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# Virginia



AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICE

*Annual Report*

Home Demonstration Unit

# 1951

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Agent

Asst. Agent

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COUNTY

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## I. THE COUNTY SITUATION AS IT AFFECTED THE 1951 PROGRAM

Because of the nearness of the County to Fort Lee Army Base, Hopewell and Petersburg a large percentage of the people work at the Urban areas during the day thus necessitating a large number of night meetings. This has played a very great part in the club enrollment, especially in the I. D. Groups. Seemingly, people most interested can only attend at night, yet there are others who would attend if the meetings were held in the day since a large number of the ladies must walk. That accounts also for a large number of persons missing three to five meetings during the year.

The chief crops grown in the County are peanuts, tobacco, and a small amount of cotton. These require a great deal of hand labor during harvesting time. Thus the men of the families that are working on public jobs depend upon the ladies and children to harvest. So they must continue working in order to supplement the family income. This also causes a decrease in regular attendance of day meetings because of the busy season, and a decrease in the attendance at night meetings because of fatigue.

## II. CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE 1951 PROGRAM TO FAMILY LIVING

The 1951 program aided families by reducing expenditures for goods and services that could be provided at home.

With stress placed on good organization and more and better leadership, we were able to reach more people directly. Method demonstrations instead of discussion meetings were used to a greater extent so as to show the low income families what may be done with available materials.

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The use of more result demonstrations in organized and unorganized communities in Home Improvement, Improved Family Feeding and Improving the Poultry influenced more people to a much greater degree. Definite plans and work with demonstration communities helped in showing the families what could be done by using effectively all extension information to elevate the home and community life. Work on clothing served to guide families toward more wise spending and how to secure the basic necessities. The project attracted the attention of non-club members, some of whom have since joined the group and others who did not join but worked under the guidance of leaders or agents. From the inexpensive work clothes and household articles or furnishings made; and from the well-planned and prepared meals served; and the increased home food supply; these helped the people realize that the rural financial problem can be improved through planning, wise choosing, and home production.

#### III. ADULT WORK

A. Adult - The Program calendar was built around two major projects: Clothing and Home Improvement. Along with these points emphasis was placed on Food and Nutrition, and Housing, through result demonstrations, circular letters, news stories, and general discussions.

##### 1. Clothing Objectives

1. To improve selection of clothing with emphasis on personality and needs
2. To make a better dress at home

3. To reduce clothing expenditures by making garments of quality rather than purchasing ready made in quantity
4. To have better dressed rural people

METHODS USED

As reported by the previous agent, "The probable value of the clothing project to the home maker was discussed during home visits and at two general meetings. A news release was prepared from clothing outlook material and from recent clothing trends. Our method demonstration began in December when we used a Fabric Exhibit secured from the Consumer Education Division of Sears Roebuck. Three leaders and the agent studied together workmanship and cost of ready made garments versus garments that could be made at home on a field trip. A sewing machine cleaning and repair clinic was held. Fourteen leaders from six clubs attended the hat clinic."

RESULTS - Of the 117 garments started 99 dresses and 17 aprons were completed for the fashion revue in May.

- 4 dresses were made from feed bags
- 10 dresses were made with grippers
- 11 dresses were made by recommended home makers pattern
- 45 afternoon or regular house dresses
- 39 cotton dresses that may be worn for church
- 11 aprons made by recommended pattern
- 6 aprons made from feed bags

2. Home Improvement

1. To have more well kept homes
2. To increase use of available materials for home decoration
3. To have more comfortable homes with emphasis on increased years of usefulness of furniture

METHODS USED

Letters were sent to leaders asking them to continue to follow suggestions received in 1950 by the former Agent, and to call the club members attention to it. Bulletins were distributed on remodeling and refinishing furniture and decorating hints. In April a slip cover clinic was held to train leaders for method demonstrations. With the assistance of Miss Elsie Copeland of Chesterfield a Fabric Exhibit on slip covers from the Consumers Education Division of Sears Roebuck was used as illustrative material. There were nine leaders at the meeting representing seven of the nine clubs. Pamphlets on selection of materials and steps in making slip covers were given to leaders in sufficient numbers to supply all of the H. D. members.

Nine method demonstrations were given in how to wash and dye old woolens for hooked rugs. Hints were given in selecting colors, keeping in mind the size and shape of the rug to be used in different types of rooms.

RESULTS

The former Agent reported that 14 tufted bed spreads had been completed and color scheme improved in eleven (11) bedrooms. Also one (1)

bedroom suite and three (3) living room tables had been refinished. Since her absence six (6) other tufted spreads have been completed and one pair of curtains to match. Four (4) three piece living room suites were covered and slip covers made for seven different chairs. Four other members have purchased their material to make slip covers during the indoor winter months.

During the month of November 28 members began dyeing and preparing their old woollens to be made into hooked rugs. Twelve others now have orders in mail for patterns.

### 3. Foods and Nutrition

#### Objectives

1. To have more adequately fed families with special emphasis
  - on year round gardening
2. To reduce expenditures for food through better planning, preparation and preservation
3. To reach more people with recommendations for better family feeding

#### METHODS USED

Nine garden result demonstrators were given special information to pass on to the members regularly at club meetings. They received such information as the best time for planting various foods. They also encouraged the member to try and grow some new vegetable in his garden. Nineteen demonstrators for the "improvement of poultry flocks" were sent monthly information on things to do this month on poultry hints. These were sent to the demonstrators as they were received from Mr. A. Lawrence Dean, Extension Poultry Husbandman.

RESULTS

In foods preservation 17 more families made use of the County Cannery for the first time. Two families rented and stored foods in freezer lockers. As a result of the poultry demonstrators hints and suggestions read in club meetings, more members have become interested in getting the very best results from their flocks and three (3) have given their names to join the poultry group another year. Six water stands have been built and definite changes in nest and roost have been made in eight (8) houses. Twelve demonstrators reported improved changes in feeding methods in November during the second scoring.

4. Housing

Objective

1. To have more adequate facilities to meet family needs
2. To have more convenient homes

METHODS USED

Discussions were held at the monthly meetings, bulletins sent out and home visits made encouraging mainly adequate facilities to meet family needs. Special emphasis was placed on such features as water in kitchen, better lighting and good storage space.

RESULTS

Two homes have been constructed according to the recommendations providing for storage and family bedroom needs. Two homes have installed electric lights and one house remodeled-- including enlarging the kitchen, refinished the walls and built front and back porches-- screening the

latter, and putting the house on a solid foundation.

B. Other Activities

Adult

1. Community projects -- clubs continued work on improving church grounds. This increased public interest in other phases of Extension Work.

METHODS USED

Discussions, church visits and assistance in planning work to be done.

RESULTS

Improvements have been made on two church grounds and one choir room has been refinished-- including making a slip cover, walls painted, new floor covering and pulpit stand draped. This was taken care of at the expense and work of the H. D. members of Loving Union Club. The Advisory Board gave three cash prizes at its fund raising contest for furthering such community projects.

2. District H. D. Goal

1. Emphasize better housing through goal chairman
2. Acquaint people with general housing conditions in the State through circular letters. This should increase awareness of the common problems of the rural people and promote more interest in improving standards.

METHODS USED

Housing conditions in the County were discussed at Advisory Board and County League meetings. These people were asked to encourage builders and persons remodeling to use solid foundations instead of corner pillows for houses and consider the family needs when buying, building or remodeling.

RESULTS

Houses being built now are constructed on solid foundations. Three houses have had additional rooms added so as to better meet the family needs.

3. National H. D. Week

Fashion Revue - To emphasize a better standard of dress for more home makers and the program is seeking to meet individual needs.

METHODS USED

The H. D. Committee planned to have the fashion revue because they would be working on clothing in conducting the clothing project. Members were asked to make different types of cotton dresses and aprons such as: the recommended work dress and aprons, dress and apron from feed bags and simple cottons suitable for other occasions. The Agent assisted in grouping committee members to help carry out the activity and in dividing garments being made into groups for presentation.

RESULTS

Ninety-nine (99) dresses and seventeen (17) aprons were completed and modeled in the fashion show with such points stressed as durability, style, color and price.

4. Achievement Day

To improve public relations and interest in the Extension Program by summarizing work and showing articles made.

METHODS USED

A brief sketch of what we expected to include in club and individual displays at Achievement programs were given at all club meetings.

RESULTS

Approximately 275 adults and one hundred and thirty (130) 4-H members and older youth came out to the exhibits because their clubs competed against others on display for prizes-- Club awards were given in order to continue to stimulate future group activity. To further improve public relations members and non-members were encouraged to participate in the games and group singing of the evening.

5. Fund Raising Activity

Conducted to build Advisory Board treasury to be used for Achievement Awards, 4-H and adult delegates expenses to State Activities.

METHOD USED

The committee for the contest was selected in the Advisory Board meeting and was made up of H. D. members from three communities. That

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committee sent letters to groups in all communities outlining the plans for the contest and the final program and when it would close.

RESULTS

Seven communities participated and raised \$258.00. At the program the Advisory Board president discussed the purpose of the board and urged all persons not connected with any phase of the County program to identify themselves with it during 1951. Approximately 400 persons were present of which 102 participated in the activity. This was reported by the former Agent.

6. Work in Unorganized Communities

METHODS USED

1. Contact through Schools
2. Two poultry result demonstrations are being conducted in two unorganized communities.

RESULTS

Through Church visits, work with the 4-H Clubs in the schools and poultry flock visits there has been a noted interest shown in these communities in Extension Work. In one community several persons have expressed their desire to have a club started in January. Two persons have called for assistance-- one in constructing a new house and the other on electric wiring.

IV. UNIT WORK

A. Project Work

1. Clothing Unit II

Objectives

1. To establish good grooming habits
2. To increase the usefulness of clothing through care
3. To reach more adults with information on personal hygiene through children

METHODS USED

Ninety-five (95) girls were enrolled. Letters were sent to parents explaining the project and asking them to encourage the children in such a project. Agent and leaders held method demonstration meetings at which time the groups discussed special topics. The former Agent further reported that junior leaders assisted at all meetings. At L-H Council meetings members were encouraged to complete their projects.

RESULTS

Sixty-eight (68) projects were completed with a total of 204 articles made. Seventy-three (73) members showed definite improvement in personal care and eighty-one (81) in care and repair of clothing as reported by the leaders. As a result of discussions and illustrative materials on personal hygiene the members became even more conscious of good grooming thus putting it into practice at home. So making it possible for such information to reach the adults and others there.

B. Other Activities

1. National 4-H Club Week - A County Program

The outstanding club of 1950 planned a program and invited all other clubs to attend.

METHODS USED

Members of the outstanding club for 1950 were given some suggestions for a county program. They planned a program and submitted a copy for approval. They then asked other clubs to participate and designated program numbers to be done by each club. They contacted a local minister for speaker and gave him a copy of "Local Guide for 4-H Leaders" to use as background for his discussion. He discussed "conditions of Divine Guidance" and brought out the point that club membership is splendid opportunity for molding young minds, for worthwhile citizenship and better home and community life. The District Agent attended and gave recognition to the club leader. The Achievement cup was presented Loving Union Club for being the outstanding club during 1950. The cup is to be presented the outstanding club each year. Forty-three club members from six clubs and about 70 other persons attended. (Reported by former Agent)

2. Radio Program

Saw the program director of radio station and arranged to interview two outstanding 4-H members. The interview centered around the 4-H members responsibility as a challenge to youth today.

METHODS USED

Outstanding club members were selected to participate in the broadcast. The program director was contacted and a skit prepared from 1950 suggestions for observance of National 4-H Club Week. This was discussed with him. We then practiced skit. It was broadcast during school day in order that children without radios could listen in. The teachers cooperated by bringing radios to school. Information presented through this program was as follows: The purpose of National 4-H Club Week, who may be a club member, what membership is like, leader responsibility, 4-H project work and wholesome recreation.

RESULTS

Approximately 700 children and adults heard the program. (Reported by former Agent)

3. 4-H Short Course

Assist clubs in sending a leader and number of delegates allowed County to the Short Course. Assist girls in making own uniform and with travel to and from the College.

METHODS USED

4-H Council decided to list project completion and active club participation as the pre-requisite for short course delegates. 4-H Council sponsored a pre-Easter Festival for raising funds.

RESULTS

One-half of each delegates expense to the Short Course was paid by

the Council. Four (4) delegates and one leader were sent from the County. Each girl made her own uniform with the assistance of the Agent and Leader.

4. Wild Life Conference

Assist Clubs in selecting and arranging for delegates to attend the conference.

METHODS USED

Delegates could be selected if projects were up to date. 4-H Council committee made plans for two fund raising activities to take care of expense. For delegate sent to the Regional Conference in Pine Bluff, Arkansas the 4-H Council sent letters to each 4-H Leader and club asking for donations from their respective church, club or community.

RESULTS

Five (5) delegates and the leader were sent to the Conference at Virginia State College.

A bus trip to Seaview Beach was sponsored by the Council both as a means of recreation and to help finance delegates' expense.

Four leaders assisted the Farm and Home Agent in the general supervision of the fifty-two members who made the trip. A talent show and beauty contest was given at the YMCA in Petersburg. Each of the nine 4-H Club communities responded to the request by the Council and a total of \$95.95 was raised from all affairs which took care of all expense in August.

5. Achievement Day

L. The club will make exhibits along with adults at joint program

2. Awards for outstanding accomplishments will be made

#### METHODS USED

Each club was given information as just what would be expected on the exhibit. Clubs were given special parts on program.

#### RESULTS

Approximately 130 members, older youth and children attended the Achievement Day Exhibit. Awards were made to the best three club exhibits and the club with the largest number of projects completed.

#### V. YOUNG MEN AND WOMEN WORK

1. To reach more people with extension information
2. To promote the idea of family planning among young couples
3. To provide some community recreation for Young People.

#### METHODS USED

We worked in cooperation with the Veteran and Vocational Agricultural instructors.

#### RESULTS

Held two activities; one for giving information and the other for recognition for achievement as a home maker at the County Fair.

SCOPE OF WORK	1948	1949	1950	1951
Number H D Clubs or Groups	6	8	9	9
Membership	75	114	141	123
Number 4-H Clubs	5	10	11	10
Membership	75	163	174	95
Number of other families reached	29	75	233	425
Total number of families reached	209	262	301	441
Number YMW groups	x	x	x	x
Membership	x	x	x	x

VII. FUNCTIONING OF VARIOUS ORGANIZATIONS IN THE 1951 PROGRAM

A. County Board of Agriculture

The board served as the overall planning and promotion group for all extension activities and used its standing committees to develop neighborhood leader activity. It selected and sent delegates to the State Advisory Board meeting and encouraged people to attend the State Farmers Conference. Special plans were set up through this group for work in connection with development of the farm-home unit demonstration and the Live-at-home Community.

B. County Home Demonstration Committee

Standing committees of the H D Clubs were used to bring all clubs together as one working unit. The committee planned the overall program and assisted in carrying it out. Result demonstrations were selected according to committee recommendations.

C. County 4-H Council

The Council held two meetings for training officers and for discussing members responsibilities. Further meetings were held for making plans for carrying out activities. The plans included community projects, county activities and the award system.

VIII. LEADERSHIP

A. Contributions of Volunteer Leaders

1. Organizational leaders have played an important part in the program in placing stress on better organized groups for better clubs.

Program Development - Leaders have succeeded, after each program or county activity in receiving general criticisms or approvals from the members. This has aided the attempt to improve or benefit from each activity-- and also to keep the interest of the members.

Subject Matter - Leaders have meant a great deal to the program by assisting the agent in giving information, instructions as well as demonstrations.

B. Growth of the H D Club Project Leadership

	1948	1949	1950	1951
Number project leaders and goal chairmen	16	29	38	59
Number training meetings held by specialist	x	x	x	x
Number training meetings held by agent	x	6	9	4
Number club meetings held by leader with- out agent present. <i>Attendance</i>	0	5	4	25
Number additional club meetings at which leaders assisted	0	16	46	30

Growth of H-H Club Project Leadership

	1948	1949	1950	1951
Number adult project leaders	4	16	21	18
Number Junior Project leaders	0	x	7	6
Number training meetings held by specialist	x	x	x	1
Number training meetings held by agent	1	13	7	5
Attendance at leader training meetings	3	37	19	33
Number H-H leaders trained individually	2	2	5	15
Number club meetings held by leaders without agent present	0	24	47	42
Number of additional club meetings at which leader assisted	1	x	x	x
Number of demonstrations given by leaders	0	24	43	50
Number of demonstrations given by adult	x	x	x	x
Number of demonstrations given by juniors	0	3	2	3

C. Outstanding Leader and Her Accomplishments

Mrs. Sadie Bland, the leader of the Loving Union L-H Club, has 15 years of service to her credit. She was given recognition by Miss Blanche D. Harrison, District Agent at our last County National L-H Club Week celebration. Under her guidance and the assistance of the former Agent, members of her club were given suggestions for a county program. Her club had been selected as the most outstanding club for 1950. They planned a program and submitted a copy for approval. They then asked other clubs to participate and designated program numbers to be done by each club. Forty-three club members from six clubs and about 70 other persons attended.

The Achievement cup was presented to the club while Mrs. Bland received the fifteen year certificate from Miss Harrison.

As a community project for her club, Mrs. Bland had the members to plant shrubbery secured from different homes at their church on Easter Monday. When work was completed, she surprised them with an egg hunt.

The club has had 100% project completion for the past two years. In as much as the County has had the service of a Home Agent only since 1948, it means that the other years of service given by Mrs. Bland were rendered with the Farm Agent.

IX. WORK IN COOPERATION WITH OTHER AGENCIES

1. Public Health - Pamphlets on tuberculosis were distributed. letters were sent out with information about symptoms and treatment of common colds. H. D. clubs were assisted with plans for their

contributions to Tuberculosis Association. 4-H Club members were encouraged to buy seals.

3. Farm Home Administration - Work of the FHA was discussed at general meetings. Special assistance was given two families who are FHA members. One family was recommended to the agency as a client and that family was added to the list of members.

(Reported by former agent)

4. American Red Cross - Objectives of, and the assistance rendered by the Red Cross was discussed at three churches for the purpose of getting larger contributions from those communities.
4. Federal Security Agency - A circular letter was sent explaining Social Security benefits. (Reported by former Agent)
5. Vocational Agriculture - The Veterans class was assisted in setting up a system for recognizing the outstanding class member. Also assisted them in selecting the most outstanding home maker among the wives. (Reported by former Agent)
6. U. S. DA Council - Attended five monthly meetings. Carried information given in one meeting on farmers income tax to people through H D meetings. (Reported by former Agent)

#### X. APPRAISAL OF YEAR'S WORK

Many rural families became better aware of their needs. Many attempted to do something about it through HD and 4-H work. The program served as a guide for many either through general information, specific information or by developing techniques and skills for making articles that add to a

more satisfactory home and community life. The leaders willingness to use recommended practices has helped adult and youth to want to plan for improvement and use information for better rural living.