

# ANNUAL REPORT

## County Extension Work

1953



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Charles City & New Kent Counties

**COUNTY**

**Asst. Agent**

VIRGINIA AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICE

ANNUAL REPORT  
HOME DEMONSTRATION WORK

1953.

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AGENT

CHARLES CITY AND NEW KENT COUNTIES.

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

I Title and Cover Page

II Table of Contents

III County Situation as it Effects the Program ..... 1

IV Contributions of the 1953 Program to Better Family Living ..... 2

V Adult Work ..... 4

    House Furnishings ..... 4

    Housing ..... 5

    Clothing ..... 6

    Rural Arts ..... 7

    Foods ..... 8

    Landscape ..... 8

    Participation of an Outstanding Family ..... 9

    Community Project ..... 10

    Federation Goal Activities ..... 10

    Achievement Day ..... 12

    County Objectives ..... 12

VI Four-H Club Work ..... 13

    Foods and Nutrition ..... 13

    Clothing ..... 13

    Room Improvement ..... 14

    Camp ..... 14

    Contests ..... 15

    Rural Life Sunday ..... 15

    Fair ..... 16

    Community Activities ..... 16

    Club Trips ..... 16

Young Men and Women's Work ..... 17

VIII Scope of Work ..... 18

IX Function of Organizations in 1953 Program ..... 18

    County Home Demonstration Committee ..... 18

X Leadership ..... 19

    Organizational..... 19

    Program Development Leaders ..... 19

    Subject Matter Leaders ..... 20

    Growth of Leadership by Project Leaders ..... 21

    Activities of Outstanding Leaders ..... 21

XI Work in Cooperation with Other Agencies ..... 22

    Schools ..... 22

    Soil Conservation ..... 23

    Health Department ..... 23

    Welfare ..... 23

XII Appraisal of Year's Work ..... 23

III County Situation As It Affects The Program

Charles City and New Kent Counties are both rural counties lying in the Tidewater section of Virginia between the James River and Pamunky River and separated by the Chickahominy River. These two counties are entirely rural with only one village serving as the business center for the two counties. Here farmers bring grain to recently constructed grain elevators and can shop for groceries and hardware. The population of both counties is small and scattered. In Charles City about eighty-five percent of the population is negro. In New Kent County about fifty percent of the population is negro.

The main sources of income in Charles City and New Kent are derived from agriculture, timber and fishing. The farming is varied with grain, beef cattle, dairy and poultry the main types. Grain elevators located at Providence Forge are a great convenience for local farmers. Industry within these two counties is limited to sawmilling and the manufacture of wood products; however, both men and women work in industry in nearby cities. People from Charles City and New Kent commute to Richmond, West Point, Newport News, and Williamsburg for work.

The majority of white homes in both counties are comfortable standard homes. Having been a part of the early settlement in Virginia, there are many historical homes located in this area. Some of these homes are opened to the public. As in any other section, there are some sub-standard homes, however, only a small percent of the white homes would fall in this category. Each county has a consolidated white school for both elementary and high. In Charles City the entire white school population is only one hundred and forty-five. In New Kent there

are four hundred and eleven white students. Negro elementary schools are scattered throughout both counties, however, they do have consolidated high schools. Because of a small Indian population a third school system is necessary. One consolidated elementary school serves the Indian race in both counties. Indian high school students are sent to Oklahoma, the State paying the tuition.

There is a well staffed health department with a clinic located at Providence Forge serving both Charles City and New Kent. Each county has it's own health nurse and clerk but share a health officer and sanitation officer. There are few doctors in this area and civic organizations are working on the possibilities of locating a new doctor for either or both counties.

The churches serve as a nucleus for many social groups. There are several youth organizations which work through the churches. Many of the churches have made improvements in their buildings or made additions in order to help serve the larger membership.

IV Contributions Of The 1953 Program To Better Family Living

The 1953 program was planned to help the homemaker and entire family to raise their standards of living. The home demonstration program was built mostly around the care of the homes, such as care of household equipment, making simple electric and plumbing repairs, restoring picture frames and making lampshades. The federation goal on health was chosen by the home demonstration clubs with the hope of improving the health condition for their own families and for the entire county.

The 4-H girls studied good grooming and meal planning. In

the good grooming project the aim was to help the girls have more poise and self-confidence. The girls studying meal planning and food preparation wanted to learn to help their families with their food problems.

Through the health program, taken as the federation goal by the home demonstration clubs, many phases of health were studied. Probably the most outstanding accomplishment of this program was the establishment of home economics in the high school curricular. The home demonstration health committee of New Kent County felt that by getting to the young girls with information on nutrition much could be done to improve the diets of the people. This had been pointed out as our number one health problem in the county through the health department.

Probably the next most successful program carried with the adults was the project on making lampshades. Approximately seventy-five lampshades were made at club meetings and many women have reported that they have been restoring more lampshades since the program was carried in the club. This has helped to freshen the furnishings in the homes. Also the program on restoring picture frames was well taken and approximately fifty frames were refinished at club meetings. The agent feels that this type of program will carry over and that the knowledge gained on this subject will be helpful for years to come.

The program on caring for household equipment is another program which the agent feels had much value, however, it is difficult to measure results on this type of project. Women seem to realize that it is going to become increasingly difficult to replace their household equipment and have shown much interest in learning to care for it in a

34  
72

-4-

way that will prolong it's life. Making simple electric and plumbing repairs was also well received but difficult to measure results.

V Adult Work

A Project Work

1. House Furnishings

The programs carried under house furnishings included club workshops on making lampshades, restoring picture frames and making winter flower arrangements. Leaders were trained in making lampshades and restoring picture frames. With the help of the agent, material for the lampshades was bought cooperatively. At the club meetings women brought their old shades which needed to be covered. The leaders with the help of the agent helped the women present to select material, cut their new shade and fasten it to the frame. Instructions were given the month before on how to prepare the frame and what materials to bring to the club meeting. There were approximately seventy-five lampshades made at regular club meetings. Some groups assembled later to make more shades. The agent gave information about making lampshades on the radio and an exhibit was made at the Tidewater Fair, showing how lampshades were constructed. From this extra publicity, requests came to the agent from outside the county for information on materials and construction.

Leaders also helped with the workshops on restoring picture frames. Women were given instructions before the workshop was held on what to bring to the meeting. About fifty frames were cleaned, painted or otherwise restored at the club meetings. Some women who did not bring picture frames to the meeting requested information for refinish-

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34  
303

ing their frames at home. Printed literature was given to those who requested it. Information was also given on the use of pictures, how and where to hang them and type of pictures suitable for various places.

The demonstrations on making winter flower arrangements were given by the agent. Club members brought materials from which to make arrangements or brought arrangements already made to the club meetings. The agent collected material for this demonstration throughout the summer. Since this program was held later in the club year, it is impossible to judge the results of the program, however, much interest was shown by the women and approximately thirty arrangements were made at club meetings. With this as a beginning, the agent feels that there will be more attractive winter bouquets in the homes as a result of this program.

Furniture and trays were stenciled which might be considered a part of the home furnishings program, however, this will be discussed in detail under rural arts.

One club had a workshop meeting to reseat stools and chairs. Eight pieces of furniture were completed at this meeting.

Twenty-five women from Charles City and New Kent attended a color clinic in Richmond which was sponsored by a local department store and a farm magazine. These women will act as leaders in bringing information to the club women.

2. Housing

Two regular hosedemonstration programs and one clinic was held in the housing field. Leaders were trained for the program on

care of household equipment and making electric and plumbing repairs. Representatives from a local power company trained the leaders for the demonstration on the care of household equipment. The leaders did a very good job in carrying the information to club members. They used small appliances to show certain methods in cleaning and care of cords. For larger equipment the information was given verbally and printed literature was given to the club members.

The leaders also gave good demonstrations on making simple repairs in the home. They taught the women how to repair an electric cord, how to replace a washer in a faucet and other small repair jobs which can be done by most anyone with simple tools.

In May a carpentry school was held by a specialist from VPI. As a result of this school nine lawn chairs, two bookcases and two night stands were made. If other articles have been made since the clinic, the agent has not received the report.

There have been twelve families helped by the agent and specialist on housing problems within the counties. These problems have varied from simple repair jobs to remodeling.

3. Clothing

There were no regular home demonstration club meetings on clothing, however, a very successful tailoring clinic was held in Charles City County in March. At this clinic three coats and a suit were made and one coat and two suits were renovated. The agent held this clinic with the help of a leader. Machines were brought to the meeting place and all day classes were held. Some of the garments which were made were displayed at the achievement program in October.

Three of the women who made new garments had done very little work with woven articles and the results they obtained were outstanding in the opinion of the agent.

In February the club program was on making articles from feed bags. While this was not entirely in the clothing field, the majority of the articles made were clothing. The agent gave this demonstration, taking with her a kit of approximately a dozen articles made from bags. Each woman was asked to bring at least one article which she had made or had on hand. Ideas were exchanged in this manner and many of the women exchanged patterns also. Emphasis was not put on how to make but rather on ideas.

#### 4. Rural Arts

One of the most successful and worthwhile rural arts projects ever carried in the adult work here was the program on stenciling trays and furniture. Leaders were trained for this demonstration. At the training meeting, leaders prepared stencils and learned the procedure for gilt stenciling on metal or wood. Because this was a rather difficult project, the agent helped the leaders in all the clubs except one. Women were given instructions well ahead of time on how to prepare their article which they wanted to stencil. All day workshops were held in five clubs. Supplies were bought cooperatively through the leaders. Approximately seventy-five articles were stenciled at these club meetings. About fifty articles have been reported made since these workshops were held. There was a wide selection of articles on exhibit at the achievement program in October. Some of the articles which were decorated were chairs, waste baskets, boxes, flat irons, trays and canister sets. Due to the methods in which

these articles had to be finished. this part of the job had to be done at home. Judging from those on exhibit at the achievement program, the agent believes that the majority of the articles decorated were finished properly.

5. Food

Less time was spent on the study of the food project this year than has been done in the past. At the December club meeting, leaders gave demonstrations on cake decoration with emphasis on decorating cakes for Christmas. These leaders were trained by home economists from the local power company.

In April the agent gave demonstrations on freezing foods. While the women had had programs on this previously, they felt that there were many things on which they needed to be brought up to date. Emphasis was put on freezing pre-cooked foods and better planning for the use of the freezer. Included in the demonstration was how to freeze eggs and how frozen eggs might be used for cooking. Many of the farm people have a surplus of eggs in the spring when the price is low and also a surplus of pullet eggs in the fall for which there is no ready market. These can be used to a better advantage if frozen and used when eggs are high. A general discussion was held on the use of the freezer and how to care for it. More and more women are buying freezers and they are anxious to get the best use from them. The agent estimates that about sixty families changed practices because of this demonstration.

6. Landscare

While no general program has been held on landscaping, the agent has made visits to nine homes to give individual advice on

the problem of planning the yard. Two of these homes were new homes. The balance of them were old homes in which the owner wished to make some improvements. In several cases the agent helped the owner draw a plan on paper for planting the yard.

B Other Activities

1. Participation Of An Outstanding Family

The Roger Gregory's of the Tunstall community have probably done the most outstanding work with the extension service in New Kent County. Mrs. Gregory is a member of the home demonstration club and has served as a leader for several projects. She has had a number of all day meetings at her home, one being held this year. She has also helped to serve as project leader for 4-H club members in her community. Mrs. Gregory has made a number of improvements in her home including the remodeling of her kitchen, adding a downstairs bathroom and a utility room. She has served willingly as a result demonstrator on this project.

Mr. Gregory is an up-to-date farmer, raising mostly beef cattle and grain. He serves on the FMA committee and is active in the Soil Conservation District. Mr. Gregory is also an active member of the one hundred bushel corn club and has made a good record with his corn crops. In the past he has helped sponsor the 4-H club work in the community.

Two boys and one girl in this family are members of the 4-H club. Betty, whose work has been carried under the home demonstration agent's supervision, has done excellent work, though she is only eleven years old. She has carried and completed a clothing pro-

ject and a house furnishings project. In the house furnishings project she resented several chairs and made a magazine rack. She attended camp this year.

## 2. Community Project

The Eltham and Quinton Home Demonstration Clubs organized community centers last year with the idea of building community houses.

Each of these communities has worked diligently this year to continue their projects. It is important that it be understood that these communities are rural with only a few people to carry on the work. Each group has constructed their building on land which was purchased by the organizations. The insides of the buildings have not been completed. The men in the communities have done much of the labor, however, all of the masonry work had to be hired.

The Charles City Citizens Association is an organization made up of families in Charles City County. The purpose of this group is to improve living conditions in the county. In 1953 the association worked toward the improvement of the telephone situation, road improvement, improvements in agriculture and the beautification of the county courthouse. Remodeling work has been done on the courthouse and some improvements have been made in cleaning up the grounds. Through the road committee, route five, from Richmond to Williamsburg has been landscaped and is much improved.

## 3. Federation Goal Activities

Health was carried this year as the federation goal in the home demonstration clubs. This goal was chosen because the women felt the need of an improved health situation in the counties. There are

few doctors available and it was felt that families needed to take more precautions to prevent sickness by having physical examinations. The health committee held a general meeting in which local doctors and county health nurse participated. The health nurse brought out the fact that poor nutrition was one of the many causes of sickness in the counties. The doctors present all agreed that more doctors were needed to help serve this area. As a result of the statement on the nutritional condition, the health committee of New Kent set out to establish a home economics department in the high school in order that more young people might be reached with nutritional information. Through the untiring efforts of Mrs. C. L. Fisher and Mrs. M. J. Hoover, health committee chairmen, this goal was accomplished.

The Charles City health committee has worked diligently to obtain a doctor and has enlisted the efforts of the Charles City Enterprises. Through these two groups it is hoped that a doctor will be secured to serve soon in the county.

Another vital fact brought out by the doctors in the community was that such disease and sickness could be prevented, especially in women, by having physical examinations once a year. This was set up as one of the goals of the counties. Approximately fifty percent of the women have had physical examinations this year. This goal will be taken next year also.

Another goal set by the committee was to have each club member have a chest X-ray. Only about fifty percent of the women reached this goal.

As a part of the regular club meetings each club health

Chairman brought information to the clubs about the work of the Virginia Council on Health and Medical Care. Studies were also made about cancer and TB and reports were brought to the clubs from the health meetings held at the Institute of Rural Affairs. A discussion was held in each club on safety in the home. The agent with the help of leaders gave a radio talk on this subject.

4. Achievement Day

The home demonstration clubs planned a family night affair for their achievement program this year. The program included a supper, entertainment and a speaker on medical achievement. This subject was chosen since health has been the federation goal. This program proved very successful. There were about two hundred people in attendance, both men and women. This was an unusually large crowd for a home demonstration achievement program.

5. County Objectives

Only two objectives were set this year by the home demonstration clubs. The first of these was to promote 4-H club work by providing leaders and assisting in training. While the clubs did not participate one hundred percent in this objective, much improvement was made in the sponsorship of club work. In the Tunstall Home Demonstration Club, two members volunteered to serve as leaders and did an excellent job with the 4-H club in that community. In the Witham Home Demonstration Club, two members helped with the 4-H club work. Through the efforts of the home demonstration club members, a leader was also obtained for the Lanex 4-H Club.

The second objective set by the home demonstration committee

was to study the birds of Virginia by devoting five minutes of each meeting to the discussion of one bird. This goal was reached almost one hundred percent. There were a few meetings at which this report was omitted, however, there was a discussion at most of the club meetings. The agent feels that the women gained much through these discussions.

VI Four-H Club Work

A Project Work

1. Food And Nutrition

There were twenty-eight girls enrolled in the foods and nutrition project in 1953. These girls were enrolled in two clubs. This project was chosen because the girls were interested in learning how to plan and prepare meals. In one of the clubs, a leader did much of the project work with the girls, meeting with them each month. These were young girls, but did very good project work. The Providence Forge 4-H Club was made up mostly of older girls and all of the project instruction was given by the agent. Twenty-one girls completed this project, reporting over twelve hundred dishes being prepared and more than seven hundred meals served.

2. Clothing

Forty girls enrolled in clothing project Unit I, "Looking your Best." The girls choosing this project felt that they needed some helps in personal improvement. These girls were enrolled in three clubs. Only one of these clubs had leaders. In this club the leaders took most of the responsibility for presenting the project instruction to the club members. In the other two clubs, the agent gave all of the

project instruction. Thirty girls completed this project.

There were sixteen girls enrolled in Unit II "Make or Remake." This project was chosen because the girls felt that they wanted and needed to learn more about planning their wardrobe and constructing some of their clothing. Since this project was begun late in the year, only five girls completed. This club will continue to carry this project for at least one more year.

3. Room Improvement

There were only twelve girls enrolled in the room improvement project. These girls were carrying this project because they had already begun work on some room improvement problems and wanted to continue work on these for another year. Ten of these girls completed their projects. There were twenty-five articles made or renovated and twelve rooms were improved because of the work done. Ten lamps were improved and three chairs had bottoms replaced. All of the project instruction was given individually by leaders and home agent.

B Other Activities

1. Camp

Eleven girls from Charles City and New Kent attended the district camp at Jamestown in August. This was a joint camp with three other Virginia counties and one county from North Carolina. The camp program was planned to give boys and girls training in recreation and leadership. There were organized classes in handicraft, forestry, folk dancing and song leadership. The experience of camping with an out-of-state group was an inspiration to our club members. The campers learned many new ideas about carrying a camping program. Square dancing

-15-

was a big attraction and these girls and boys from the counties are planning to help others to learn square dancing.

Only one girl from the counties attended the State 4-H Short Course at Blacksburg in June. She was very interested in club leadership work and in national affairs. She would have helped our clubs a great deal but unfortunately has moved from the county since attending the short course.

### 2. Contests

All girls taking 4-H projects were enrolled in county contests. The county winners were eligible to participate in the district contests in Richmond in March, however, due to sickness in one case and a wedding in another, neither of the two girls which had planned to enter these contests, were able to attend. The 4-H electric contest took place in September. The girl from New Kent who had won the county contest attended the 4-H Electric Congress in Richmond. This was a wonderful experience for the club girl and also for the agent.

### 3. Rural Life Sunday

Rural Life Sunday was observed at the Charles City High School in Charles City on May tenth. This service was a result of coordinated planning between all rural organizations including the ruritan club, 4-H clubs, boy scouts, WPA, home demonstration clubs, one hundred bushel corn club and farm bureau. People from both Charles City and New Kent were invited to attend. The guest speaker for the evening was Mr. Maury A. Hubbard, Executive Secretary of the Virginia Farm Bureau Federation. Approximately two hundred people attended.

#### 4. Fair

The Tidewater eight county Fair serves Charles City and New Kent Counties. Four-H club members exhibited products from their project work. One of the outstanding winners in the 4-H club department from Charles City was Jessie Mae Teach who won a number of blue ribbons in the clothing section and also in the baked goods section.

Educational exhibits are made by 4-H clubs in the eight counties participating. The 4-H group from New Kent made an exhibit on how to wire a lamp and how to make a lampshade. This exhibit won first place in the girls section and also won sweepstakes for the best exhibit at the fair. The exhibit showed the materials which were needed for making a lamp and shade and steps to follow in the construction. A completed lamp was shown also. The quality of the work in this exhibit was very good in the opinion of the agent.

#### 5. Community Activities

Charles City County was fortunate to have Chiyoeko Eto, a Japanese 4-H club delegate to visit with one of it's families for seventeen days. The J. C. Smith family in the Sandy Point Community enjoyed having Chiyoeko and did much to make her visit educational as well as pleasant. While in the county, Chiyoeko attended a 4-H club meeting, a home demonstration meeting and leaders' training meeting. The Smith's took her to visit at Jamestown 4-H Camp while a group was camping there. The agent feels that her visit to the county helped the local people to better understand the Japanese.

#### 6. Club Trips

Thirty 4-H club members, leaders and mothers took a bus

trip to Washington on July seventeenth where they took a sightseeing tour of several places of interest. The group went first to the White House where they saw the newly decorated home of the president. From there, the club members went to the Capitol. Here they attended the Senate and House of Representatives, and toured the entire Capitol. Other places of interest visited were the Botanical Gardens, Smithsonian Institute, Washington Monument, Lincoln Memorial and Arlington.

The Funstall 4-H Club went on a club picnic to a nearby lake. All club members, parents and friends were invited to attend.

#### 7. Young Men and Women's Work

Work with this group of young adults has been limited to cooperation with church groups, jr. woman's work and with individuals within the home demonstration clubs. The main objectives of the church groups are to promote church activities and to provide social and recreational opportunities. The home agent attends one church group regularly and assists with the program. The other church groups ask only for advice which the agent is glad to give, when possible. The jr. woman's club is a civic organization which has as it's goal many of the same things on which the home demonstration clubs work. The agent does not attend this club regularly but works with individuals in an advisory capacity. There are approximately eighteen women in this age group who attend the home demonstration club meetings.

VIII Scope Of Work

	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953
No. HD clubs or groups	13	14	12	10	9
Membership	270	220	152	187	184
No. 4-H clubs	8	8	7	5	6
Membership	101	122	82	58	24
No. YW groups	1	11	2	0	0
Membership	15	18	57	0	0
No. other families reached		260	600	500	500
No. of different families reached		704	779	693	693
No. community clubs				1	1
Membership				132	144

IX Function Of Organizations In 1953 Program

A County Home Demonstration Committee

The county home demonstration committee is made up of the home demonstration club presidents, program development leaders and other influential women. This group formulates the home demonstration club program. In the fall of 1952, this group met to make final plans for the 1953 program. Discussions had been held in the club meetings earlier in the summer. When the group met they brought their ideas from the clubs and together they made the program which all of the clubs agreed upon. With the help of the agent and district agent, the program calendar of demonstrations, special clinics, federation goal and other county activities were planned. Later this group met to check on the progress of the program and to make further plans to carrying out the work of the home demonstration clubs. It was at this meeting that plans were made for the achievement program, for delegates to attend the state and national meetings of the federation of home demonstration clubs.

The county home demonstration committee is an over-all planning group for all of the home demonstration clubs within the two counties. This group also helps to make plans for carrying out 4-H

club work.

X Leadership

A Contribution Of The Volunteer Leaders

1. Organizational

In the nine organized adult clubs in the two counties, there were thirty organizational leaders. These women are the officers of the clubs, including the presidents, vice-presidents, secretaries, and treasurers. This group of women conduct all of the business of the home demonstration clubs. There are three committee groups organized with twenty-six organizational leaders including presidents, vice-presidents, secretaries, treasurers and members of the board of directors. The six 4-H clubs have eighteen organizational leaders who take care of the business procedures of the clubs. In addition to these club officers, there were several women who served in the home demonstration committees and helped plan the work for the clubs.

2. Program Development Leaders

Each home demonstration club has a program development leader whose job it is to help plan the program for the counties which will meet the needs of the people and to help develop this program as the year progresses. Training was given these leaders individually at club meetings and as a group at the spring meeting of the home demonstration committee. These women held at least one discussion in each club to help the members see their needs and to help each woman get a better picture of the committees' situation. These leaders attended the county planning meeting and presented the ideas from the clubs. The program was developed from the suggestions brought by these leaders.

3. Subject Matter Leaders

In the nine home demonstration clubs there were ninety subject matter leaders and federation goal leaders who helped to carry information to club members through discussions and demonstrations. There were five training meetings held for subject matter leaders. Seventy-four attended these meetings. After these training classes were given, leaders went back to their clubs and gave or assisted with the demonstration. Leaders held twenty-four meetings during the year without the assistance of the agent. One hundred and ninety-eight talks and discussions were given by leaders at regular club meetings.

Leaders in the home demonstration clubs gave demonstrations on decorating cakes, care of household equipment, making simple electric and plumbing repairs, tray and furniture stenciling, restoring picture frames and on health. Leaders also assisted the agent with demonstrations on making lampshades and winter bouquets. One woman assisted the agent with the tailoring clinic in Charles City in the spring.

The federation goal leaders on health gave fifty-three talks at club meetings and at other meetings. These leaders planned and carried out the goals discussed under V-B-Federation Goal Activities.

Six women helped with the project leadership in the 4-H clubs. These women were trained individually and met with the groups of girls and gave them project instruction.

B Growth Of Leadership By Project Leaders

<u>ED Club Project Leadership</u>	<u>1949</u>	<u>1950</u>	<u>1951</u>	<u>1952</u>	<u>1953</u>
No. project leaders (subject matter)	59	96	96	75	81
No. goal chairmen				9	9
No. training meetings held by specialist by agent	4 1	4 1	3 3	2 3	3 2
Attendance at all training meetings	82	67	62	79	74
No. club meetings held by leaders without agent present	29	32	24	34	24
No. additional club meetings at which leaders assisted	118	125	96	84	72
<u>Growth of 4-H Club Project Leadership</u>					
No. adult project leaders	6	8	10	8	6
No. junior project leaders	3	3	4	3	6
No. training meetings held by specialist by agent	1 1	1 1	22	1 2	0 2
Attendance at leader training meetings	2	3	8	16	12
No. 4-H leaders trained individually	5	7	14	4	6
No. club meetings held by leader without agent present	9	13	24	4	8
No. of additional club meetings at which leaders assisted			24	11	14
No. demonstrations given by leaders by adults by juniors	14 12 2	13 10 3	48 36 12	23 15 8	28 19 9

C Activities Of Outstanding Leaders

Mrs. M. J. Hoover, who is a fairly new resident of New Kent County has shown outstanding interest in the extension program this year. She joined the home demonstration club in the summer of 1952, as a bride. She immediately became interested in the work and was a ready volunteer

for many of the jobs which needed to be done. She accepted the leadership of a group of 4-H club girls in her community and met with them each month, bringing them project instruction and helping them plan and carry out their club activities.

In addition to her 4-H club leadership, she volunteered to serve as co-health chairman for the federation goal in New Kent County. Working with Mrs. C. L. Fisher and the other federation goal leaders, she helped to arrange for a county wide meeting of doctors and other persons interested in the health situation. She helped to make plans for a county wide meeting of home demonstration club members on the subject of health. At this meeting, she brought a report from the county health committee and arranged for speakers. She has also arranged for nutritional discussions to be held at New Kent High School. Mrs. Hoover also helped with a radio talk in which she participated with Mrs. Fisher and the home agent.

XI Work in Cooperation With Other Agencies

A Schools

During the school year, the agent works very closely with the principals and teachers of the two white schools. Although the 4-H clubs are not a part of the school program and not held during school hours, school facilities are frequently used. Meetings are often held in the school after school hours and special programs are presented in the school. The newly developed home economics department in New Kent School is a direct outgrowth of efforts of the home demonstration club members. The home economics teacher is a former home demonstration club member and is very cooperative with this and the 4-H club program.

• B Soil Conservation

The agent works with the soil conservation service in helping to promote more interest in conservation through the home. She has encouraged farm families to participate in the soil conservation program. The agent worked with the soil conservationist in preparing a radio broadcast for WBSL.

C Health Department

Through the health program carried by the home demonstration clubs, close contact was kept with the health department. The health nurses of both counties were invited to participate in the discussion at health committee meetings. Information on regular clinics was given in the home demonstration year book and also dates were given in the year book for the X-ray clinics which were held in the two counties. Special publicity was also given for a rabies clinic, held in November.

D Welfare

The welfare department and extension service keep in touch although there are few opportunities to work together. The 4-H and home demonstration clubs prepared Christmas baskets for families whose names were provided by the welfare department.

XII Anniversary Of Year's Work

The agent feels that the extension program has been helpful to the people who have participated. Through work with the 4-H clubs, the agent and leaders have been able to give to the younger girls of the counties, such information which will be helpful to them now and in the future and also have helped them to bring information into their homes which might raise their standard of living. Although the membership is

small in the 4-H clubs, the agent feels that good project work has been done and that these members have derived information which will benefit them through the years.

Home demonstration club members have shown increased interest in club work through their participation in regular meetings and extra club activities. This year for the first time a delegate was sent from the counties to the national home demonstration club meeting with expenses paid. Through this and other outside activities, the women are showing their interest in the program. Leaders are continuing to take an active part in the program.

The agent feels that the 1953 program was well made and offered homemakers an opportunity to learn many new and improved methods of doing everyday jobs. It has also given them opportunities to cooperate in civic affairs and to participate in community activities. There have been programs to help the women learn ways of turning leisure hours into interesting and profitable time. It is felt that through the program held during 1953 that the women and girls participating have gained much toward helping them to become better homemakers and better citizens.

Page 6—Section Two

### HDC Items

By MILDRED PAYNE

H. D. Agent, Charles City and New Kent

The weather is warm now which means special care should be given to milk and eggs. If you have your own eggs they should be gathered early and cooled quickly then kept in a cool place. You should market them at least once a week. A basement is an excellent place to store your eggs while waiting to be marketed.

Eggs bought at the store are probably already at least a week old, so care should be taken to see that they are put in a cool place immediately and kept under refrigeration until used.

Likewise, milk should have special care during warm weather. At milking time be sure that your pail is sterilized and when the milk is brought to the house, cool it quickly, with running water if possible. As soon as the milk is cool it should be placed in the refrigerator. Milk bought from a dairy should be put in the refrigerator as soon as possible and kept there. Do not let it remain at room temperature for any length of time.

When any milk is left unused on the table, do not pour it back into the bottle. Put it back into the refrigerator in its secondary container. When the bottle or pitcher is empty, rinse with cool water, then wash it. Bottles should always be returned to the dairy in clean condition.

Charles City is very fortunate in having a guest from Japan to spend two weeks in her county. Miss Chiyoko Eto, a representative from the International Farms Youth Exchange Project, will arrive June 1st to spend two weeks with Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Smith and family at Holdercroft.

Miss Eto is interested in learning how the rural people live in America. She is most interested in 4-H activities and other rural youth organizations. In 1952 she was a prefectural representative to the National 4-H Congress in Tokyo. She is president of her 4-H Club in Japan. I hope that she will be able to take Miss Eto with me to some of the meetings during this two week period.

### HDC Items

By MILDRED PAYNE

H. D. Agent Charles City and New Kent

A tailoring class is being organized in Charles City on Feb. 20. This first meeting will be held at 2 P. M. at the Memorial Methodist Church. Making a tailored suit is not as difficult as many women think, however, it does require certain skills in sewing. It would not be advisable for anyone to attempt to make a suit unless she has had a good bit of experience in construction.

If we want to obtain that custom made look, there are several precautions we need to take. First, be sure that your material is pre-shrunk. This includes your interfacing and lining. There are certain findings which are necessary for a well made suit, tailors tape for the lapels, shoulder pads, seam tape and button hole twill. If you are making worked button holes, are all items that should be on your shopping list. Careful pressing is very necessary. This must be done as we go along. Of course fitting must be done carefully in order to have that well tailored look.

There is room for two more in the class which is being organized in Charles City. If you think that you would like to make a suit, come to this first class. You need only to bring your tape measure, pencil and paper.

The Tunstall 4-H Club will meet on Feb. 26 after school Mrs. M. J. Hoover and Mrs. Charles Evelyn are the leaders for this group and they will give demonstration and discussions on the Care of the Skin. The project that the girls are carrying this year is Good Grooming. They have learned to wash their sweaters, put hems in their skirts, and how to care for their hands and hair.

Leaders Training Meeting—Mr. C. D. Wheary will be at Providence Forge on Feb. 23 at 10:30 A. M. to train the housing leaders for the demonstration on simple electric and plumbing repairs in the home. Housing leaders from each of the clubs in Charles City and New Kent will attend this meeting and will, in turn, give this demonstration at their club meetings in March.

The Glenda's Home Demonstration Club will meet Feb. 24 at 2 P. M. at Willis Methodist Church. Demonstration, articles made from feed bags.

The Quinton Home Demonstration Club will meet on Feb. 25 at 2 P. M. at Mrs. Bill Moran's. Club members will bring feed bags, apron patterns, and sewing necessities.

Thursday, May 21, 1953

## HDC Items

By MILDRED PAYNE

H. D. Agent, Charles City  
and New Kent

More farm people should be enjoying the benefits of water under pressure. While electric water systems is one of the most valuable uses of electricity on the farm, users often fail to receive the most benefits because of improper selection and installation of equipment.

Many costly mistakes can be avoided by doing some careful planning. Three common errors pertain to the source of water, selection of the pump, and protecting the system from freezing.

The source of water should be pure, adequate and dependable. Farmers are urged to determine the flow of this spring or well before buying an automatic pump. Water sources that have supplied enough water by hand methods may be pumped dry when a power outfit is installed.

Be careful not to buy a pump too small for the job. The capacity of the pump can only be determined after a "careful analysis of both present and future water requirements." The pump selected should be capable of supplying the daily needs for water in two hours of operation. A smaller outfit will be overworked, which will result in fewer years of satisfactory service. Various types and sizes of water systems are available to meet individual needs.

Many pumping outfits are not protected against freezing and damage. Good protection for the pump will minimize repair bills and will increase the useful life of the system. The pump location should be frost-proof, and it should be well drained and ventilated. Some systems can be installed in basements, others must be placed in a pit or in a pump house. If a structure must be built, a pump house is recommended.

A reliable source of water and a pump of adequate capacity, with a good protection against freezing and damage, is the very heart of a farm water system. After the requirements of these steps have been met, the water can be piped to points of use as needs develop and finances permit.

### Meetings Next Week:

May 23, 9:30 A. M., to 4 P. M., Carpenter School to be held in Masonic Hall.

May 26, 2 P. M., Glendale Home Demonstration Club to meet at Willis Methodist Church.

May 28, 3:30 P. M., Busy Beavers 4-H Club, to meet with Patsy Westmoreland.

May 29, 3:30 P. M., Charles City Jr. 4-H Club to meet at school.

## HDC Items

By MILDRED PAYNE

H. D. Agent Charles City  
and New Kent

The Home Demonstration Club leaders are doing a good job this month with the demonstration in household mechanics. Leaders in the BARNETTS, SANDY POINT, ROXBURY, MILLWOOD and QUINTON Home Demonstration Clubs have already given these demonstrations.

The Quinton leaders did double duty since the Quinton and Tunstall Clubs met together this month. They had their combined meeting at the Providence Methodist Church, Tuesday, March 17. Some of the jobs which have been demonstrated have been putting in window panes, sharpening and adjusting shears, patching a plaster wall, repairing a faucet, replacing loose wooden screws, patching small holes in water pipes and other small repair jobs around the house. Did you know, for instances that a loose wood screw can be easily remedied by packing the hole with steel wool and replacing the screw.

The County Home Demonstration Committee met yesterday to check up on this year's program and to make further plans for the balance of the year. A report was given of the health work and plans were made for attending the District meeting to be held in Richmond on May 6.

Two new 4-H clubs are being organized in New Kent County as a result of the recent celebration of 4-H Club Week. The Lanexa group which met Tuesday will be composed of boys and girls between the ages of 10 and 14. A group of girls in Eltham, 14 and over, will have their first meeting on April 1. Parents of those girls and boys are urged to help them with their club projects.

### Club Meetings

Charles City Junior 4-H Club will meet Friday, March 20, with Jolly Fisher.

The Glendale Home Demonstration Club will meet at Willis Methodist Church on March 24 at 2 P. M.

Leaders will give the demonstration on Household Mechanics.

Charles City Senior 4-H Club will meet on March 25 at the school after school. The demonstration will be on cleaning and pressing a wool skirt.

The Busy Beavers 4-H Club will meet with Betty and Patsy Couch on Thursday, March 26. Mrs. M. J. Hoover and Mrs. Charlie Evelyn are their leaders.