canned and frozen foods.

Method demonstrations were used by leaders or experienced homemakers. The agent supplied the members with project material and with the newest available bulletins on canning and on freezing.

There were 100% completions on both the canning and the frozen foods projects.

The 25 girls enrolled in Home Canning reported 1,509 quarts canned alone and assisted with canning 4,062 quarts.

The 12 girls enrolled in Home Freezing reported 816 packages prepared alone for freezing and assisted with 1,143 packages.

These girls also exhibited at both the Charlotte County Fair, the Five County Fair and the Sears Canning Exhibit.

5. Garden

Eighteen girls enrolled in Vegetable Garden project, twelve

in the Home Vegetable Garden and six in junior garden.

Objectives were these:

- a. To teach the member to make a garden plan.
- b. To encourage variety in planting the vegetable garden.
- c. To help the member gain experience in planting and cultivating a garden.
- d. To demonstrate proper methods of pest control.
- e. Through record keeping, to help the member to appreciate the value of the vegetables produced.

Members were visited twice by the agent and twice by the extension specialist. The agent sent monthly garden letters to each club member as well as supplying her with extension leaflets and bulletins on planting and on pest control.

Six of the twelve girls enrolled in Home Vegetable Garden completed. They valued their gardens at \$759.70. They reported 1,173 quarts canned, 312 packages frozen and 42 bushel stored. One of these girls was first place winner in the Sears, Roebuck Garden contest in the nine county area.

The six girls in junior garden completed their project. Some of these girls plan to enroll in the senior project next year.

6. Clothing

There were 126 members enrolled in Sewing, including, "So You Want to Sew" and Make or Remake. One club of 21 members

selected Good Grooming.

Objectives were as follows:

- a. To enable the member to develop basic skills in the construction of a simple garment.
- b. To encourage the club member to make a clothing plan.
- c. To enable the girl to select appropriate pattern and material to construct a simple garment.
- d. To help the member to improve her personal appearance.

Method demonstrations were given by trained leaders and by the agent in the basic techniques of clothing construction. Group instruction was used where group leaders were available.

At the conclusion of these projects, 16 of the 21 girls completed "Looking Your Best"; 29 of 64 members completed "So You Want to Sew" and made a total of 169 articles.

Of the 41 girls enrolled in Make or Remake, 29 completed. They reported making a total of 140 garments valued at \$299.48.

These members exhibited at both the Charlotte County Fair and the Five County Fair. They also participated in the style dress revues at both fairs.

7. Housekeeping

Housekeeping was selected by the 28 members enrolled in three different clubs as an out of school project.

Objectives were as follows:

- a. To teach the member correct methods in caring for her

room and other rooms of her home.

- b. To encourage her to assume responsibility for certain selected household tasks, thereby becoming a more efficient member of the family group.
- c. To help her to develop habits of neatness and orderliness in caring for the house.

Club members were supplied with project material and instructions by the agent. Work was carried on under their mothers' directions. These members had previously carried this as an in school project.

The 49 members reported 51 rooms cared for and 59 articles purchased or provided for housekeeping.

8. Home Furnishings and Room Improvement

Home Furnishings and Room Improvement was selected by 28 members as a year around project.

Objectives were these:

- a. To encourage the member to assume responsibility for her room.
- b. To encourage the member to arrange her room for appearance and convenience.
- c. To help the member to develop judgment in the selection of furnishings for her room.
- d. To help the member to develop skills in making or refinishing articles for her room.

Individual assistance was given members by agents and leaders.

The agents supplied necessary bulletins and information for the completion of this project.

Of the 28 enrolled 26 completed requirements for the project.

9. Beautification of Home Grounds

Home Ground Improvement was carried by 3 members as an out of school project. Objectives were as follows:

- a. To encourage the member to improve the appearance of her home grounds with orderly arrangement, flowers, trees and shrubs.
- b. To encourage members to assume responsibility for the care of her yard and surroundings.
- c. To encourage an appreciation of flowers, shrubs, and shade as they contribute to comfortable attractive surroundings.

Individual instruction was given members by the agents who visited the members during the time that the project was in progress. Bulletins and mimeographed material was supplied by the agents. The three members who enrolled completed the requirements for the project.

B. Other Activities

1. District Camp Well Attended

Nineteen girls attended District Camp at Holliday Lake. Becky Crouch and Carolyn Tharpe again went as junior leaders and rendered a valuable service in that capacity.

2. Charlotte County has Record Attendance at State Short Course

Seven girls attended State Short Course and participated in contests of various kinds. At this group, Becky Crouch was declared State Winner in Public Speaking.

3. Conservation Camp

Charlotte County sent her quota of two girls to Conservation Camp. This proved a valuable, as well as a pleasant experience for those so privileged.

4. Rural Life Sunday Observed by Oakdale Club

The Oakdale, out of school club observed 4-H Club Sunday with appropriate services at the Midway Baptist Church with club members taking part. This observance was arranged for by Freida Hamlett, a junior leader of the club and youth leader for the Baptist Training Union.

5. 4-H Club Week Appropriately Observed

Four-H Club Week was appropriately observed with a window display in Keysville planned and arranged by a committee from the Keysville 4-H Club. A special section of the Charlotte Gazette with articles and pictures on various phases of club work and with two appropriate radio programs.

6. Fairs and Achievement Day

Charlotte County Club members participated in both the Charlotte County fair and the Farmville Five County Fair. The Charlotte County Fair is held annually in cooperation with the

vocational departments of the Randolph-Henry High School and serves to foster a pleasant relationship between the school and the extension service.

The quality and number of exhibits was better than usual and there was more activity on the part of both junior and senior leaders.

7. A-H Club Yearbooks

One of the goals of the County Council was to prepare a A-H Yearbook. A committee was appointed and the yearbook was ready for distribution during the January Club meeting.

VIII. YOUNG MEN'S AND WOMEN'S WORK

There are at present no organized groups of young men and women in the county. Young women are encouraged to enroll in the home demonstration clubs and at present there are around 30 members between the 18 to 30 year group who are active members. One of these is County Program of Work Chairman, three are club presidents and around fifteen are project leaders.

A special effort is made to assist young couples with such information as landscaping, house plans, choosing colors and finishes and in choosing house furnishings.

IX. SCOPE OF WORK

	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956
No. H. D. Clubs or Groups	13	12	12	12	13
Membership	265	270	232	242	255
No. A-H Clubs	13	14	16	17	18
Membership	267	281	296	320	248
No. YM Clubs	0	0	0	0	0
Membership	0	0	0	0	0
No. other families reached	250	275	290	300	280
No. different families reached	550	600	700	700	650
No. of community clubs	0	0	0	0	0
Membership	0	0	0	0	0

B. Methods Used to Increase Scope of Work and to Publicize Home Demonstration Club Work

The following methods have been used to increase the scope of work and to publicize home demonstration work:

1. Weekly broadcasts over WFLO
2. Weekly news articles and timely feature articles in the Charlotte Gazette and the Union Star.
3. Monthly coverage by club reporters.
4. Occasional talks before civic groups.
5. Exhibits at county and Five county fairs.
6. Occasional tours to recruit demonstrators.

X. ORGANIZATIONS - HOW USED TO STRENGTHEN THE 1956 EXTENSION PROGRAM

A. County Home Demonstration Club Committee

The home demonstration committee is composed of the presidents of each of the 13 clubs, the county federation goal chairmen, and its executive officers, president, vice president, secretary and treasurer. They held two meetings during the year, one in the spring to check on the progress of the program and to plan for the observance of Home Demonstration Club Week, attendance at state and district meetings, and other pertinent business. At the fall meeting the program of work was set up, goals established and objectives set up for next year.

B. County Agricultural Extension Service Board

The County Agricultural Service Board at the beginning of 1956 was composed of representatives from each of the 10 communities within the county which met upon request to make decisions and to serve in an advisory capacity in matters relating to the county as a whole.

The county personnel has given much thought to the Virginia Plan for program planning and as a result have revised the committee. As representatives were selected from each of the 10 communities, an effort was made to include representation from the several agricultural and home economics organizations within the county, a banker, the school superintendent and high school principal were also included. Census data and other pertinent information pertaining to the county's

resources has been collected. Charts and maps have been prepared to use in presenting these facts to the planning committee.

An early January 1957 date has been set at which time these members will be invited to meet and consider the facts to be presented. From this discussion it is anticipated that some definite problems will be selected for consideration.

6. County 4-H Council

The county 4-H Council is composed of officers of the 18 clubs. This council met once during the year. This meeting was held immediately after club organization had been completed to train officers and to set up goals for the current year.

D. County Honor Club

The County Honor Club was organized in January with a membership of 23. This organization is being used to help develop leadership. Members assisted in the observance of 4-H Club Week, Rural Youth Sunday and in preparing and constructing an educational exhibit for the Five County Fair which won first place and an award of \$20.00.

E. County All Stars

The County All Stars met informally in January to select candidates for recommendation for 1956. This group, though unorganized, have been of great assistance in helping with the district contests, fairs, on the yearbook committee and as junior leaders. Janice Metcalf, an All Star, serves as one of the junior leaders for the Wards Fork out of school 4-H Club with a membership of 18. Freida Hamlett, a junior

leader of the Oakdale cut of school club, was made an All Star in 1956.

F. Other Organizations Cooperating with the Extension Program

The Ruritan Club sponsors the County fair in cooperation with the extension service and the vocational department of the consolidated high school.

The Lebanon Home Demonstration Club is cooperating with the Keysville Civic Club in erecting community markers and individual farm signs.

The Keysville H. D. Club is cooperating with the Woman's Club in sponsoring a landscaping project for the town of Keysville. Crepe Myrtles will be planted along the main street and on the main highways leading into town.

A Town and Country Institute was held with the local ministerial association and representatives of other professional groups at which time opportunities in L-H Club Work was explained.

XI. LEADERSHIP

A. Contributions of the Following Volunteer Leaders to the Program

1. Organizational Leaders

There were 13 club presidents, 13 vice presidents, 20 secretary treasurers, whose responsibility it was to preside over club meetings and to transact other businesses of the club pertaining to the offices they held. New presidents were elected before the fall meeting of the county federation in order that they could attend this meeting.

2. Program Development Chairmen

The 11 program development chairmen were charged with the responsibility of ascertaining local needs on a community basis and for discussing ways and means of meeting these needs. They helped to formulate objectives and long time goals. With the help of the members they prepared a summary of recommendations for the county planning meeting.

3. Subject Matter Leaders

There were 26 foods and nutrition leaders; 19 home management leaders; 18 rural arts leaders; 20 housing leaders; 16 house furnishings leaders; 13 clothing leaders and 8 recreation leaders.

There were nine leaders training meetings held by extension specialists and other resource people. There was an overall attendance of 152. These leaders were responsible for presenting to their respective clubs the demonstrations for which they had been trained.

B. Growth of Leadership

<u>H. D. Club Project Leadership</u>	<u>1952</u>	<u>1953</u>	<u>1954</u>	<u>1955</u>	<u>1956</u>
No project leaders (subject matter)	80	54	94	81	77
No. Federation program chairmen	13	12	12	12	13
No. program development leaders	13	12	12	12	11
No. result demonstrators	20	12	8	8	8
No. training meetings by specialists	5	4	4	6	5
by district agents	0	0	0	0	0
by agent	8	8	7	1	3
Attendance at all training meetings	126	115	108	75	152
No. meetings without an agent	31	45	30	38	46
Demonstrations by leaders	98	73	75	38	97
<u>Talks and discussions by leaders</u>	<u>88</u>	<u>51</u>	<u>141</u>	<u>80</u>	<u>89</u>
<u>Growth of A-H Club Project Leadership</u>	<u>1952</u>	<u>1953</u>	<u>1954</u>	<u>1955</u>	<u>1956</u>
No. club officers	74	79	96	90	101
No. adult project leaders	28	16	11	12	8
No. junior project leaders	0	0	0	3	6
No. result demonstrations	5	6	6	5	6
No. training meetings held by specialists	0	0	1	0	0
by agent	16	8	4	3	
by district agent	0	0	0	0	0
by club dept.	1	0	0	0	0
Total attendance at leader training meetings	6	12	5	8	
No. A-H leaders trained individually	11	4	4	4	2
No. club meetings held by leader without agent	24	33	16	18	28
No. additional club meetings at which leaders assisted	3	2	4	4	2
No. demonstrations given by adult leaders	13	13	16	18	20
by junior leaders	8	4	2	4	8

The 77 women who served as project leaders gave 46 demonstrations without assistance from the agent, they assisted the agent with 51 others, made 67 talks and led 22 discussions on subject matter pertaining to the monthly program. This shows an increase over 1955 in which there was a total attendance of 75 at the training meetings, 38 demonstrations without the agent present and 42 in which they assisted the agent.

It is especially gratifying to note the number of young women who are serving as leaders. It is especially significant that some of these leaders were former 4-H Club members.

C. Mrs. Purcell Hamlett Exhibits Outstanding Leadership

For the past five years Mrs. Purcell Hamlett, a member of the Midway Home Demonstration Club, has worked faithfully with an out of school 4-H Club. This group of girls, around ten in number, include her own two daughters and those of her close neighbors.

Meetings are held monthly with either Mrs. Hamlett or Mrs. Donald Canada who assists her with instruction in food preservation, food preparation, clothing and handicrafts. She assists in collecting records, planning and preparing exhibits, training for contests and furnishing transportation to out of county events.

Four of the nine girls who represented the county in district contests held at Longwood College last April were from this club and were coached by Mrs. Hamlett. All of these girls placed, including the first place winner in Frozen Foods.

Members of this club made over 100 individual entries in both the

Charlotte County and the Farmville Five County Fairs. Each girl received one or more awards. Laurice Hamlett received a check for \$43.75, the largest amount won by any individual in the county.

That this club has for the past several years sent representatives to district camp, conservation camp and to state short course is another tribute to Mrs. Hamlett's untiring effort.

D. The J. F. Metcalf Family Exhibits Outstanding Leadership

The J. F. Metcalf family has been whole hearted cooperative with extension activities and has contributed much to the extension program in the county.

Mrs. Metcalf is responsible for the organization of an out of school 4-H Club which meets bi-monthly in her home and which has grown from 10 to 18 members. Janice Metcalf, her daughter is a junior leader in this club.

Mrs. Metcalf is past president of the Oakview Home Demonstration Club of which she is not secretary. She has been project leader, program development leader and vice president of the county federation of H. D. Clubs. She is a member of the board of directors of the Madisonville Community House, a member of the County Agricultural Extension Service Board and a superintendent of the Five County Fair. Each year for the past five she has worked with the 4-H County Council in preparing an exhibit for the Five County Fair.

Mr. Metcalf has been equally as cooperative in assisting club members in getting their 4-H Club exhibits to the various fairs and farm shows and encouraging them in any way possible.

The three older children have all been outstanding 4-H Club members, all three are All Stars, all have entered state competition with a daughter and son both being state winners in their respective projects.

The Metcalf family was one of the host families to Colette Gounot, French IFYE, last summer.

E. Red Oak Club Activities Outstanding

Members of the Red Oak Club achieved an objective which they had been working toward for several years when they completed their community house early in the year. This project has enlisted the cooperation of every club member through contributions of time, effort and money. Much of the labor was contributed by interested members of the community. The ladies of the community prepared and served lunches for the workers. Covered dish suppers and food sales were popular fund raising activities.

The building which has been equipped with stove, refrigerator, sink, and table service for fifty, is already meeting a real need in the community which is 10 or more miles from the nearest town. It is a popular place for club meetings, socials and other community activities.

Plans have already been made to proceed with landscaping as the next step in the completion of their project.

F. 4-H Clubs Members Participate in Competitive Events

Charlotte County 4-H Clubs have concluded their most successful year in competitive and other events.

Problems which have been encountered over a period of years are:

(1) Carelessness in keeping records or insufficient records for competitive purposes; (2) Loss of interest in 4-H program as member becomes more involved in competing high school organizations; (3) Frequent changing projects; (4) lack of time necessary to prepare members for contests, both of agent and club members.

The agent has recognized these problems and has endeavored to overcome the difficulties which stood in the way of a more successful program. She has, whenever possible, encouraged participation in out of county events, for example members attending State Short Course have been impressed with demonstrations and other activities, This has helped to stimulate interest in participating in district events; certain members are beginning to see the need for more accurate records, resulting in more complete records; members who have been interested in entering competitive events have also put more emphasis on a major project; volunteer leaders, as well as an assistant 4-H Club agent, made it possible to work more closely with individual members, and prepare them for the contests; district contests were scheduled later in the spring, allowing more time after school exams, to prepare for them.

As a result, Charlotte County entered every contest in which their members were enrolled except for one member who because of illness was unable to attend. The girls received three first places, three seconds, and two thirds in the nine events entered. For the first time three

girls from the county entered state competition. Of this number, one won first, and the other two made a creditable showing.

Charlotte County also entered an exhibit in the Electric Congress for the first time on which they placed first.

Other firsts not to be overlooked are the 4-H handbooks, and a newly organized 4-H Honor Club.

XII. PROGRESS IN DEVELOPING GOOD PUBLIC RELATIONS IN THE COUNTY

The agent has endeavored at all times to develop good public relations with elected representatives and with the general public by using every opportunity to inform them of the work being done by the extension service and by cooperating in answering requests for services in-so-far as possible. She avoided participation in activities of a political nature or those of a controversial nature or anything that would savor of partisanship.

Public relations with co-workers and other professional workers are strengthened through a discussion at staff meetings of problems of mutual interest that arose from time to time. An effort has been made to understand the duties and responsibilities of each and to exhibit professional courtesy and understanding at all times.

A one day Town and Country Institute was held in an endeavor to further acquaint local ministers and other professional workers with what the extension service could offer.

When advisable, commercial demonstrators have been asked to assist in supplying illustrative material for leaders training meetings

and special interest groups.

XIII. PROFESSIONAL IMPROVEMENT

The agent maintains active membership in her professional organizations, namely, the State and National H. D. Agents' Association and the State and National Home Economics Association. She is the immediate past chairman of the district agents' association and holds a chairmanship in the National Association. She has attended all meetings both of the H. D. A. A. on the district, state and national level during the past year. She has also attended district and state meetings of the V. H. E. A. held during the past year. She endeavors to keep abreast of new developments pertaining to her profession through current periodicals. She attended a workshop on House Furnishings, held at a local department store in Richmond by the House Furnishings Specialist and one on Fair Exhibits held in Farmville by the Rural Arts Specialist. She participated in the county presentation on Program Planning at the State Agents' Conference.

XIV. CONTRIBUTION OF PROGRAM TOWARDS IMPROVED RURAL LIVING

The 1956 program has served to improve the efficiency of homemakers and L-H Club members in Charlotte County by demonstrating improved techniques and practices. Participation in extension sponsored activities has served to develop leadership and an awareness of some of the needs of the county as a whole.

The Federation Program of Work, Citizenship and International

Understanding, was stimulated by the visit of Collette Gounot, IFYE visitor from France. A continued effort was made to better understand the organization and function of their county government with especial emphasis on getting more members to qualify for voting. Two clubs took as their project assisting members in getting birth certificates. Three open meetings on Social Security were held, one in each of the Farm and Home Development Areas and one at Charlotte Court House.

During 1957, a continued effort will be made to reach more people through radio and newspaper coverage.

A continued effort will also be made to expand the Farm and Home Development program to include more families and to do more intensive work with those already started.

Realizing the value of volunteer leaders, an effort will be made to discover and to train additional leaders especially to work with 4-H Club members.

Leaders will be used more actively in program planning.

A more complete long time plan will be developed with the leaders assistance in an endeavor to help them to discover county weaknesses and plan means for remedying them.