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Notes

1954
PLAN OF WORK FOR

HOME DEMONSTRATION CLUBS IN
HALIFAX COUNTY
VIRGINIA

N. E. JENNINGS.....LOCAL HOME AGENT

I. COUNTY SITUATIONS AFFECTING 1955 PROGRAM

Agricultural ^{methods} and practices are undergoing changes which make it difficult for small farms and farmers to meet minimum requirements of agencies destined to help farmers. During the year a noticeable number of farms were lost completely or partially, because of large hospital and operation bills too heavy for the families to pay. On the other hand more and more farm homes are being equipped with electrical appliances and telephones, both of which are helpful aids in time and labor saving. Transportation facilities are different and much improved. These are some of the major local conditions and situations, guiding our program emphasis for the year.

II. ADULT PROGRAM

A.

1. HOUSE FURNISHINGS

OBJECTIVES: Help farm families recognize the basic principles of good furniture and furnishings and how to meet their house furnishings needs at the minimum cost.

PLANS: Our plans provide for one leader training meeting with State House Furnishings Specialists, who will give ~~us~~ method demonstration in the regular meetings. We plan to carry result demonstrations (at least three) in this line and use the tour as a means of continuous publicity.

2. HOME MANAGEMENT

OBJECTIVES: To arouse the interest of farm families in family security through more organized spending and getting

more and better health and medical protection through hospitalization and insurance.

PLAN: Hold one County-Wide Meeting for all types of leaders where representatives of reputable Hospitalization and Insurance Companies offering family protection will explain their plans to the leaders and they in turn may interpret the plans and possibilities to the families under their leadership. We plan an agent conference or small leaders meeting with our Home Management Specialist for additional help on Social Security for Farm Families and Leaders will be carried on through the year.

3. FOOD AND NUTRITION

OBJECTIVES: To get families to continue their interest in studying food trends and situations with the aim of being timely producers, healthy consumers and wise buyers.

PLANS: Continue to train leaders on Food Outlook information (local & other), to give method demonstrations on Food Savers in meetings. Include in the tour homes with the most adequate food supply at the time of tour taking into consideration, the garden, home flock, canned frozen and dried articles and the supply of foods that must be bought by farm families.

B. BETTER RURAL HOUSING

Halifax County lies in the midst of the bright tobacco region. Cultivation of this crop spreads over an almost

twelve month period thus the house and its surroundings are much neglected. Many tenants houses are mere fire traps. During the year, this fact was evident when five such fires claimed the entire possessions of the families occupying them. We felt that any steps to help improve the above conditions would contribute much to ward achieving more desirable rural living. We plan to promote this project through county wide discussion meetings, radio talks, to give situations, and to cite improvements, and home visits.

C.

1. NATIONAL H. D. PROGRAM

OBJECTIVES: To bring together club leaders, members, County officers of other agencies in the county and the general public to hear reports from clubs of accomplishments as individuals, families and communities.

To hear inspirational talks from State and District workers in the field of home making and Family Living.

To provide wholesome recreation for farm families.

PLANS: Hold one meeting with the program and go over the type of reports to be presented, name the leaders for the recreation and demonstration periods. Secure one representative from our State Staff for a short talk. The committee continues with plans.

2. COUNTY TOUR:

One tour including all phases of our program emphasis will

give the general public a chance to see result demonstration at work in and around the house

III. 4-H CLUB WORK:

A. PROJECT WORK

1. MEAL PREPARATION

OBJECTIVES: To teach club girls the essentials of good food, meal patterns that are nutritious and colorful and to help them in planning adequately the family meals from fresh canned and frozen products.

PLANS: We plan to find and train at least one adult leader for each group carrying this project: Continue the club team demonstration and judging activities.

2. HOME IMPROVEMENT

OBJECTIVES: To develop in club members interest in care for and improving their own rooms and in helping to keep and improve other rooms in the house in cooperation with the whole home improvement plan.

PLANS: Train at least one adult leader who will work with small groups of girls in easy reach of her home. Get members to serve as result demonstrators. Enter members and rooms in the contest in which winners will be selected in the community by local leaders, and include the winning room in our tour visit.

3. CLOTHING:

OBJECTIVES: To give members training in the use of sewing

equipments such as needles, thimbles, scissors, pins and tape measures and how to make simple clothing and household articles out of bags and cotton materials.

PLANS: We plan to give this training directly to members in regular monthly club meetings. In case leaders do not understand how to correctly use these items they may profit by the club meeting demonstration lessons also club exhibits will help stimulate the activities.

4. HOME ELECTRIC (UNIT I)

We are continuing this project as a carry over from last year, and our approach is that of teaching through County Wide night meetings.

PLANS: We plan to secure the services of some local electrician for the special demonstrations.

B. OTHER ACTIVITIES:

1. NATIONAL 4-H CLUB WEEK

OBJECTIVES: To give fundamental information of 4-H Club organizations, membership, and project activity plans, to the public by club members.

PLANS: We plan to conduct one radio program with 4-H Club members giving this information, and set up one window exhibit on the subject presented.

2. RURAL LIFE SUNDAY

Our rural life Sunday service will emphasize the spiritual development and its importance in life and well being of the

individual. It will help develop club members in leadership of church activities also.

V. FARM and HOME DEVELOPEMENT

In nature the Farm and Home development is similar to our Demonstration Community Live-at-Home Work. We plan a gradual blend of the work in our demonstration community with five families who will be designated by the Community Scoring Committee.

VI. SCOPE OF WORK

	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955
<u>NO. H. D. CLUBS</u>	14	14	15	15	14
<u>MEMBERSHIP</u>	355	367	400	325	375
<u>NO. 4-H CLUBS</u>	17	17	17	17	12
<u>MEMBERSHIP</u>	279	287	300	285	375



VII. COUNTY H. D. COMMITTEE

We plan to continue the use of this committee in planning the years program. Help in planning and directing the County Tour and planning and sponsoring the National H. D. Week Celebration.

B. Plans for using the County Advisory Board will be made jointly by Farm and Home Agent in late January.

C. COUNTY 4-H COUNCIL

OBJECTIVES: To stimulate interest in members of the Council to the extent to meet and plan the County Program of activities for the 4-H Clubs of the County. To furnish competent leadership in the official offices and projects and to sponsor some awards to

worthy club members.

PLANS: Bring the council members together in two meetings to give definite training in official leadership and project teaching techniques. Check and review progress of clubs and to judge club records and activities for awards.

VIII. PLAN FOR LEADERSHIP

	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955
NO. PROJECT LEADERS (SUBJECT MATTER)	18	16	20	28	28
NO. PROGRAM DEVELOPEMENT LEADERS		6	15	12	14
NO. OF RESULT DEMONSTRATORS	25	16	50	23	45
NO. MEETINGS AT WHICH LEADERS WERE TRAINED BY SPECIALIST	4	0	2	2	2
NO. MEETINGS AT WHICH LEADERS WERE TRAINED BY DIST. AGENTS	0	0	1	1	2
NO. MEETINGS AT WHICH LEADERS WERE TRAINED BY AGENT	4	5	6	3	6
ATTENDANCE AT TRAINING MEETING	39	23	56	40	65
NO. CLUB MEETINGS HELD BY LEADERS WITHOUT AGENT PRESENT	61	38	76	23	60
NO. CLUB MEETINGS IN WHICH LEADERS ASSISTED		36	50	22	50
TOTAL NUMBER OF DEMONSTRATIONS GIVEN BY LEADERS		30	80	30	50
TOTAL NUMBER OF TALKS OR DIS- CUSSIONS BY LEADERS		14	24	26	30

We plan to conduct three county leader training meetings for all types of adult leaders. When leaders cannot attend these meetings some individual training will be done on visits and club meetings. Specialists will give training in two small leaders meetings.

B. 4-H CLUB

	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955
NO. 4-H CLUB OFFICERS	85	112	112	129	
NO. ADULT PROJECT LEADERS		14	14	13	14
NO. JUNIOR PROJECT LEADERS	3	5	15	1	4
NO. RESULT DEMONSTRATORS					25
NO. MEETINGS AT WHICH LEADERS WERE TRAINED BY SPECIALIST	1	0	2	1	2
NO. MEETINGS AT WHICH LEADERS WERE TRAINED BY DIST. AGENT	0	0	0	0	1
NO. MEETINGS AT WHICH LEADERS WERE TRAINED BY AGENT	11	6	8	3	5
NO. MEETINGS AT WHICH LEADERS WERE TRAINED BY PERSONNEL IN 4-H DEPARTMENT	1	0	0	1	1
ATTENDANCE AT LEADER TRAINING MEETINGS	63	14	48	5	12
NO. 4-H LEADERS TRAINED INDIVIDUALLY		3	2	9	9
NO. CLUB MEETINGS HELD BY LEADERS WITHOUT AGENT PRESENT	52	59	65	37	56
NO. CLUB MEETINGS AT WHICH LEADERS ASSISTED	19	50	24	20	45
NO. DEMONSTRATIONS GIVEN BY ADULT LEADERS		42	75	28	95
NO. DEMONSTRATIONS GIVEN BY JUNIOR LEADERS	12	10	30	10	20

The same procedure for training adult leaders will be followed in training 4-H leaders, who will use almost entirely for giving method demonstrations in club meetings with and without agents presence and assistance.

IX. Our program plans are designed for cooperation work with the County Tuberculosis Association, American Cancer Society, The Vocational Agricultural Department and The Farmers Home Administration by obtaining information from the representatives and

giving information to them of interest and use to farm families. This may be done through attendance in meetings, office conferences or letters.

X. Good public relations with County Elected Representatives, Co-Workers, Commercial and General Public are invited through periodic reports of activities, news stories, radio and result demonstrations, holding joint discussion meetings and by distributing our handbooks to cooperators and friends.

XI. Observing and listing reactions, skills and manual labor result in all lines of activities will be one method of recording progress. Studying reports, responses and changed attitudes will also be used as an evaluating score.

XII. PLAN FOR PROFESSIONAL IMPROVEMENT

A. ORGANIZED STUDY:

1. I plan to attend Summer School
2. Subscribe to additional periodicals and magazines of high educational value.

XIII. In planning our program one of our guides^{was} the long time objectives in agricultural development for the County which is a program drawn up by the extension agents and other agricultural agencies in the County. So following out the idea of cooperating with other extension agents, we attend all meetings of county extension personnel, work with all county campaigns for agricultural improvement.

XIV. I consider our most difficult problems in carrying out our program as: lack of local leaders (lack in number and efficiency)

and the lack of office space equipment.

To help the leadership situation we plan to use our leaders more after training, where we've encouraged one or two definite activities, this time we shall assign and encourage many more demonstrations, discussions, short talks, and cooperative demonstrations than ever per leader. Other problems have been presented to official sources for consideration.