

ANNUAL NARRATIVE REPORT
HOME DEMONSTRATION WORK

CHARLOTTE COUNTY

VIRGINIA

1947

BERTIE R. YATES

MILDRED A. PAYNE

HOME DEMONSTRATION AGENTS

December 1, 1946 - November 30, 1947

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
I. Cover and Title Page	
II. Table of Contents	
III. Scope of Work	
IV. Adult work.....	1
A. Home Demonstration Club Work.....	1
1. Project Work.....	1
2. Citizenship Chosen as Federation Goal.....	4
3. Charlotte County Advances in County Wide Activities.....	4
4. Adult Leadership.....	6
5. Eureka Home Demonstration Club Develops Leader- ship.....	7
B. Other Means of Reaching People.....	8
V. Work With Youth.....	9
A. 4-H Clubs.....	9
1. Organization.....	9
2. Project Work.....	10
3. 4-H Community and County Activities.....	12
4. Leadership With Youth.....	13
VI. Home Agent Cooperates With Other Agencies.....	13
VII. 1947 Program Evaluated.....	14

III. SCOPE OF WORK

- A. Home Demonstration Clubs (include "groups" you have met three times or more.) Number 11 Membership 145
Other women reached by home demonstration club members 160.
- B. 4-H Clubs: Number 10 Membership 213
- C. Number reached through other groups by agent 150.
- D. Number families reached through neighborhood and community leaders 500.
- E. Other methods used to reach families (publicity, radio, office calls, visits) . Number families reached 900.
- F. Estimate total number families reached 2,000. Number farm families in county 2,440.

IV. ADULT WORK

A. Home Demonstration Club Program

1. Project Work

a. How Program Was Determined

The adult home demonstration program for 1947 in Charlotte County advanced in methods of planning. In the spring of 1946 the County Home Demonstration Committee composed of the presidents of the eleven home demonstration clubs met with the county home and district agents for the purpose of reviewing the program to date: studying ways of improving and collecting county data and outlook information that would affect the program planning for 1947.

The presidents then led discussions in the clubs in the early summer on facts and needs of the county homes.

The club members then applied this information to the community needs and voted on the program they wished for the coming year. These included both community and county needs.

The final planning meeting was held in October, 1946 with the county committee adjusting the plans for each club to fit into a month by month program of work.

This program also included county-wide objectives based on county needs.

b. Subject Matter Fields for 1947

With new materials and finishes on the market there was a definite need for information on fabrics and finishes to guide homemakers in the selection of garments and materials.

House furnishings was selected as a phase of the field of work to be carried in 1947, to promote appreciation of the lovely and valuable furnishings already handed down for generations in many rural families and also to develop handicraft skills in furnishings that would be in keeping with other things within the house.

Labor is still at a premium within the farm homes, so included in the coming year's program was the studying of ways to lessen home management tasks and adjust family income through legal and wise planning.

Citizenship was selected as the county-wide program for Charlotte County in 1947 with a desire and effort to educate the farm families to a finer appreciation of the value of being a good citizen.

c. Projects Developed in 1947

1. Clothing

Only one demonstration was given and this was on textiles and finishes. As no leader training was given for this subject, the discussions were conducted by the agent in all of the clubs except one. In the Bethel home demonstration club the leaders were given special training by the agent and they conducted the meeting in her absence. Since this subject was taken up in November, there have been no results to report to date.

2. Home Management

Four demonstrations were planned under Home Management as follows:

a. Insect Control

Club leaders were trained by a specialist for this demonstration and later they assisted in giving the demonstration in their own clubs. Bulletins were distributed and a news article written for the local papers. Approximately 75% of the 145 club families represented used the new information received.

As a result, there was a better yield of vegetables with less destruction by insect pests than previously. The Bushy Forest club arranged a very attractive and educational exhibit dealing with Insect control, which was visited by about seventy-five people on Achievement Day.

b. Short Cuts in Cleaning and Ironing were two demonstrations given to help women use better methods in getting their every day work done. A specialist trained the club leaders, who in turn assisted the agent in giving the demonstrations in nine of the eleven clubs. As a result of these demonstrations about 40% of the 145 club members are using better methods in doing their house work, by rearranging their equipment for ironing, by assembling their material for cleaning in a basket or box, and by using better methods in doing the job. Mrs. Dick Tharpe, a leader in the Lebanon club, gave an ironing demonstration before about 100 women at the Farm and Home Show. She also appeared with the agent in an interview over radio station W.F.L.O. in Farmville.

~~#~~ c. Wills and Deeds were discussed at nine of the eleven clubs with an attendance of 103. So much interest was shown in this topic that in the Madisonville and Bethel Clubs requests were made for this discussion to be repeated at their community meetings so that their husbands might have the benefit of it. The Cullen and Oakview Clubs held a joint meeting and invited the Commonwealths Attorney to discuss the topic with them. In all other clubs, the discussions were led by the home agent. The results will be rather difficult to measure, ~~#~~ however, we know of one person of influence, whose wife is an active club member, has had his will written since that time.

3. Nutrition

Two club meetings were devoted to nutrition, meal planning and the study of meat substitutes. Leaders were trained, who assisted with the demonstrations in five of the eleven clubs. As a result families of club members are enjoying better planned and more nutritious meals than before. A committee from the Eureka Home Demonstration Club arranged an exhibit in a store window in Keyville showing an Emergency Shelf with a well planned menu for the three meals for the day. This exhibit created a great deal of interest, and was seen by several hundred people. The Charlotte Gazette also carried an article in regard to it.

4. House Furnishings

a. Conservation

One demonstration was given each club on cleaning and storing furnishings. This proved to be one of the most helpful and interesting demonstrations, with nearly all women reporting having improved their methods of cleaning and storage.

Three demonstrations were given in chair bottoming with about twenty two chairs and stools bottomed.

b. Construction

Three slip cover demonstrations were given with eight chairs and sofas covered at the meetings. Plans were made to cover others. One demonstration was given on upholstering and one chair upholstered at the meeting.

c. Rug making was the handicraft selected by two of the clubs. As a result several women have made very pretty hooked rugs from loopers and from using salvaged material on hand. Much thought was given to colors and patterns which were selected to harmonize with other furnishings in the room.

d. One demonstration was given on window treatments and as a result several members of the club have used the knowledge gained to select and make curtains and draperies.

e. Picture arrangement was studied by the Bushy Forest Club. The leaders gave a very effective demonstration in the home of the club president. Following this, five or six members have rearranged their pictures. Several people had old frames and after taking them apart, used them to frame prints and mirrors, thereby making their homes more attractive.

f. The Saxe Home Demonstration club selected antique china and glassware as their club choice. One demonstration was given showing how these pieces should be displayed most effectively. This

created a greater appreciation for the lovely old things, which the families already owned. It also gave the women desirable standards in the use as a future basis in selecting accessories for their homes.

2. Citizenship Chosen as Federation Goal in 1947

The home demonstration clubs chose Citizenship as their goal for this year. Special emphasis was placed on community recreation and the development of youth organizations.

Reports show that 15 parties were given young people; all adult groups assisting with 4-H club work, improvements in 3 community recreational buildings; and the study of county and state government in 10; and the raising of funds in 2 clubs to begin building funds for community houses.

3. Charlotte County Advances in County-Wide Activities

A. Farm Labor Show

The Farm Labor Show was shown in Charlotte County in conjunction with the county agricultural fair. The Labor Saving Show alone was visited by 1752 people. It is estimated that 700 farm families were reached during the day with new ways and means of saving labor within the farm home. (I refer you to the attached news article.)

B. Adult Achievement Day

The adult achievement day program was held on a rainy afternoon in the county this year with the small attendance of 65 homemakers and friends.

Reports were given and an excellent address was delivered on the "Homemaker's Responsibility in Her Community".

Seven clubs had special exhibits centered around the club projects which had been carried during the year. (A news article is attached describing these exhibits.)

C. Fairs

There was no fair for adults in the county this year, but 3 of the Home Demonstration Clubs exhibited at the "Five County Fair". These exhibits won \$10.00 in prizes. In addition there were 49 individual exhibits made by club women in the county.

D. District and State Federation of Home Demonstration Clubs

In April the District Federation of Home Demonstration Clubs was held in Chase City with 43 club women from Charlotte attending. These women brought back helpful reports. All eleven clubs in the county paid the Federation dues and several contributed to a fund for the home demonstration equipment going to China and friendship packages to Holland.

Two county committee officers were sent to Blacksburg to attend the Federation of Home Demonstration Clubs and Institute of Rural Affairs.

These delegates brought back to the county outstanding reports that were most helpful in planning the county program for 1948.

E. Community Projects

1. Library

Through the cooperation of county library, 1200 books were circulated through the library chairman of each of the 11 clubs to club members.

Three clubs carry "Library" as a community project and have set up deposit stations of about 50 books each. These books are exchanged from time to time and reach all homes in these communities desiring better reading.

2. Community Health

The Oakview home demonstration club has selected the building of community house to be used for club and community activities and recreation as a community project.

More than \$600.00 has been raised for this project and the plot of land on which to build donated. This "Community House" is to be a memorial to the neighborhood boys serving in World Wars I and II.

The Oakview Club also has a community project of the improvement and upkeep of the community cemetery. This year they planted shrubs and flowers and some grass.

3. Telephones

The Eureka Home Demonstration Club composed of 15 members has carried a most worthwhile community project during the year in establishing telephones in the homes.

This is a very rural community and the need for such a service is acute. Club women made a survey, and made all necessary contacts with both the company and farm families. As a result 22 homes are establishing telephones for the first time.

4. Home Unit Demonstrations

There are three farm and home unit demonstrations in Charlotte County. Mrs. C. B. Robertson, Chase City has done much to improve her home by refinishing floors, and furniture and making improvements in her kitchen. Her immediate plans for the future include an additional bathroom downstairs.

Mrs. W. V. Purcell, Drakes Branch, has refinished floors and furniture, and wired the house for electricity. She has spent much time in selection of fixtures suitable to her colonial brick house. She next plans to rearrange her kitchen for greater convenience.

Mrs. J. S. Marshall, Pamplin, has painted several rooms, had a cement added, underplinnings reinforced, water put in the kitchen and has purchased an electric refrigerator. They have only recently had electricity on their place. Her immediate plans for the future involve improvements in the kitchen, removing an old pantry and adding more work space and storage space.

4. Leadership

The four types of leaders in adult work are the club officers, project leaders, Federation Goal Chairmen, and community and neighbor-

hood leaders.

There are 33 club officers including the presidents, vice presidents and secretary-treasurers. The Home Demonstration Committee is an over-all organization taking care of the business of the home demonstration clubs in the county. The membership is made up of the club presidents, county federation goal chairman and the immediate past president.

This committee met in the spring to check on the progress of the year's program and to begin plans for the next year's program.

Background facts were presented to lay a foundation for the program planning to be done in the fall. Also at this meeting plans were made for the achievement program to be held in the fall.

The project and subject matter leaders help to take subject matter to the club members. This group is composed of garden leaders, poultry leaders, librarians and project leaders. There have been six leaders trainings held by specialists for this group with an attendance of 68. Resulting from these demonstrations, 27 demonstrations have been given by club leaders.

The garden and poultry leaders gather information from reliable sources and present it at their meetings. The librarians handle the selection of books sent to each meeting from the county library. They render a good service to the community people by helping to provide good reading material.

The Federation Goal chairman planned the club activities for carrying out the county goal on Citizenship. The county goal chairman, with the help of the Home Demonstration Committee chairman and the Home agent, set some special goals to work toward and each of the goal chairmen took the responsibility in her club to see that these goals were carried out.

The community and neighborhood leaders have rendered a great service to the people of the county by carrying current information to people of their communities. It is estimated that they reached 500 families with materials and information from the Extension Service.

5. Eureka Home Demonstration Club Develops - Leadership

Eureka Home Demonstration Club with a membership of 18 has shown unusual development in leadership activity during the year. The president is also vice-president of the County Federation of Home Demonstration Clubs. She has attended 6 leader training meetings and has been personally responsible for contacting her leaders

and getting them to the meetings. The Federation Goal chairman is a member of this club. She is active in bringing information on health projects that are being sponsored. She has interested her club members in making garments for the Tubercular Sanitorium at Burkeville and about 18 pair of pajamas are being made from feed bags for this project.

This club has as a community project securing telephone service for the community. The chairman of this community project has shown outstanding leadership in having her committee complete the project to the extent that 22 homes in the community will soon install phones for the first time.

The president was chairman of the arrangement of exhibits for Achievement Day and again showed her leadership in securing the cooperation of other clubs in bringing in and arranging exhibits.

The two project leaders of the clubs attended the leaders training conferences given by the clubs and have given the demonstrations in the absence of the agent.

Another evidence of leadership is that the club enrollment has been increased by four new members since August.

B. Other Means of Reaching People

1. County Board of Agriculture and Community and Neighborhood Leaders

The County Board of Agriculture and community leader system in Charlotte County is used as a means of reaching all farm families. In 1947 the services rendered by these committeemen and leaders were; taking pertinent information and material within their communities and neighborhoods; holding special meetings for educational information and assisting in conducting the monthly community groups in the seven communities organized. Through these means the home demonstration program reached 500 additional farm families.

2. Special Meetings

It is estimated that the Adult Achievement Day Program and the Farm Labor Show and Agricultural Fair reached 800 families in the county.

3. Radio

Eleven radio programs have been presented over the two local stations. Timely information is presented. Club members who have done outstanding work participate and tell how club work has helped them in accomplishing the results they have attained. Eight club members have appeared on the program at different times.

4. Press

Information pertaining to home demonstration work and club

activities appear at intervals through the local and state papers. Thirty news articles have been published to date. A regular column appears in the local paper, which has a circulation of 1200 copies. I refer to the attached copy, which is typical.

5. Circular Letters

Two circular letters were sent out to all farm families in the county. These were pertaining to the Farm and Home Labor Saving show, which 1752 people attended.

6. Home Visits

In 1947 the home agent visited 240 farm homes. This was a means of guiding homemakers in solving management problems and in teaching new skills and practices.

7. Office and Telephone

The 172 office and telephone calls made by the home agent had their influence on reaching people not otherwise reached, especially in methods and information on home management and food preservation.

V. WORK WITH YOUTH

A. 4-H Clubs

1. Organization

a. County Council

The 4-H council is composed of the officers of the ten 4-H clubs in the county. One meeting was held early in 1947 for the purpose of training officers for their duties and to make plans for the county-wide programs for the year.

Plans included the holding of a youth fair to include exhibits from 4-H members and 4-H community projects.

Each club selected "School Yard Improvement" as their community project, and all groups developed this through the year with planning and planting shrubs, trees and sewing grass; having clean-up campaigns and laying school walks.

Nine of the 10 clubs were present at the council meeting by 48 officers of the clubs.

2. Project Work

a. How Program Was Determined

The project program for the 1947 4-H club girls in the county was determined at the September meeting in 1946. At this time the home agent discussed with the club members projects that might be carried during school months and the groups and club members selected their projects.

This same plan was carried out in the spring and summer time projects were selected that would be conducted in the homes.

b. Fields of Work Carried

Nutrition, Production and Preservation of Foods were fields of work selected as 4-H projects for the year. There is a need in the homes of this county, which is made up almost entirely of farm families, for the improvement of diet and health of the families. It was decided that this could best be done through production, preparation and preservation of food.

Farm girls need more sincere appreciation of the value of cleanliness and care of both homes and clothing, thus the 4-H program of work was further planned to include work on Housekeeping and Clothing.

c. Projects

1. Food Preparation

Food preparation was carried by eleven 4-H club members in one club for the purpose of improving methods and health of the families in their community with more nutritious and appetizing foods. This was a winter project and was conducted with the help of the leaders. At the meetings held within the schools the home agent discussed the requirements and records. The leaders there met the girls in three groups in the homes and gave the method demonstrations. Three demonstrations were given in each group. As a result 8 girls completed the project and 118 meals were planned and served.

2. Food Preservation

To further the program in adequate diets and the use of home grown products, 44 club members carried canning as a summer project in 1947.

The home agent and adult 4-H leaders met the girls in small groups and gave each group demonstrations on canning tomatoes, other vegetables and fruits. This following the making of a family canning place and the selection of canning equipment.

Following the demonstrations judging of the products was done and exhibits for the fairs selected.

Results of the project are - 31 girls completed and canned alone 1,374 quarts of fruits and vegetables valued at \$480.90. It is estimated that the saving made by canning at home using home grown produce was \$320.60. In addition to amount canned alone, the 44 club girls carrying the project assisted in canning 3,256 quarts of fruits and vegetables for their families.

Other outstanding phases of the canning project was that the girls carrying this project exhibited at 4 County and District fairs and contests, winning \$107.00 in prizes. Two girls won a county medal for giving canning demonstrations in district contest.

3. Gardening

Nineteen girls were enrolled in the home garden project. Of this number 15 carried garden projects sponsored by Sears Roebuck. These gardens were visited twice by the garden specialist. Eleven projects were carried to completion. The purpose of this project was to show the value of a year around garden to the family, to provide more nutritious meals - to show better use of family income by providing more food from home produced vegetables. Records were kept showing the value of the vegetables produced and the profit of the project.

A total of 2230 quarts valued at \$780.50 was canned from these gardens; \$961.43 of fresh vegetables were used and \$19.00 in prizes have been won. Prizes won from exhibits of canned goods are mentioned under canning projects.

CHARLOTTE COUNTY GIRL WINNER OF SWEEPSTAKES IN GARDEN CONTEST

Martha Childress of Phenix was awarded \$20.00 sweepstakes and first place in the eight county Sears Roebuck Contest in the Lynchburg area and placed fourth and \$5.00 sweepstakes in canning. She had the honor of winning first in both garden and canning in her own county and received a total of \$39.00 in prizes in addition to collecting \$6.50 for canned food entered in the Farmville Five-County Fair and the Charlotte County Farm Show.

In addition to having an abundance of vegetables for home use throughout the summer months, Martha and her mother canned a total of 780 quarts for winter use, sold \$38.56 worth and gave away some. The garden is now supplying the family with greens and such root vegetables as turnips, parsnips and carrots. Through cooperation with her parents and following the advice of the Extension Service, Martha has received first hand knowledge of how to grow a year round garden. This project has been a means of providing the family with better balanced and more nutritious meals as well as serving as a valuable method demonstration for neighbors in her community. *2/20*

4. Housekeeping

The "Housekeeping" project was carried in 5 clubs as a winter project. This project was carried by 114 girls with 50 completing. Objectives were to encourage and show the girls how to improve home conditions at lower cost and with easier methods. The home agent gave demonstrations at the project meetings held within the school. Five demonstrations were given including care of the room, making the bed, washing dishes, how to make a tool box and closet accessories.

5. Clothing (Make or Remake)

Clothing was carried for the purpose of promoting better and more economic construction and care with girls learning to take care of their own clothing problems. This project was carried by 67 girls with 30 completing. The 23 leaders assisting in this project gave club members demonstrations and guided them as individuals.

Results were that 146 garments were made and 35 remodeled, 13 garments were dry cleaned, 6 were dyed and 45 darned and patched. Thirty-five girls learned to wash their own sweaters. Records show that garments made and remodeled cost \$296.65, with an estimated value of a saving of \$119.00.

The county winners in the "Dress Revue" and "Clothing Achievement" entered the district contests and won county awards.

3. 4-H Community County Activities

The Drakes Branch 4-H club girls helped to put the school recreation room in good order by cleaning one large rug and five scatter rugs. This was done by shampooing the rugs and worked in well with the housekeeping project.

All 4-H clubs had as many as two recreational meetings during the year, which were in the form of Hallow'een, Christmas, or Valentine parties, picnics or werner roasts.

Fairs

Sixty club members made a total of 181 entries to four fairs and farm shows. They won a total of \$131.00 in prizes on their exhibits.

State Short Course and Camp

Charlotte County was represented at the State Short Course by one 4-H club girl. The conservation camp also had one 4-H girl from Charlotte in attendance.

The district 4-H camp held at Holliday Lake had 18 4-H club girls representing the 10 4-H clubs in the county. While at camp the girls developed skills in handicraft, and were given guidance in leadership, in recreation and parliamentary procedure.

Perhaps one of the most valuable contributions that the camp made was learning to live with others and playing and working together as part of a group.

Upon returning from camp, members gave reports to their respective clubs.

4. Leadership With Youth

There are three types of 4-H leaders helping with the work in Charlotte County. These are sponsors, organization leaders and project leaders. There are thirty-nine 4-H leaders in the county. There are sixty club officers and junior project leaders.

The training of club officers was done in the meeting of the county council and through executive committee meetings. The organization leaders help with the training of the officers.

The project leaders work with small groups of girls in their neighborhoods. Only one leaders' training meeting was held for these leaders. The agent made individual visits to the leaders and helped to outline the project and to give information on methods to be used. The 4-H leaders are invited to attend home demonstration leaders' training meetings related to projects with which she helps.

Two adult leaders attended the district 4-H camp and helped with camp program.

VI. HOME AGENT COOPERATES WITH OTHER AGENCIES

1. The county home economics workers cooperate well together, though there is no organization or regular meetings. They plan together for the County Farm Show and other programs such as community meetings.
2. The home agent has served as chairman of the salvage committee and has taken the responsibility for the collection of waste fat, which in turn was taken to a renderer.

3. The R.E.A. has been very cooperative in working with Extension and in turn the home agent and other personnel have worked with R.E.A. in their program, helping to develop many new lines through the county.
4. The home demonstration program has helped the Red Cross by doing some sewing for them. This work has lagged somewhat this year, however.
5. Three clubs are sending layettes to Greece under the sponsorship of the "Save the Children Federation". No food or other clothing has been sent through the home demonstration clubs or 4-H clubs this year.
6. The home agent and county health nurse work closely together in their programs. Six home demonstration clubs assisted the health nurse with clinics this year.
7. Through the cooperation of the home agent and county library about 1200 books have been circulated among the home demonstration club members. Three clubs have set up deposit stations of about 50 books each. Other clubs distribute the books through a club librarian.

VII. 1947 PROGRAM EVALUATED

In evaluating the 1947 program of work - growth was shown in leadership. There were during the year 66 method demonstrations given by leaders. They have led 51 discussions, assisted by the agent.

Another evaluation is the close cooperation shown between the F.F.A., Home Economic classes and 4-H clubs in having the first agricultural fair in the county to be held for boys and girls only.

Real appreciation and interest was shown by the registering of 1752 people at the Farm and Home Labor Saving Show.

An economic value is shown from records submitted at the saving of \$4,378.93, in home demonstration and 4-H project work.

The intangible things through raising standards of living, the confidence and fellowship developed through working together in reaching out in fellowship to help unite the people are things that have immeasurable value.

In evaluating the work, I feel that the 4-H club organization including the 4-H club council and honor club, need to be developed, both in programs, unity of spirit and organization. They further need to be developed by more emphasis being placed on the value of their project work.