

ANNUAL NARRATIVE REPORT

**COUNTY
EXTENSION
WORK**

Virginia Agricultural Extension Service

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1960

Prince Edward
County

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PRINCE EDWARD COUNTY

County Situation:

Prince Edward County is located in Southside Piedmont Virginia and contains 432 square miles. The land is rolling and the annual rainfall is generally adequate for the pursuit of a general diversified farming program. The chief sources of income are from tobacco, livestock, livestock products, poultry and truck crops. Employment is available to women which include domestic service, garment factories and laundries. The men are engaged in milling, railroading, tobacco, mining and wood working factories. A few of the women and men are engaged in professional jobs which include teaching and nursing.

According to the 1955 Preliminary Census of Agriculture, there were 1, 179 farms in Prince Edward County in which 510 are classified as non-white and a total of 182 non-white tenants are compared to the 1950 census which listed 1,340 farms of which 600 were classified as non-white, representing 489 owners and 111 tenants.

The population characteristics for Prince Edward are as follows:

Total rural farms.....	6,944
Total rural non-farms	4,079
Total rural	<u>11,023</u>
Total rural white.....	5,616
Total rural non-white	5,407
Total rural white & non-white	<u>11,023</u>
Total rural population.....	11,023
Total urban population	<u>4,375</u>
Total county population	<u>15,398</u>

A breakdown of white and non-white farms is not available. Non-white farms represent slightly less than 50% of the population.

The figures given were compiled from information secured from the March 1954 issue of the University of Virginia Newsletter, the United States census of Agriculture and office of the County Commissioner of Revenue.

There are seven 4-H Clubs with 79 boys and 103 girls for a total of 182 members. Twelve adult leaders assist with the 4-H Club program.

To arrive at the problem to be given attention for 1960, the general situation was studied with special attention to problems of the home.

We find that the main shopping center is about 20 miles from the farthest families with a majority living in a twelve mile radius. The family's food supply is produced on the farm except a few items that cannot be profitably produced locally. General merchandise stores are in easy reach of most families. There are no schools being operated in the county. The chief social activities of the family are carried on in the churches. There are fraternal orders and a few other out-lets for social group expressions. The farm family is caught in the cost price squeeze; that is the cost of production has not decreased in proportion to the decrease in the price of farm produce.

After a careful analysis of the above facts and other information brought out through discussions, home visits, surveys, and meetings the major phases of work for 1960 were chosen.

To arrive at the problem to be given attention in 1960, the general situation was studied with special attention given to the problems of the home and community. The main shopping center is about 20 miles from the farthest families with a majority living in a twelve miles radius. The food for the family is produced on the farm (largely) except for a few commodities that can not be profitably produced locally. General merchandise stores are in easy reach of most families. There are no public schools in the county. There are ten training centers in the different communities. This take the children away from home for only a few hours. Which make another problem for the family in this is food, clothing and transportation.

The chief social activities of the family are carried on in the churches. There are fraternal orders and a few other outlets for social group expressions. The farm family is caught in the cost price squeeze; that is the cost of production has not decreased in proportion to the decrease in the price of farm produce. Only a few of the homes have telephones. A car is a necessity for medical aid and transportation. There are 2 laundries few work in private homes and garment factory which is 20 miles away.

With careful analysis of these facts and other information brought out in discussions, home visits, surveys and meetings the major phasis of work for 1960 were chosen.

II. A. Subject matter and special emphasis areas.

COUNTY HOME DEMONSTRATION COMMITTEE

This committee is composed of the presidents and program development leaders of each club. The committee met four times this year to discuss problems, plan programs and analyze the county situation. The committee assisted in executing the program as planned for the year. The committee assisted in planning a program for the observance for National Home Demonstration Week, planning an educational tour to Jamestown, Virginia, selected delegates to the district Home Demonstration Committee Meeting, assisted in making program calendars for the year at the planning meeting. This committee worked with the Advisory Board on all agencies that will strengthen the county extension program.

The County Agricultural Advisory Board is the over-all county organization assisting the extension agents with organization planning and conducting of work in the county. Representatives are included from the Home Demonstration Committee, 4-H Clubs, leaders from non-farm groups and special interest groups are included. The Committee meets quarterly.

COUNTY EXTENSION PROGRAM - ADULT

B. Organization Subject Matter Special Emphasis Areas.

The home demonstration club committee met and the following projects were chosen:

1. Low cost and Low Calorie Desserts.

Objectives:

1. To be able to prepare desserts at a minimum cost and yet

not add too many calories.

2. To gain a better knowledge of preparing desserts for persons on a diet.
3. To gain a better knowledge of the uses of the number of non-calorie sweeteners that are found on the markets.

The low cost and Low Calorie Dessert training meeting was conducted by Mrs. Mary L. Thompson Extension Food Specialist From V.P.I. Blacksburg, Virginia.

The Local Home Agent assisted with the training meeting. A total of 22 club members and leaders attending this training meeting. Recipes and other information was given each person, a total of seven different desserts were prepared.

The project was selected by members who felt the need because so many club members are on diets and have to watch their calorie intake.

Club leaders passed the training they received to their respective club members as a result many of the club members reported the use of the recipes given them they were found to be very tasty and helpful.

2. Home made Mixes.

This project was selected because so many of the ladies work away from home and this would cut the time used to prepare a meal. At the same training meeting on Low Cost and Low Calorie Desserts, Mrs. Thompson also gave training in the use of Homemade mixes. Demonstrations were given in each club, bulletins were distributed

The members liked the demonstration and plan to always keep the mix on hand.

3. Farm and Home Safety.

The objective for this project:

1. To gain a better knowledge of how accidents can be prevented in and around the home.

Demonstrations and discussions were conducted in six clubs, pictures and posters were also a good teaching aid. Mr. L. L. Blows Local Farm Agent was guest speaker at one of the club meetings. His talk was Safety on the Farm and in the Home. Also the Local Home Agent prepared and passed out a check sheet for each club member to use as a guide in making the home a safe place in which to live. They were given a check sheet to take with them on a safety tour through the house; this was done in order that the homemaker herself would note some of the things in the home that may be a hazard or in hazardous condition. They were also shown pictures of different rooms and of the things that could be done to make them a safe place in the home.

4. Clothing

Clothing with emphasis on construction of simple garments and selection of patterns and of clothing were projects carried in clothing this year also The care of New Fabrics. Training Meetings were given leaders conducted by Miss Betty McClaskey Clothing Specialist from V.F.I. Blacksburg, Virginia.

The objectives for this project were:

1. To be able to select appropriate and becoming patterns and materials.

2. To be able to know when a garment is fitted properly.
3. To gain a better knowledge of how to care for some of the new fabrics on the market today.

As a result of information, training meetings and demonstrations given, club members reported definite changes in skills and techniques used in sewing. Approximately 190 garments were made during and after completion of the project at club meetings. Numerous household articles have been made also. All club members reported learning new methods of storing and caring for their clothing. The clothing project seem to have stimulated interest in non-club members as well as club members. As a result desires for organizing a new club has been expressed by other interested persons.

SIMPLIFY HOUSE CLEANING

Objectives

1. To gain a better knowledge of how to save time and energy in house cleaning.
2. To be able to do house cleaning better in less time.

A training meeting was held for all club leaders on this project that was conducted by Mrs. O'Brien. Method demonstrations were given, bulletins and mimeographed materials were distributed. Six home demonstrations clubs took part in the project. As a result they found out, you can make your house cleaning easier by studying the job so you can learn to do it in an easier better way in less time. Setting a standard for the appearance of the inside of your home is the first step in planning the cleaning and care it needs. They expressed the helpfulness this project had been to them.

HOOKEK RUGS

This project was selected because of interest shown by club members. They wanted to learn this mostly as a hobby because during the winter months so many of the ladies are home because of bad weather and they wanted a good educational hobby.

A training meeting was held for club leaders which was conducted by Miss Ruth Jamerson House Furnishing Specialist from V.P.I. Method demonstrations and bulletins were distributed designs were discussed and cut out from card board. A total of eighty-five home demonstrations club members met in six different clubs to get the skill in making the rugs. The ladies are enjoying doing the rugs and suggested this project for 4-H members too.

CARE OF ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT

Care of electrical equipment with emphasis on small appliances because of so many persons not caring for electrical equipment properly. The objectives for this project were:

1. To gain a better knowledge of how to care for equipment.
2. To help homemakers keep up to date with latest trends and development in major household equipment.
3. To help homemakers to consider the need before buying.

An Agents training meeting was held in Lynchburg, Virginia on consumer Education Technical knowledge and Economic Facts conducted by Mrs Ocie J. O'Brien and Miss Amelia H. Fuller Home Management Specialists of V.P.I. Blacksburg, Virginia. This training was to help agents get this type of information to homemakers. Method demonstrations were given in each club by the agent also pictures slides and discussions were given. One new book was ordered Young

Homemakers Equipment Guide by Louise J. Peet which proved to be very helpful in collecting information passed on to the homemakers.

As a result they are convinced that the life of electrical equipment depends on the care.

NATIONAL HOME DEMONSTRATION WEEK

National Home Demonstration Week celebration began by nineteen Home Demonstration club members and leaders attending the district meeting. One church program was sponsored by the new Bethel Home Demonstration Club this program was planned as a means for reaching more people. They took part in the Cancer Campaign a meeting was held for club members to discuss the Health of the community. The discussion was led by the county nurse. Two County-wide leader training meetings were conducted with specialist from V.P.I. The attendance was twenty-seven refreshments were served by the home Demonstration committee.

EDUCATIONAL TOUR

Thirty-eight (38) home demonstration club members, their families and friends went by chartered bus to Jamestown, Virginia. This place was chosen because it is historic as well as educational for tourists. Club members enjoyed their picnic lunches in the picnic area then they were taken on a guided tour of the island. This type of recreation is to be continued for another year.

FIVE COUNTY FAIR

The Five County Fair is held in the month of September each year. It give clubs and other interested persons to display some of the work they have accomplished during the year. It also serves

as a way of reaching more people.

FARM AND HOME DEVELOPMENT WORK

Farm and Home Development work is still progressing with a lot of improvements still to be made. Three new homes were built. One installed water under pressure. One basement was completed and painted. One purchased porch furniture, three painted kitchen and five purchased screens for windows and doors.

III. County Extension Program - Youth

A. 4-H CLUB WORK

There are seven 4-H clubs in Prince Edward County with 103 girls and 79 boys enrolled in 206 agricultural and homemaking projects. Assisting these members are twelve 4-H voluntary leaders. Some of the projects selected this year were as follows, So you'd like to Sew, Looking your Best, Home Improvement, Health, Safety and Meal Preparation. A total of fifty-three girls completed their projects.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

National 4-H club week was a busy one for all 4-H members. Two county programs were planned by leaders and carried out by 4-H members included on these programs was the 4-H candle lighting ceremony. As a result two 4-H Clubs were organized and leaders selected.

RURAL LIFE SUNDAY

Rural life Sunday was observed by two 4-H clubs. The Club members, leaders, and agents planned the two services. What 4-H Club work means to me was given by a panel discussion. The pastors of the churches and church officials made it known that the 4-H Clubs

were privileged to have this type of program or service at anytime.

4-H SHORT COURSE

Six girls and five boys attended the Short Course at Virginia State College. The purpose for attending the short course, to create more interest in 4-H club work. To be able to tell other boys and girls about opportunities in 4-H clubs and medals recieved, and to provide opportunity for association with 4-H members on a state wide basis.

WILD LIFE CONFERENCE

Four girls and three boys along with one adult leader attended the Wildlife Conference held at Virginia State College. Members were selected to attend this conference on the basis of interest in the conservation of natural resources. Delegates made reports of the conference in their respective clubs.

Approximately one hundred boys and girls met at Prince Edward Lake for their annual county wide picnic. They were given pamphlets and bulletins on Safety before their final plans were made for the picnic. As a result the girls and boys enjoyed the day without a single accident.

FAIR

Only a few 4-H members exhibited articles and produce at the fair because only a limited number of club members are left here in the county. One club made a poster on Safety which won a blue ribbon. Six 4-H'ers and the agent attended the Virginia State Fair. This gave these club members an opportunity to observe the Educational exhibits and see what other 4-H'ers are doing. With

the 4-H leaders and other interested persons the clubs are doing nicely even though it was discouraging because of the school situation. Many of the 4-H'ers have moved out of the county this accounts for the decrease in membership from last year.

	1958	1959	1960
No. H. D. Clubs	4	6	6
Membership	31	91	95
No. H. D. Groups * (unorganized)		2	1
Membership		13	13
No. 4-H Clubs	4	9	7
Membership	127	426	182
No. YMW Clubs			
Membership			
No. Community Clubs			
Membership			
No. Home Ec. Committees			
No. General Interest Committees			
No. Youth Committees			
No. other organization			
No. Farm & Home Dev. Families			5
No. Other families reached			
No. different families reached	173	272	273

*Report all groups that met 3 or more times a year

The Club members and leaders along with the agent help to pass along information to families and individuals not participating in organized home demonstration clubs. We also reach them by news articles, radio and by home visits.

LEADERSHIP

A. Growth of Leadership

1. Over-all program of leaders

Leaders are doing a very fine job on leadership. All leaders work diligently in executing their respective duties. There are some of the leaders who serve in more than one capacity such as Foods and Nutrition, Health, Family Life and Safety

	1958	1959	1960
a. County Agricultural Extension Service Board	<u>0</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>26</u>
b. Youth Council	—	—	—
c. Home Economic Council	—	—	—

2. Home Demonstration Club Leadership (Give in table below)

	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960
No. organizational leaders			12	18	19
No. project leaders (subject matter)				6	6
No. federation program of work chairmen					
No. program development leaders					2
No. result demonstrators					
No. training meetings by specialists			1	3	4
No. training meetings by dist. agents				4	4
No training meetings by agents					
No. training meetings by others					
Attendance at all training meetings					47
No. meetings held without an agent				3	4
No. Meetings leaders assisted					6
Demonstrations by leaders					6
Talks and discussions by leaders					13

3. 4-H Club Leadership (Give in table below)

	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960
No. club officers			10	22	56
No. adult project leaders			4	14	14
No. junior project leaders			4	6	6
No. result demonstrators					
No. training meetings by specialists					
No. training meetings by dist. agents					
No. training meetings by agent				4	4
No. training meetings by members club dent.					
No. training meetings by others					
Total attendance at ldr. tr. meetings					
No. 4-H leaders trained individually					12
No. club meetings held by ldr. without agent					
No. additional meetings at which leaders assisted				1	4
No. demonstrations given by adult ldrs.					4
No. demonstrations given by junior leaders					

OUTSTANDING LEADER

Mrs. Margaret A. Hill of the Hampden Sydney 4-H club also a member of the New Hope home demonstration club. Mrs. Hill participates in church activities sponsor and organizer of a community group of young people and uses her home as a standard meeting place unless other wise notified. She is also a member of the County Advisory Board and serves as Mistress of Ceremonies at many county-wide meetings.

In the absence of the agent Mrs. Hill takes charge of the meetings.

DEVELOPING GOOD PUBLIC RELATIONS

This is really a very essential part of the total extension program. I assist people outside of club members with their own individual and family problems. Help with promoting better community programs. Visit club members in their social club also take part in their church activities.

THE LOOK AHEAD

Reviewing the extension program for 1960 on the basis of contributing to better homemaking, rural living, improved practices, change of skills and attitudes and improved people the program was very successful. It is probably significant that the majority of the requests for assistance involved some phase of home improvement Foods and Nutrition, clothing, Safety, care of electrical appliances and family life.

Limitations affecting the program included lack of schools for space to have programs meetings and etc. A great number of 4-H club members and leaders have moved out of the county in order to attend school.

In light of these facts, in strengthening the extension program for 1961 more emphasis should be placed on 4-H Club work. Therefore more leaders must be trained in both home demonstration and 4-H club work. We must organize a leaders association.

It is the agents opinion that progress was made and the results of the program should result in better homemaking, better rural living, and improved people over the entire county.