

STATISTICS HOME DEMONSTRATION WORK

WHITE AGENTS

1921.

REPORT
of
HOME DEMONSTRATION WORK
in
VIRGINIA FOR 1921.

In spite of financial conditions and the general feeling of depression in the whole South, the outlook for Home Demonstration Work in Virginia is much more encouraging than it was a year ago. When work was begun January 1, 1921, there were 22 counties having Home Demonstration Agents. Bath, Alleghany, Westmoreland and Frederick Counties failed to make appropriations in December 1920. It is pleasing to report that these same 22 counties are at this date still continuing the work, and four new counties have made appropriations. All of the new counties, too, have started the work with appropriations as large as any ever made in the State. Three of the four new counties are in "The Southwest", a section of the State where very little interest has ever been shown in Home Demonstration Work. The interest is growing not only in this section of the State but also in other sections. From present prospects, there is every reason to believe that other counties will make appropriations early in the coming year. The greatest difficulty is in securing the proper women to do Home Demonstration Work. It is my opinion that in most instances where appropriations are not continued the inefficiency of the Home Demonstration Agent has been the cause. This inefficiency is due mainly to lack of training, lack of supervision by the administrative officers, and a proper vision of what Home Demonstration Work is.

In order to overcome these difficulties in holding counties when once the appropriations have been secured, the following plan has been put into practice this year:

First, three District Agents were selected from among our own county home demonstration agents--agents who had been successfully carrying on every phase of our work in the counties in which they were working--and put in charge of three of the districts. We have as yet no District Agent for "The Southwest".

Secondly, a few counties have been shifted from one district to another because it was thought that for local and personal reasons one district agent was better suited to cope with conditions than another.

Thirdly, instead of putting an agent who has had no training directly in a county and having the district agent work with her there, we have selected women who gave promise of being good home demonstration agents, have given them a small salary, and have put them in counties to work with experienced agents.

Several of these prospective agents have for various reasons proved unsatisfactory and were dropped without ever being put in charge of counties. At this date six agents, whom we have trained in counties with our good agents, are in charge of home demonstration work in six counties, and without exception they are making good. We now have three prospective agents in training, two of whom will be placed in counties as soon as there are counties open in which they are suited to work. These agents are not being placed indiscriminately in charge of counties as openings occur, but are being placed where they are best adapted to local conditions.

The plan as outlined above has as far as tried out been most satisfactory. The six agents are developing personally and developing the work in such a way that counties heretofore considered doubtful are doing some of the strongest work in the State, and are interesting adjoining counties in securing home demonstration agents.

The work in James City County has for the past two years been most unsatisfactory. Except for the fact that previous to these two years strong work had been done here and the people knew what the work meant to a county, the county

would have been lost to the work. However, new agents, new and district, are now in charge and prospects for good results in this county are encouraging.

Except that new agents replaced the three agents who have been made district agents, and the agents in the four new counties, one of whom is a former Virginia home demonstration agent, and the new agent in James City County there has been only one other change in the personnel of the county home demonstration agent force. That is in Augusta County. The agent there was taken suddenly ill the first of August, and is still unable to report for duty, possibly will never be able to take up the work again. One of our prospective agents was sent to this county; put in charge of county work sooner than was desired; but is making good as note the following extract taken from a report just sent to me by the chairman of the Board of Supervisors.

"At a meeting of the Board of Supervisors for Augusta County, December 1st, 1921.

'A Number of petitions were presented signed by tax-payers and citizens of Augusta County, requesting the Board to abolish the offices of the Director of the Department of Health, the Agricultural Demonstrator and the Home Demonstration Agent. A number of petitions were also presented signed by tax-payers and citizens of Augusta County, requesting the Board to continue the said three offices. On motion and by unanimous vote of the Board, it is ordered that for the reasons hereinafter stated, the petitions requesting the abolishment of the said three offices, be and the same are hereby denied.

HOME DEMONSTRATION AGENT

'From the reports made to this Board of the activities of this Department, the Board is fully convinced that this Department is doing a work that cannot be

considered in dollars and cents. This Department is charged with the teaching of home economics in the homes and schools of the County. Lectures as well as demonstrations are made in the schools of the County, clubs are formed over the County wherein young women are interested in the home, and taught a number of things that otherwise they would not be taught. In the clubs formed, the members are not only taught home economics, but also the raising of poultry.

'For the reasons briefly outlined above, the Board cannot acquiesce in the request for the abolishment of these offices at this time; and the Board is of the opinion that if the petitioners would familiarize themselves with the work of these three offices, considering the small cost of the maintenance, they would be fully convinced that it would be an unwise move to abolish them.'

Specialists.

The Home Economics Specialist in Foods began work June first, but was allowed all of July and half of August to attend summer school to finish work for a degree. She returned to work the middle of August, and we are planning more effective work in this line with both women and girls for the coming year.

The first of November our Home Economics Specialist in Clothing, a former District Agent, began work. This is a phase of work which needs developing in Virginia, and we are hoping by the end of another year to have this work well under way.

No Specialist in the Utilization of Milk and Milk Products has yet been appointed. Such a worker is much needed in the State, and it is hoped that a strong woman may be secured and the work again taken up next year.

The woman assistant in Poultry Husbandry has done most effective work with the women in the organized counties as well as assisting the Poultry Specialist in his most excellent work with the girls and boys. The Poultry Specialist will make a detailed report of this work, which I am sure will show the best work ever done in this department in this State.

The men specialists in various college and Extension Division departments always render valuable assistance to the Home Demonstration Department whenever called upon. The Dairy Department has been of very special assistance all during the past year.

NEW WORK

Though some good work has been done in gardens and small fruits in the past, this year finds us with plans all made and work begun in a more definite way and with better plans for handling this work and securing better results. It is hoped that garden clubs for both women and girls will result in the production of a greater variety of vegetables and a greater use of vegetables all the year in the homes of rural Virginia.

Demonstrations in the growing of small fruits by both women and girls has been definitely begun with a number of demonstrators in various sections of the State. It is hoped that this enterprise will result not only in the growing of small fruits sufficient for home use fresh and in winter, but that this demonstration will become a source of a steady income to many girls and women in the State.

Work in Bee Keeping has also been started through the Home Demonstration Agents in a few counties not only with women and girls but also with boys and men. The work is beginning to develop in a satisfactory way.

The work in gardens and small fruits is under the supervision of the Horticultural Department of the Extension Division and the College, and the work in Bee Keeping is carried on under the direction of the College department of Entomology by a student of the College working in this department.

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Present Home Demonstration Force

State Home Demonstration Agent
State Girls' Club Agent
Home Economics Specialist in Foods
Home Economics Specialist in Clothing
Three District Agents
Twenty-six County Home Demonstration Agents
Two Assistant County Home Demonstration Agents
Two Prospective Agents in Training

Publications

Except for the mimeograph sheets sent out from time to time throughout the year giving instructions in regard to some specific phase of work, nothing has been prepared for publication by the Home Demonstration Department. This lack of material for publication has not been from lack of need of such publications but because of lack of assistance. The shortage of Home Economics Specialists and District Agents for periods of time made necessary more time in the field and less time spent in the office by the State Agent, thus making it impossible that she do such work. Bulletins on some much needed subjects are now being prepared, which it is hoped may be published early in the coming year.

Each month the Assistant Poultry Specialist sends a letter to all Home Demonstration Clubs. These letters have aroused so much interest that it is planned to continue them and in addition the Specialist in Foods and the Specialist in Clothing will also send letters to the clubs. These letters are seasonal and are sent one month in advance in order that they may reach the club members in ample time to be of assistance.

The Agricultural Club Letter, a monthly publication devoted entirely to Girls' and Boys' Club Activities, is issued by the Extension Division under the direction of the Agricultural Editor. This little paper is doing much to stimulate the interest and growth of club work in the State. The boys and girls, members of the various clubs all over the State, contribute interesting articles about club and individual activities for each issue, while subject matter and instruction is contributed

by Specialists and others of the state force of Extension Workers.

Members of the Home Demonstration force contribute not only to the "Club Letter" but also to various State papers and to the "Extension Division News", a publication issued by the Extension Division devoted to the extension of demonstration work and to the interest of agriculture all over the State.

These two publications, "The Club Letter" and "The Extension Division News", are doing much toward giving the people of the State the proper information as to what demonstration really is.

Organizations

Organization proceeds from the individual to the group.

1. Demonstrators are individuals, not in organized clubs, carrying on certain work under the direction of the Home Demonstration Agent.
2. Home Demonstration Clubs are made up of women doing individual and community work in organization.
3. Girls' clubs are organized groups of girls designated by the type of work being done; as, Canning Club, Cooking Club, Sewing Club, etc.
4. Agricultural and Home Economics Clubs are composed of boys and girls working as demonstrators or as club members and may be county or community in scope.
5. Community clubs are made up of women and girls, men and boys, interested in community activities of any kind, amusements, community improvements, etc.
6. Advisory Boards are organizations for the promotion of demonstration work, and are made up of influential women from different districts of a county or of the officers of women's clubs.

In a number of counties some such organization is functioning more or less effectively, and efforts are being made to perfect such organizations in every county where there is a Home Demonstration Agent.

Short Courses

State, Tri-county, County and Community Short Courses for girls have been held where instruction was given in canning, cooking, bread making, gardening, poultry work, beekeeping, selecting and caring for a girl's clothing and the furnishing of her room and other rooms of her home.

A number of short courses have been held where instruction for women was given in care and feeding of children, the remodeling of clothing, millinery, selection of home conveniences and equipment, selection and preparation of food for the family, the preparation and packing of school lunches, food preservation, gardening, various phases of poultry work, care of milk, making and packing of butter, etc.

Fairs and Exhibits

The Home Demonstration Agents assisted with or held 41 community exhibits and poultry shows, and 15 county fairs in addition to the State Fair. There were 1,628 exhibits from club members and demonstrators of which number 1,307 received awards.

Scholarships and Prizes

A number of special prizes were offered this year for excellence in club work. Of special note are the six scholarships offered for excellence in girls' club work in Albemarle County by Mr. Paul G. McIntire of Charlottesville. The largest scholarship of \$500.00 is offered for best work in any club activity, and \$200.00 is given for each of the other five club activities in the county, making a total of \$2,000.00. These prizes are effective for the next two years also. Mr. McIntire is offering these prizes in order to stimulate interest in demonstration work for girls in Albemarle County because he believes the educational value of this work is of great benefit not only to the individual girls but to the county and State.

The Hazel-Atlas Glass Company of Wheeling, West Virginia, offered prizes to the canning club members of the State this year amounting to \$200.00.

The Home Demonstration Agents report 13 girls with scholarships attending high schools and colleges; and 124 attending school who are paying all or part of school expenses by money earned in demonstration work. They also report 284 as having money in bank, a large number of whom are saving this money toward college expenses.

There are still a few prizes not yet decided, but at this date, November 30, 1921, the Agents report \$7,716.11 as having been won by club girls.

Special Campaigns

A rat exterminating campaign is reported from one county. During this campaign lasting one week, 24 meetings were held in which 5,000 people took part; 2,000 homes and 10,000 people were reached. The campaign was carried on in a newly organized county, and did much to put Home Demonstration Work on a firm foundation.

Three counties report clean up campaigns. Each of these campaigns lasted one week. A total of 63 meetings were held, 2,200 people took part, 1,027 homes and 5,800 people were reached. Churches, schools and other public buildings and grounds were cleaned and beautified, and in one county alone 1,850 improvements were reported.

Many poultry culling campaigns have been carried on but no statistics have as yet been received at this office.

Girls' Club Work

Some of the best work ever done in the State in this phase of Home Demonstration Work has been done this summer in the Bread and Room Improvement Clubs. This work was started last year. The interest is growing rapidly, and except for the early days when work in canning was starting, no work has created so much interest and

enthusiasm or given the Home Demonstration Agents such opportunities for real help in the rural homes of the State as these two phases of work offer.

Detail reports of this work as well as all other phases of girls' club work will be given in the report of the State Girls' Club Agent.

Negro Work

The plan for carrying on the work with negro women and girls has been changed this year. Instead of having a large number of Local Home Demonstration Agents working a few months during the summer season only, it was decided last year to employ Local Home Demonstration Agents for 12 months. These women were to be put to work as soon as local appropriations, even though the appropriations were very small, could be secured. One agent began work in Amherst County March first, three agents began work in as many counties April first, a fifth agent went to work July first and two agents November first, making a total of seven Local Home Demonstration Agents and one Local District Agent, who has held this position for a number of years. These agents are without exception doing most excellent work. The negro people are anxious and eager for the work, and there is no lack of co-operation from them.

Summary of Personal Work of State Agent.

Visits to County Agents	-----	137
Boards met	-----	4
Short Courses attended	-----	3
Demonstrations visited	-----	93
Visits to unorganized counties	-----	12
Bulletins distributed	-----	13,480
Letters written	-----	3,986
Meetings attended	-----	137
Estimated attendance	-----	19,751
Miles traveled:		
Rail	-----	17,426
Auto	-----	1,474
Team, boat, st. car,	-----	147
Total miles traveled	-----	19,047

Respectfully submitted,

Mrs. M. M. Davis

State Home Demonstration Agent