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ANNUAL NARRATIVE REPORT  
HOME DEMONSTRATION WORK  
FRANKLIN COUNTY  
VIRGINIA

✓ 1942  
HOME DEM AGENT ANNUAL REPORT

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REPORT FILES  
EXTENSION WORK

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### III. SCOPE OF WORK

	Number	Members
A. Home Demonstration Clubs	18	521
B. 4-H Clubs	14	375
C. No. families reached through neighborhood and community leaders	2,000	
D. Total No. families reached	2,500	
No. farm families in county	5,000	

### IV. ORGANIZATION

#### A. County home demonstration committee.

The county home demonstration committee is composed of the president of each home demonstration club. This committee has two meetings a year unless some special occasion arises. The first meeting this year was held with the project leaders present, when since our county had entered the war; we were asked to change our program to one of Conservation and Production. The committee voted to accept this new program and each club president then took it back and presented it to her individual club. The latter part of the summer the committee had a meeting to decide on the 1943 program. Each club president had held a discussion with her club members about the project they wished for next year and at this meeting she voted their wishes.

The project program was then made out month by month and each president took this skelton program back to her club for the program committee to use in making its individual club program.

The home demonstration committee is the planning board for all home demonstration work.

B. County Agricultural Board.

The County Board of Agricultural was organized early in the year. A preliminary meeting of professional workers with AAA chairman and Home Demonstration Committee chairman had been held then the plans were presented by a representative from the Extension Division. At this time the group decided on fourteen (14) communities for the county and names were suggested for chairman and co-chairman of each community.

A week later these were called together and the plans explained to them. The county map was then divided by lines into communities and later cut up so that each professional worker could have his piece. Two professional workers were assigned two communities to be responsible for. A meeting time was decided on for each community when the community map was divided into neighborhoods and a chairman and co-chairman (man and woman) was selected for each.

A week later another meeting was held in the community with the neighborhood leaders. The plan was explained to them. Each of them listed all the families in their neighborhood and when a chairman found he had too many to look after, he selected a sub-chairman and gave him a list of families to be responsible for. Duties given the leaders to do were to get information out about collection of scrap metal and rubber, repair of farm machinery, the President's Seven Point Program and prevention of inflation and the signing of pledges for purchase of War Bonds and Stamps.

The county was divided into fourteen (14) communities with twenty-eight (28) chairmen; about two hundred and thirty-five (235) neighborhood leaders, five (5) of which were negroes.

Some leaders have done excellent work and some only fair work. The problem of transportation has been a hinderance in holding meetings of leaders but the professional workers have done some individual work with several leaders and some leaders would agree to contact others who were not at the meeting.

The Board seems to be functioning very well and has been a means of getting out authentic information and of correcting rumors that had gotten started.

Two meetings of the Board have been held and the Home Demonstration Agent and her co-worker have held three (3) meetings in each of the two communities for which they are responsible.

C. Professional Workers' Council.

One meeting of the Professional Worker's Council has been held. This was in preparation for the organizing of the Board of Agriculture. Agencies represented are Farm Security, Soil Conservation, Vocational Agriculture and Home Economics Teachers, Farm and Home Demonstration Agents, and Welfare Department.

V. LEADERSHIP.

A. Adult Work.

Club officers have functioned better this year. Of the sixty-one (61) officers only ten (10) did not function well. The Agent has been pleased to note how much more business-like the club meetings are being conducted. Officers are elected to serve for two (2) years and cannot succeed themselves and only half go out of office each year. In this way it is felt that the clubs will operate more smoothly.

Twenty-nine (29) project leaders were chosen to serve this year but eight (8) of these were not able to get to any training meeting. Four (4) training meetings were held for project leaders with fifty-seven (57) in attendance. These leaders have had eighteen (18) meetings without the agent being present, have assisted with twenty-four (24) demonstrations, and in all given 40 days to their work. They also report 24 extra demonstrations given to individuals. One leader who is a WPA adult teacher has attended all four (4) of her leader meetings and has held two (2) meetings of the club without the agent being present. She is rather a timid person but an older woman in the club who lives near her has encouraged her to attend the leader meetings as it would help her so much in her work with this adult teaching.

This same woman told the agent that this leader had given such good demonstrations both times when she had conducted the club meetings. The other club members had praised her work also and that had encouraged her.

She reports that the canning demonstration helped her so much and that now she has gotten the women in her adult class to do canning where before they had done none.

She reports fifty-four (54) hours given to club work and eight (8) extra-demonstrations given besides those given to the club.

B. 4-H Work.

Only four (4) 4-H Clubs have project leaders. One training meeting was held for food preservation with three of the four present and another was attempted but only one came out. After that the agent made a personal visit to each leader and instructed her on the future demonstrations for the club.

Five meetings were held without the agent. These leaders have given eight days to their work. In one large club, the agent took half of the club and the leader took the other half for the summer. The leader was assisted by her own daughter, and a Home Economics teacher, both home for the summer. Both of these teachers attended the canning demonstration with the leader and then gave the demonstration later to the club girls.

All clubs have a teacher, or sponsor, who helps them with their club programs and to whom they can go for advice about any business of the club.

All club officers have worked well especially the ones who have good sponsors. They assumed the responsibility of getting records in and tried to see that their club came up to the requirements for a standard club. Two clubs had 100% completion of records.

One 4-H club leader gave a demonstration to her club on making and rolling narrow bandage material, then took

it home and sterilized it and sent it back to be put in the school first aid kit. This leader had learned to do this in a first aid class. She was instrumental in getting the club to collect scrap paper which she took to Roanoke, thirty miles away, and sold for them. The money was used for a first aid kit for the school.

C. Older Youth.

Both older youth clubs changed into home demonstration clubs at the beginning of the year and took the regular club programs.

VI. RESULTS.

A. Home Demonstration Clubs.

1. Project Work.

a. Food.

(1) Production.

In the new Conservation and Production program two club meetings were given to Production of Fruits and Vegetables, and Production of Meat, Poultry, and Dairy Products.

Special emphasis was put on raising more vegetables in the home gardens and getting the family to eat more as well as having more to can. All club women were asked to try and influence them to plant a garden. When reports came in, two hundred and twenty-five reported influencing that many to have a better garden. Better care of poultry was stressed especially the home flock. Too many of our farm flocks have no care taken of them and consequently do not pay.

(2) Conservation.

In July, the agent gave ten canning demonstrations to organized clubs and one to an unorganized group.

After a leader meeting given by a representative from a can company the leaders gave twenty-four demonstrations to their clubs and to individuals not in clubs.

In reporting this year about the amount of extra canning done, the women have averaged seventy-five (75) quarts of fruits and vegetables more this year than in former years. They had influenced others to can more and to can more variety of vegetables.

Two clubs in sections where there is not much sale for milk had cheese making demonstrations with their surplus milk. This was done in the last six weeks and none have attempted to make cheese by themselves yet.

(3) Nutrition.

The clubs had chosen a nutrition program for their major work for the year but changed part of it to take on the war program of Production and Conservation. However, the theme of nutrition went right along with most of the demonstrations. The topic "Why we Need An Adequate Diet" was the first demonstration and was not changed. Others were: Production of Fruits and Vegetables; Meat, Poultry, and Dairy Production; Conservation of Foods; Breads and Cereals; and Food Storage. In all of these demonstrations the nutrition side has been kept in the fore-ground.

b. Clothing.

(1) Consumer Problems.

Along with the last demonstration of the year, "Production of Clothing for the Family Winter Wardrobe", buying problems were discussed and materials shown of different kinds of fiber. A slogan, read labels before buying, has been used at every meeting, and materials shown to identify the different substitute fibers that are now being used so much. One club woman told the agent that a clerk had told her that a tag on a coat marked, 40% wool, 20% cotton, and 40% rayon, meant that the coat material was all wool, the inter-lining cotton, and the lining rayon. She said, "He did not feel me for I had learned better at our club meetings."

(2) Conservation.

A demonstration was given on Conservation of Woolens for Household and Wardrobe Use when the women learned to press woolens, shampoo rugs, wash sweaters, and store woolen clothing to keep out the moth.

All of the women used the demonstration on pressing and also washing sweaters. Many of the women did not have woolen rugs and in two clubs that demonstration was not given. Most of the rugs shampooed were small scatter rugs.

In the fall, a leader meeting was held on Restyling. Eight leaders attended bringing six garments to restyle. One was a short seal skin jacket which the leader was remodeling for her daughter in college. All of the clubs had this demonstration at their last club meeting. The agent has seen one coat which a leader has remodeled since the meeting.

C. Home Management.

- (1) One leaders' meeting was held on Conservation of Household Furnishings and Equipment. The demonstrations were given later in each club. Furniture was glued together, electric cords and wires repaired, and the importance of keeping these things in good shape stressed. In clubs which had electricity, cords and wires were repaired and proper use of these shown.

The agent was been instrumental in placing five steam pressure canners in homes this past year. The remarks have been, "I am sorry now I did not get mine last year when I could have gotten aluminum ones."

(2) Kitchen Arrangement.

The agent visited in the summer, when attending club meetings, two kitchens that had been remodeled at her suggestion a year ago and until the club met in the home, the agent did not know the work had been accomplished. Both kitchens had put in a sink and water. One had nice built-in cabinets with linoleum covered working surface.

One home had also installed a bath room made by cutting off one end of a back porch.

2. Home Demonstration Activities.

(a) Federation Goal.

The Federation goal of Citizenship worked in well this year since our county was at war and many opportunities have come up for club members to show they are good citizens.

Topic discussions in clubs were the drafting of the men and the attitude of the women when their sons, husbands, and sweethearts had to leave; the investment in bonds and stamps; finding out the truth about reports heard and doing all they could to stop rumors; complying with rationing regulations; serving on committees; and as neighborhood leaders when called upon.

(b) Campaign.

The campaign of an Adequate Home Garden For Every Farm Family was chosen. This worked in very well with the work done by the neighborhood leaders. Every home demonstration woman took as her goal to reach those families living on her farm and all others near her.

In reporting, the women gave in two hundred and twenty-five families that they knew definitely had been influenced to have better gardens and at least twice that many that they had talked to and given garden literature to but had no way of checking to see what had been done.

Special emphasis was put on raising more tomatoes and earning more bit a bad season with first too much rain, then a dry spell with burning sun practically ruined many tomatoe patches.

3. The Union Hall Club which is only two years old has done good work this year. Its leaders have attended three of the four leader meetings and have held two meetings of the club without the agent being present. This club covers the largest territory of any in the county and its members are very good about sharing their crops with other members to attend club meetings.

In December, one of their members lost her home by fire with practically all of its contents. She spent the following few months in another state with her daughter and while she was away, the club pieced and quilted a quilt for her.

In the spring, the club members took a home nursing course taught by a doctor's wife who was a nurse. Her husband was in the army and she was planning to leave the community and accept a position in a hospital so offered this course first. Around thirty of the club members took the course.

#### B. Agricultural Board.

The Home Demonstration Agent participated in the following programs sponsored by the Agricultural Board: Serp Collection, Victory Garden, Pledges for Buying Bonds and Stamps, The President's Seven Point Program, and Prevention of Inflation. They are now working on the Share the Meat Program.

The Home Demonstration Agent with her co-worker who is the AAA Chairman were responsible for two of the fourteen communities. Four meetings have been held in each community. The first one to divide the community into neighborhood leaders and have them list the families and start the work on Victory Garden and Collection of Scrap. The next was for signing pledges for Bonds and Stamps. And the next to present the President's program and the prevention of inflation.

C. 4-H Clubs.

1. Project Work.

a. Personal.

Food for health was the major project chosen for this year. During the school year, the following topics were discussed by the club members: What is an Adequate Diet; Why am I not a Five Pointer; What do I eat? (what I want or what I should); Learning to eat New Vegetables; A Healthy Camper; Planning a Winter Garden; and Checking the Food Habit Guide for one week in fall, winter, spring, and summer.

In the spring, a canning budget for the family was made out and in the summer canning was done to provide for the adequate diet. The club members canned and assisted with around 53,400 quarts of fruits and vegetables.

b. Family.

Each club girl took one task, keeping her own clothes hung up or put neatly in a bureau drawer.

Other tasks were: washing the dishes after breakfast; cooking supper each night; milking both night and morning; etc. Each club girl, no matter how small, assumed a task and at the end of two months changed to another so that she could learn more than one thing well.

### C. Club or Community.

One club collected scrap paper and sold it to buy material to replenish the school First Aid Kit. One of the teachers told the leader later that if they had not had this kit it would have meant sending an injured pupil to the doctor. Another club collected and sold scrap paper and gave \$2.00 to help on the piano fund. Another made play equipment for the school ground.

Five clubs made money and sent a boy and a girl to the short course in the summer.

### 2. Health.

One hundred and eleven girls report that they are five points. Much emphasis in club work has been put on adequate diet, care of teeth, food habits and posture. One club discussion was devoted to clothing and health. These discussions were for both boys and girls.

The one defect that keeps so many from being five point is bad teeth. In club work, the importance of regular visits to a dentist is stressed.

### 3. Community Activities of the Club.

#### a. Recreation.

Only one club had a picnic this summer. Others had them planned but they had to be cancelled on account of shortage of gas and tires.

#### b. Camps.

Thirteen girls and a leader attended the district junior camp with six other counties. A program including gardening, repairing household equipment, nutrition, and canning were given along with handiwork which consisted of decorating and finishing wooden bowles, or weaving a seat in a stool. In the afternoon, organized games were enjoyed until late afternoon when all went swimming in the lake.

After supper, a vesper program was held conducted by the different counties. An evening program of games or stunts was then enjoyed until bed time.

The camp was organized into four tribes after supper on the day of arrival. Each tribe tried to see which could receive the most notches on its totem pole. Notches were given for things accomplished. This helped with camp discipline.

#### 4. Work of One Club.

The Sontag Club of sixteen members has been a very good club this past year. It has a good leader and a good sponsor. Their meetings have been conducted in a very business like way and members have taken part well on the club program.

The sponsor suggested that they refill the First Aid Kit that belongs to the school as it was practically empty. They collected scrap paper which the leader took thirty miles to sell and used the money to buy materials for the kit. The leader, who had taken the first aid course, taught them to cut and roll bandages which she took home and sterilized so that they could be put in the kit.

During the Mobilization Week, six girls joined the club.

In the summer, the members were so scattered that only a small group could get together but they had their regular meetings and carried through their canning program.

#### D. Other Work.

##### 1. County home economics workers.

There are three county home economics workers in the county. In the spring, these met and elected a chairman. While not holding regular meetings, the three cooperate closely in all work and keep each other informed of any

events occurring in their own line of work. The Chairman has been working with the O.C.D. to get some nutrition classes started.

2. Office of Civilian Defense.

The agent attended a meeting in the early summer called by the O.C.D. when a state worker came to present the nutrition program and other work that they wanted started.

Another meeting was just recently held to explain the set-up of the Share the Meat Program.

3. Salvage Committee.

The salvage of scrap iron and rubber was conducted in all of the 4-H Clubs. The 4-H Club girls collected 7060 lbs. of scrap metal and 8309 lbs. of scrap rubber.

4. Rationing Board.

The agent has kept in touch with the rationing board in order to take out the correct information to the people about sugar, fuel oil, coffee, etc. are being rationed.

5. War Bond Committee.

The buying of Bonds and Stamps was discussed and urged at all adult and 4-H Clubs.

The 4-H Club girls reported in September fifty-four bonds bought and one thousand six hundred and seventy stamps bought; both amounting to \$1981.85.

In the spring, when the signing of pledges to buy Bonds and Stamps was asked, a community or neighborhood committee member presented the subject in each home demonstration club and told them they would be asked to sign a pledge.

6. Red Cross.

The agent has cooperated with the Red Cross by taking boxes of garments, to be made, out to a home demonstration club and at the next meeting bringing back the finished garments. The women were willing to do the sewing but had no way to get it. In all, the women have made three hundred and fifty garments and knitted twelve sweaters and helmets.

7. Mattress Program.

The Mattress program finished up all materials on hand in February and closed as no more material was available.

Three hundred and fifty-three people (307, white, 46 colored) signed up for mattresses with three hundred and twenty-three making five hundred and eighty-eight mattresses. Only one colored woman failed to come in to make a mattress. This program has added about eight women to the home demonstration clubs. In one club, two women started coming after making a mattress.

VII. Appraisal of Work.

The program of Production and Conservation has made a great contribution to the county this past year. The women have seen the need and tried harder to raise and save a good variety of food for their families.

They have reached out and tried to influence the families around them, to produce more, eat more, and save more food.

Through the home demonstration program, the women have learned to conserve clothing and learned more about the changes that will be found in clothing and materials. They are being kept up to date on all substitutes in materials and what materials are going to be scarce. They are learning to take better care of all household equipment and furniture so that they will not find themselves with worn out or broken furniture that cannot be replaced until after the war.

They have gotten more women out to club meetings, having five hundred and twenty-three on the club rolls, the largest number in several years and have reached indirectly at least twice that number.

#### VIII. Home Improvement Contest Winner.

In February, 1940, the Progressive Farmer started a Landlord-Tenant Home Improvement Contest. Mrs. M. D. Hutcherson decided she would like to enter this contest as the home needed improvements so she talked it over with her husband, son (18), daughter (16), and sister-in-law, who lived with them. This was to take in not only the house but the whole farm and tenant house.

The contest extended over two years and the farm was visited several times by the farm agent and the home by the home demonstration agent when advice was given about the improvements. Just before the close of the contest, Dr. Poe, Editor of the Progressive Farmer and Miss Hill, Woman's Editor, visited the home. Visits had been made before by other representatives of the paper. The family, as well as those who had worked with them, were very much thrilled when final word came that they had won the \$250.00 prize. During the two year period every room in the house was painted, plaster repaired, storage shelves added, curtains made from dyed feed sacks, and many small jobs done. The outside of the house was painted and low places in the lawn were filled and then seeded to grass.

The house had been wired for Deleo and after working for days equivalent to two weeks, the electric line was extended into the neighborhood and the house and outbuildings were connected to that.

The outbuildings were given a coat of cylinder oil and Venetian red which made them look much better.

A new dairy barn was built by plans furnished from the agricultural college. The total amount paid out for the barn was \$628.70. The two men of the family doing most of the work themselves. Nothing about the place was neglected. The road from the highway to the house (400 yards) was repaired; the lawn was filled in, leveled up and seeded to grass; two new poultry houses were built, using for part lumber from an old house torn down; the tenant house was wired and connected up with the electric line; a new chimney was built of rock from the place; and a new floor laid in dining room and kitchen.

The family cemetery was cleaned up and the wire fence, as well as the yard fence, were both painted with aluminum paint.

The Hutcherson's practice diversified farming raising some tobacco, beef cattle, a small dairy, and quite a large poultry flock of around eight hundred hens.

Mrs. Hutcherson had kept a very accurate account of every penny spent and hours worked and wrote a very interesting report.