

34
72
Virginia

Agricultural Extension Service



ANNUAL REPORT
HOME DEMONSTRATION WORK
1952

Abbie J. Burton

agent

asst. agent

Prince George
county

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
I. COUNTY SITUATION AS IT AFFECTED THE 1952 PROGRAM	1
II. CONTRIBUTIONS OF 1952 PROGRAM TO BETTER FAMILY LIVING. . .	1
III. ADULT WORK	
A. 1. Clothing	3
2. Home Improvement	4
3. Foods and Nutrition	4
4. Housing	5
5. Other - Poultry	5
B. Other Activities	
1. Community improvement work	6
2. Result Demonstrators	7
3. Federation Goal Activities	7
IV. 4-H CLUB WORK	
A. Project Work	
1. Clothing Unit II	8
B. Other Activities	
1. Rural Life Sunday	9
2. Achievement Day	9
3. 4-H Short Course	9
4. Wild Life Conference	10
5. Fund Raising Activities	10
V. SCOPE OF WORK.	11
VI. FUNCTIONING OF VARIOUS ORGANIZATIONS IN 1952 PROGRAM	
A. County Board of Agriculture	11
B. County Home Demonstration Committee	12
C. County 4-H Project Planning Committee	12
D. County 4-H Council	12
VII. LEADERSHIP	
A. Contributions of Volunteer leaders to program	12
1. Organizational	
2. Program Development	
3. Subject matter	

34
72

TABLE OF CONTENTS (Continued)

	Page
B. Growth of Leadership by Project leaders over four year period in Adult and Junior Work	13
C. Outstanding leader	14
VIII. WORK IN COOPERATION WITH OTHER AGENCIES	15
IX. APPRAISAL OF YEAR'S WORK	16

7

RM
34

34
72

I. COUNTY SITUATION AS IT AFFECTED THE 1952 PROGRAM

With the labor opportunities in Petersburg, Hopewell, and Fort Lee Army Post, I find the county men and women gradually leaving their homes and farms the year round in order to supplement the family income. With the ladies working away from home during the day, it has compelled the agent to hold night meetings in a number of communities that are interested. As a result we have twelve regular night meetings monthly, and seven regular day meetings. Changing a number of the regular meetings from day to night has meant only a slight solution to the problem. The ladies in 85% of the cases must depend upon the men to bring them if the meetings are held at night. In many instances the ladies work in the day and the men at night, thus the lady still cannot attend the meeting of her choice. This accounts for the decrease in enrollment or offers very poor chances for an increase.

Since our chief crops grown in the county are peanuts, tobacco and a small amount of cotton, a great deal of labor is required for harvesting. With a very limited number of farm labor saving devices often the children and ladies must harvest the crops while the men continue working in the city. This too, plays a great part in our club attendance records.

II. CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE 1952 PROGRAM TO BETTER FAMILY LIVING

Our 1952 program was planned by representatives from our nine active home demonstration communities. It is felt that the program definitely included some of the subjects that the ladies saw that their

RM
34

respective communities needed help with. Stress was placed not on a larger number of leaders, but on better leadership from the number already attained. These leaders were again informed of their duties and responsibilities. Special attention was given by them to reaching more people directly. There were ninety-eight method demonstrations given by the leaders alone. This not only helped the members that looked on, but often it helped the leader become aware of her capabilities and so from that particular subject she went on to others in a more aggressive manner. The use of result demonstrations in three of the unorganized communities on home improvement and improving poultry flocks influenced a number of people to a much greater degree.

With one of our long time goals being "Better Health through Improved Water Supply and Good Eating" a number of families in the county made definite changes in their water systems. That is, five families started on improved water systems. To this point each family has only the cold running water in the kitchen. Plans are yet in process for complete systems. Others improved their old systems.

Work on clothing served to guide families toward spending more wisely and securing only the basic necessities.

From the improvements shown in the well planned meals served, the increase in home food supply, household articles and furnishings made by the members and the use of extension information to elevate the home and community life, the people realize even more that the rural financial problems can be improved.

III. ADULT WORK

The 1952 program calendar was built around three major projects: clothing, home improvement, and foods. Emphasis was also placed on result demonstrations with reference to such long time goals as: Better living through improved water supply and good eating, and convenient and attractive kitchens. Other activities included were poultry and gardens.

A. 1. Clothing objectives

1. To improve the sewing practices learned the previous year.
2. To make a better dress at home.
3. To improve the selection of clothing with emphasis on personality.
4. To reduce clothing expenditures by making garments of quality.
5. To have better dressed rural people.

METHODS USED

The project was re-emphasized through home visits and general discussions. Thirty-one methods demonstrations were given. These covered a period of four months. During that time discussion meetings were held to work with special problems or to give individual help. A dress revue was chosen as a climax to the project.

RESULTS

Seventy-six home visits were made during the clothing project. Sixty-one members took part in the dress revue. Sixty-nine garments were made. Definite improvement was shown in the selection of clothing with emphasis on body build and personality. It was shown that the

clothing project was seeking to meet individual needs.

A. (2) Home Improvement - objectives

1. To have a more attractive dining area
2. To increase the use of available materials for decoration
3. To have a more attractive dining room with emphasis on furniture arrangement and wall treatments.

METHODS USED

Result demonstrators were selected. Special problems found on home visits were used as a basis for discussion at monthly meetings. News articles and bulletins were used to interest the people in recommended practices. A tour to result demonstrations were conducted in July and September.

RESULTS

Very definite improvements were noted from the nine result demonstrators. Each club member made some type of improvement. Pictures were rearranged. In many instances lighter and brighter colors were used on the walls. Some were able to use their old picture frames with a bit of paint to add to the decorations.

A. (3) Foods - objectives

1. To reduce expenditures for food through more food preservation and better planning
2. To reach more people with simple means for entertaining.

METHODS USED

Circular letters, news articles and bulletins were used to reach more people. One foods leader training meeting was held. Thirty-six

method demonstrations were given at Home Demonstrations meetings. Home visits were made and general discussions were held at the regular meetings.

RESULTS

As a result 26,752 quarts of food was preserved and 1,633 frozen by the club members. More ladies were encouraged to join clubs or remain members as the result of emphasizing simpler and less expensive menus for entertaining. Sixteen foods leaders received direct training. These in turn gave twenty-one method demonstrations to their clubs.

A. (4) Housing objectives

- 1. To have more adequate facilities to meet the family needs
- 2. To have more comfortable homes with emphasis on improved water systems

METHODS USED

Home visits and result demonstrations played the major part. One lecture and discussion was held on installing water systems.

RESULTS

Ninety-five families were reached

Twenty-four persons attended the lecture and discussion on installing water systems

- Five families have installed partial water systems

A. (5) Others

- 1. Poultry - objectives

- 1. To increase family food production

- 2. To reach non-club members

METHODS USED

Special information and assistance was given to nineteen poultry demonstrators. Persons were invited to join the poultry club whether or not they were enrolled in a H D Club. Twice a year the flocks were scored by Mr. Lawrence Dean, Poultry Specialist and the Agent.

RESULTS

Five members made a higher score on the second scoring in November. Nine others had made improvements in the house or equipment but had fallen low on egg production. Four members enrolled are not members of active H D Clubs.

B. Other Activities

- 1. Community improvement work

Objectives

- 1. To have club continue work on improving church grounds
- 2. To increase public interest in other phases of the extension program

METHODS USED

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

RESULTS

The two clubs that were working on church ground projects went as far on it as their funds would permit. The men of the community of Burrowsville cut down old trees from the yard. They hauled in

ground to level the yard. At present more ground is needed and top soil before the yard can be seeded.

B. (2) Result demonstrations

Objectives

1. To work more closely with individuals
2. To better work toward goals set up
3. To produce better results and thus encourage more people

METHODS USED

Result demonstrators for various subjects were chosen by the club members and H D Planning Committee. Some were volunteers.. These demonstrators were given information through letters and visits. They were asked to attend each leader training meeting pertaining to their subject.

RESULTS

There were thirty-six result demonstrators at work carrying out such projects as poultry, dining rooms, water systems and gardens. Five of the nine improved water system leaders installed partial water systems. Six out of nine made definite dining room improvements. These included rearranging of furniture, improved wall treatments, and picture hangings.

These leaders served to inspire their respective club member to better work.

B. (3) Federation Goal Activities

Objectives

1. To emphasize better housing and improved water supply through goal chairman, club meetings, and letters.
2. To help the people become aware of the common problems in the general housing conditions in the county.

METHODS USED

Survey was taken of each community covering number of homes painted, number with solid foundations, number with satisfactory screens, etc.

RESULTS

Fifteen homes were painted during the past year. Ten new homes were built. Fifty-six families made changes in broken steps and porches. Three wells were covered and four cleaned, and put in cement casing.

ADULT FUND RAISING ACTIVITIES

Nine H D Clubs gave a King and Queen contest in Disputanta on April 4. This was sponsored by the county Advisory Board. Each club selected a King and Queen. The King and Queen reporting the largest amount of money was crowned King and Queen of Prince George County. This honor went to the Disputanta H D. Club. This club reported \$95.03 -- a total of \$275.17 was reported by the nine clubs.

IV. 4-H CLUB WORK

A. Clothing Unit II - objectives

1. To develop skills in making new garments at home
2. To develop skills in remaking garments on hand
3. To learn to choose becoming ready-to-wear
4. To learn to select patterns and materials

METHODS USED

Had members to make or remake garments. Gave illustrative materials of becoming patterns and designs for various body builds. Leaders were trained so as to assist in method demonstrations. At 4-H Council meetings members were encouraged to complete their projects.

RESULTS

One-hundred forty-six garments were made and sixteen remade. Deeper interest was created in sewing.

Thirty-three members took part in the adult fashion revue. One hundred-twenty members were enrolled in the project.

B. Other activities

1. National 4-H Week -- As a method of celebrating National 4-H Club Week through the individual clubs each 4-H leader purchased fifty commemorative three cents stamps with funds from her club treasure. These were divided among her 4-H members to be used especially during the month of March. The members were encouraged to purchase more.
2. 4-H Short Course -- Assist clubs in sending a leader and number of delegates allowed county to short course.

METHODS USED

Agent assisted girls in making own uniform and with travel to and from the college. 4-H Council stated that project must be up to date before member could be selected to attend.

RESULTS

Five delegates and one leader were sent from the county. Each girl made her own uniform with the assistance of her leader or agent.

- 3. Wild Life Conference -- Assist clubs in selecting and arranging for delegates to attend the conference.

METHODS USED

Only persons with project up to date could be selected as a delegate. Delegates were selected at 4-H council meeting.

RESULTS

Two delegates and the leader were sent to the conference at Virginia State College. The delegates made their reports first to their respective club, and later a combined report to the county 4-H Council.

- 4. Fund Raising Activities - objectives
 - 1. To raise funds to cover 4-H yearly expenses
 - 2. To plan a recreational program for the members

METHODS USED

Plan for raising funds and for a bus trip to Seaview Beach were made by the 4-H Council. Each club brought in suggestions and the final decision was made by the Council.

RESULTS

On April 4, 1952, a 4-H Bazaar was held at the Disputanta Training School. All of the twelve 4-H Clubs participated. The sum of \$101.41 was turned over to the Council treasure from the affair.

On Saturday, August 2, 1952, a bus trip was made to Seaview Beach. Sixty-seven members, adults, and leaders made the trip. Twenty-one dollars and thirty cents was realized from the trip.

V. SCOPE OF WORK

Scope of Work	1949	1950	1951	1952
Number H D Clubs or Groups	8	9	9	9
Membership	114	141	123	125
Number 4-H Clubs	10	11	10	12
Membership	163	174	95	120
Number Y M W Groups	X	X	X	X
Membership	X	X	X	X
Number of other families reached	75	233	425	430
Number of community Clubs	X	X	X	X
Membership	X	X	X	X

VI. FUNCTIONING OF VARIOUS ORGANIZATIONS IN THE 1952 PROGRAM

A. County Board of Agriculture

The board served as the over all planning and promotion group for all extension activities. It used the 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 for work in improving 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 over all program for the year and assisted in carrying it out. Result demonstrations were selected according to committee recommendations.

C. County 4-H Project Planning Committee

Two 4-H members and the leader from each club makes up the 4-H project planning committee. These persons meet in a group usually during the month of June to discuss the Youth Community needs, summarize the years work, and plan the program calendar for another year.

D. County 4-H Council

First of the year the Council held one meeting for training officers and discussing members responsibilities. Further meetings were held for making plans for carrying out activities. These plans included club projects and county activities.

VII. LEADERSHIP

A. Contributions of volunteer leaders to the program.

1. Organizational leaders have done a very important job in the program by placing stress on better organized groups for better clubs.
2. 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.

3. Subject matter leaders have meant a great deal to the program by assisting the agent in giving information and instructions as well as method demonstrations.

B. Growth of Leadership over Four Year Period

Growth of H D Club Project Leadership	1949	1950	1951	1952
Number project leaders (subject matter)	29	38	59	63
Number goal chairman	1	1	1	1
Number training meetings held by specialist	X	X	X	X
Number training meetings held by agent	6	9	4	3
Attendance at all training meetings	X	X	X	41
Number club meetings held by leaders without agent present	5	4	25	27
Number additional club meetings at which leaders assisted	16	46	30	62

GROWTH OF 4-H CLUB PROJECT LEADERSHIP

	1949	1950	1951	1952
Number Adult Project leaders	16	21	18	10
Number junior project leaders	X	7	6	2
Number training meetings held by specialist	X	X	X	X
Number training meetings held by agent	13	7	5	1
Attendance at leader training meeting	37	19	33	7
Number 4-H leaders trained individually	2	5	15	10
Number club meetings held by leader without agent present	24	47	42	53
Number of additional club meetings at which leaders assisted	X	X	X	51
Number demonstrations given by leaders	24	43	50	84
Number demonstrations given by adults	X	X	X	X
Number demonstrations given by juniors	3	2	3	2

C. Outstanding Leader and her accomplishments

Mrs. Catherine Walker, the leader of Pleasant Grove 4-H Club, may well be chosen as the outstanding leader this year. Though Mrs. Walker has only four years of leadership to her credit, that number of years does not measure the thorough or effective manner in which Mrs. Walker has performed her duties.

Now twenty-two years of age she is our youngest adult leader in the county. Her club consists of six girls and eleven

boys. Each year she has coaxed and encouraged her girls to nearly 100 percent project completion. There has never been more than one or two girls that did not complete their work. Two years the club had 100 percent project completion.

Mrs. Walker has attended one State 4-H Short Course as a leader from the county and two Wild Life Conferences. She has attended each 4-H Council meeting and has always seen to it that her club takes a very active part in what ever county activity is carried on.

Quite often Mrs. Walker has to receive individual leader training because she works in town during the day and often finds it inconvenient to attend regular leader training meetings. During the past year she conducted five method demonstration meetings without the assistance of the Agent.

VIII. WORK IN COOPERATION WITH OTHER AGENCIES

1. U. S. D. A. Council - attended monthly meetings. Passed information received at meeting of particular importance to members to them by circular letter. Joined the U.S.D.A. group in program over WHAF, Hopewell broadcasting station. To date one broadcast has been made.
2. Federal Security Agency. A circular letter was sent explaining Social Security benefits.
3. American Red Cross - objectives of assistance rendered by the Red Cross was discussed in various club meetings that were held during the campaign.

4. Public Health - Pamphlets on tuberculosis were distributed. H D Clubs were assisted with plans for their contributions to the Tuberculosis Association. 4-H members were encouraged to buy seals.

IX. APPRASAL OF YEARS WORK

Many rural families became more aware of their needs. Many attempted to solve some of their problems through H D and 4-H work. For some, the program served as a guide either through general or specific information. Some developed skills and techniques for making articles or planning meals that in the end added to a more satisfactory home and community life. The leaders willingness to use recommended practices has helped adults and youth to want to plan for improvement and use extension information for better rural living.