

Annual Report

COUNTY EXTENSION WORK

Virginia Agricultural Extension Service



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● agent

1954

assistant agent

KING WILLIAM
county

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IV. The King William County situation includes general farming, poultry, grain, dairy and some truck farming. A pulpwood industry at one end of the county gives employment to a number of families. These families usually have gardens and chickens, and a few cows and pigs.

In the more rural sections of the county, distances between homes affects accomplishments by organized groups. In a few instances homemakers cannot meet often in groups because of lack of transportation. Some heads of families work in Richmond and use the family car for transportation to work. The county is long and narrow covering 273 square miles. According to the 1950 census, the number of farms has decreased from 726 in 1945 to 528 in 1950, 310 of these having white operators and 218 negro operators.

The greater number of school children from the county attend a central school. Others attend schools in West Point and Port Richmond which are in one extreme end of the county. School buses transport children to and from school. 4-H Clubs meet during school hours. The club period varies from 45 minutes to one hour. Children live at scattered points of the county and it is difficult to get them together in groups after school to do project work. However, three such small groups meet after school, once a month from October through May.

There are more and more demands on the homemakers' time. Hence, many women who could benefit from the Extension program do not get out to meetings. Younger women with small children seem to have most difficulty in getting to meetings. These are the ones who need help most. An effort

has been made to reach more families through club women who do get to meetings.

From January 15, 1954 to June 15, 1954 there was no home agent in the county. Some of the clubs met regularly during these months with leaders giving the demonstrations, but several clubs did not meet at all. With the return of an agent in June, all clubs began regular meetings again in July. The Extension secretary did a good job of trying to keep the program active during the absence of a home agent, but she was definitely handicapped by having to work from the office.

V. ADULT WORK

A. Project Work

1. Foods and Nutrition

With the objective of more wholesome food for family living and a saving of time and energy a demonstration was given by leaders of clubs on making yeast breads. The demonstration featured making a number of different kinds of bread from a basic yeast dough. The State food specialist trained the leaders.

With the same objectives as above plus reduced food costs and producing more foods at home, a demonstration on freezing baked foods was given in a special interest meeting by a food freezer home economist. About 30 persons attended the demonstration.

2. Clothing

A leaders training meeting was held at which leaders were trained by the State Extension clothing specialist. Since several clubs were especially interested in making handbags for summer use, this demonstration was given only at club meetings in a club choice month. The home agent gave additional suggestions for handbags at these club meetings. Ten handbags were made as a result.

The home agent gave a demonstration on personal grooming to each club. The women felt a need to know more about how to be well-groomed with the time element in mind.

3. Home Management

The home agent demonstrated household and electric repairs at all meetings in January. Many of the women felt a need to know how to repair some simple home appliances such as repairing a service cord.

4. House Furnishings

Some of the homemakers had old picture frames which they wished to restore and to use most effectively. A demonstration on the selection and hanging of pictures one month and one on the restoring and refinishing of picture frames was given by club leaders. Approximately 20 picture frames were restored and put to use.

A demonstration on the tufting of bedspreads was scheduled for one of the months when no agent was in the county. One club had an experienced

club woman from another county to give the demonstration. Six bedspreads were started. Other clubs made an effort to have the demonstration by leaders, but very little was accomplished.

There seems to be an almost constant desire on the part of some of the homemakers to learn to upholster pieces of furniture. An upholstery clinic was held in one end of the county at which five chairs, two sofas and two cushions were redone, with an attendance of nine. The home agent, assisted by her husband, conducted this clinic.

5. Housing

The home agent assisted one homemaker with plans for enlarging her kitchen. The work has been done.

6. Rural Arts

The county women are often more interested in doing some type of rural art work. The women who stay at home more than the others particularly like some handwork to do. The home agent showed all clubs how to make Christmas cards from old cards, construction paper, wallpaper samples, seals and water colors. Approximately 40 sample cards were made by the women at club meetings to take home to copy in making more cards.

One club held a meeting to complete some etched aluminum trays which had been started several years previously. Several new members also made trays at this meeting, by a newer easier method.

All clubs held a discussion in December on table and mantle decorations for Christmas. Club members as well as leaders brought suggestions, along with sample decorations.

A total of 26 baskets and 26 dish mats were made at all day meetings held in November. A variety of baskets was made. Some used wooden bases while others learned to weave the entire basket.

The demonstration methods was used for all discussions, visual aids, especially the flannelgraph, a weekly news column in the local paper, radio talks and a few personal contacts.

B. Federation Goal

Home Demonstration Clubs of the county worked on Home and Community Beautification the previous year so they continued the goal this year in order to accomplish more lasting results. The county goal chairman prepared a definite list of goals to work on each month of the year, with the slogan, "A crepe myrtle in every home demonstration members' yard." The list was as follows:

- January -
1. Urge every home demonstration member to plant one or more crepe myrtles in yard.
 2. Present program for year.
 3. Monthly flower tips
 4. Each club accept responsibility for furnishing or donating something to county picnic area at Court House and decide upon club's contribution.
 5. Each club have one community project.
- February -
1. Monthly Flower Tips
 2. Shrubbery Exchange
- March -
1. Monthly Flower Tips
 2. Home and Community clean-up campaign.

- April -
 - 1. Monthly Flower Tips
 - 2. Check on progress of club's contribution to picnic area.
 - 3. Suggestions for outdoor living room.
- May
 - 1. Monthly Flower Tips
 - 2. Plant Exchange
- June
 - 1. Monthly Flower Tips
- July -
 - 1. Monthly Flower Tips
- August -
 - 1. Recreation - County-wide picnic at Court House picnic area.
- September -
 - 1. Monthly Flower Tips
- October -
 - 1. Monthly Flower Tips.
 - 2. Planting and care of crepe myrtles.
- November -
 - 1. Monthly Flower tips
 - 2. Check up on Goals

Each club appointed a club goal chairman who gave short talks at monthly meetings. Three groups cleaned up the area around a store, a church yard and a picnic area. Twenty-five homemakers planted trees or pruned old ones; Fifty improved or planted foundation plantings; ten planted crepe myrtles; sixty-five planted gladioli bulbs; eight improved lawns; six planted roses. Twenty-eight talks were given at club meetings. Four clubs contributed three picnic tables, a gym set, a set of horseshoes and brick for fireplace to the Court House picnic area.

Five members improved outdoor living rooms, three started new ones, eighteen improved home grounds, six made long time goals for home improvement

and twelve made short time goals. Two built fireplaces, five painted or repaired buildings, six made driveways safer, three improved entrances and four improved mail boxes. Two made new fences, two improved walkways and one screened an undesirable view.

During the year another county organization started a movement to provide a recreation area somewhere in the county where swimming facilities would be available. Since it was generally felt that the public would prefer to use an area where they could swim, it was decided by the Home Demonstration Clubs to wait until such an area was located, and then to decide if the equipment already obtained for the Court House picnic area would be transferred to the new area. A location has been found but complete plans have not yet been worked out.

C. Other Activities

1. County Objectives

Four additional goals were set up as follows:

- Leaders to give demonstrations at four meetings.
- 100% attendance at leaders' training meetings.
- Membership drive in January to increase club membership one-fourth, each member to get a new member.
- Have each club contribute to V.P.I. "Continuing Education Center".

In the absence of a home agent four months, leaders gave demonstrations at most of the meetings. Attendance at leaders' training meetings did not average 100%. Some new members were added to several club rolls.

Each club contributed \$5.00 each to the V. P. I. Education Center.

Five homemakers from the County attended the Institute of Rural Affairs.

2. Health Program

The Woman's Club from one section of the county had a program on weight reduction through diet at its November meeting. The home agent arranged for the home agent of a nearby county to give the program. The home agent is a member of the Health Committee of the Woman's Club.

3. Home Demonstration Week

No special observance was held in the county due to the absence of an agent. Twelve women from the county attended the District Federation meeting and one took part on the program.

4. Farmers' Picnic

The home agent was in charge of the recreational program for the annual picnic sponsored jointly by the Ruritan Club and the Woman's Club.

VI. 4-H CLUB WORK

A. Project Work

1. Foods and Nutrition

One club took the Food for Pep project in school meetings. An adult leader gave demonstrations several times and a junior leader gave demonstrations several times. Another group studied meal preparation in a

school meeting. There is a definite need for more adult leaders who could carry on the program in the absence of an agent. Because of the demand on leading homemakers in the county, it has been difficult to get good adult leaders.

2. Clothing

One school group took So You'd Like to Sew. Another took Make and Remake. They made small articles such as dish towels, aprons, handkerchiefs, etc.

B. Other Activities

1. Six girls entered a county contest in foods. Three of these entered the district contests.

2. 4-H girls assisted in selling ads for a 4-H blotter as the fund raising project for the year. Part of these funds were contributed to Jamestown 4-H Camp.

3. A junior and senior public speaking contest was held in the county. The senior girl winner entered the state contest.

4. A 4-H picnic and hayride was held in the summer for all 4-H members, the county council furnishing lunch.

5. Five girls attended 4-H Camp. A former 4-H member attended as a leader.

6. One girl attended State Short Course. 4-H girls went Christmas caroling in several neighborhoods.

7. Rural Life Sunday was observed by groups in each church.

8. The 4-H girls exhibit on the canning of tomatoes won first place at the local fair. One 4-H girl who entered the senior district canning

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contest took ten blue ribbons, 3 red and 3 white on her canned food. She also served as chairman of the 4-H Educational Exhibit which won first place.

VII. YOUNG MEN AND YOUNG WOMEN'S WORK

None to report.

VIII. SCOPE OF WORK

	<u>1950</u>	<u>1951</u>	<u>1952</u>	<u>1953</u>	<u>1954</u>
Number Home Demonstration clubs	9	8	8	7	7
Membership	161	165	150	150	90
Number 4-H Clubs	4	4	4	4	4
Membership	51	65	75	77	73
Number other families reached	435	251	300	303	283
Number of different families reached	435	251	300	303	283
Number community clubs	0	0	0	0	0

IX. ORGANIZATIONS

A. County Home Demonstration Committee

The Home Demonstration Committee met twice during the year to plan programs, check on goals and accomplishments.

B. County 4-H Council

The County 4-H Council met twice during the year to plan programs, check on goals and accomplishments.

X. Leadership

A. Organizational

1. Each 4-H Club and each Home Demonstration Club had the following

organizational leaders: President, vice-president, secretary, and treasurer. The vice-president served also as program development chairman for each club. A Federation Goal chairman for Home and Community Beautification was appointed for each.

The home demonstration committee had a chairman, a vice-chairman, secretary, treasurer, and a Federation Goal chairman.

The 4-H Council had a president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer, reporter and two song leaders.

All of these officers served in their usual capacity.

2. Program Development

Vice-presidents of home demonstration clubs served as program development chairmen. They have not functioned as well as they should. Plans are to have a definite training meeting for them in the coming year.

3. Subject Matter

The home demonstration leaders did a better job than usual in some of the clubs while the county had no home agent. Several clubs did not meet at all for several months. These leaders gave demonstrations to their groups on subject matter.

B. Growth of Leadership

Leadership in some clubs has grown while in others it has not, depending upon the type of women in each club.

Home Demonstration Club Project Leadership

	<u>1950</u>	<u>1951</u>	<u>1952</u>	<u>1953</u>	<u>1954</u>
Number Project Leaders	40	40	43	48	18
Number goal chairman	8	8	8	8	5
Number Program Development Leaders	9	8	8	7	7
Number training meetings by specialists	3	3	2	3	3
by district agent	0	0	0	0	1
by agent	6	2	3	1	0
Attendance at all training meetings				22	14
Number meetings without an agent	16	17	9	21	19
Number meetings leaders assisted	3	6	6	3	16
Demonstrations by leaders	0	0	0	0	16
Talks and discussions by leaders	0	0	0	0	8

Growth of 4-H Club Project Leadership

Number club officers	24	24	24	24	24
Number adult project leaders	3	5	5	5	6
Number training meetings held					
by specialists	3	1	2	0	0
by agent	0	0	0	0	0
by district agent	0	0	0	0	0
by member club department	0	0	0	0	0
Attendance at leader training meeting	0	0	8	3	0
Number 4-H leaders trained individually	2	5	5	5	4

	<u>1950</u>	<u>1951</u>	<u>1952</u>	<u>1953</u>	<u>1954</u>
Number club meetings held by leader WITHOUT agent present	14	11	12	7	12
Number of additional club meetings at which leaders assisted	3	4	6	2	0
Number demonstrations given by adult leaders	4	11	12	7	12
by juniors	0	2	6	6	0

Young Men and Women Clubs

Number club officers	0	0	0	0	0
Number leaders	0	0	0	0	0

C. The Extension secretary did an unusually good job of trying to keep the Extension program going during the months an agent was absent from the county. She also served as county federation goal chairman on community beautification. The club to which she belongs met every month and had its demonstrations due to her encouragement. Through her influence, equipment was secured for the picnic area. She saw that each club leader received material for all the demonstrations while no agent was in the county. She arranged for a special interest meeting on freezing of foods which was given by a local freezer dealer and his representative. She also attended this meeting.

D. It is difficult to report on an outstanding family this year because of the absence of a home agent.

E. The Court House Club was the most outstanding club of the year. It led the movement for the development of a picnic area. It held all monthly

meetings, having a leader give the demonstrations at four meetings in the absence of an agent. It accomplished more on the Federation Goal of Home and Community Beautification than any other club. Attendance was greater at meetings. A member of this club took part on the program at the District Federation meeting. The vice-chairman of the county Home Demonstration Committee is from this club.

XI. COOPERATION WITH OTHER AGENCIES

The Home Agent is a member of the local Woman's Club. She served on the Health Committee and secured a speaker on weight control for one meeting. Since the Home Demonstration Clubs had planned to work on weight reduction during the coming year, she took this opportunity to acquaint all the women of the county with the weight control program as carried on by the Extension Service.

XII. APPRAISAL OF YEAR'S WORK

The home agent realizes that the program did not contribute too much to better homemaking and improved people. The county was without an agent for several months. A new agent worked for six weeks, resigned suddenly and the county was again without an agent for four months. This left the program in such a state that it was even difficult for leaders to carry on. However, they did the best they could, with some accomplishments noted.

Since the agent who was originally in the county has returned to the county, it is hoped that the next year's work may be strengthened and furthered. Each step backward has retarded the steps forward. It is hoped that in the

coming year adult leadership may be developed to a greater extent so that in the future if there is no agent for a period of time, the work may go forward.