

ANNUAL NARRATIVE REPORT
HOME DEMONSTRATION WORK
FRANKLIN COUNTY
VIRGINIA

1947

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
I. COVER AND TITLE PAGE	1
II. TABLE OF CONTENTS	2 & 3
III. SCOPE OF WORK	4
A. Home Demonstration Clubs	4
B. 4-H Clubs	4
C. Other Methods Used to Reach Families	4
D. Estimated Total Number Families Reached	4
IV. ADULT WORK	4
A. Home Demonstration Club Program	4
1. Project work	4
a. How the Program was Determined	4
b. Subject matter fields in which work was carried	5
c. Projects	5
2. Federation Goal	8
3. Other Activities	9
4. Leadership	10
B. Other Methods of Reaching People	11
V. WORK WITH YOUTH	11

A. 4-H Clubs	11
1. Organization	11
2. County Council	11
3. Project Work	12
a. How the Program was Determined	12
b. Subject Matter Fields in which Work was Carried	12
c. Projects :.....	12
1. Clothing	12
2. Housekeeping	13
3. Food Preparation	13
4. Garden	14
5. Food Preservation	14
6. Poultry	15
3. Other Activities	15
a. 4-H Camp	15
b. Show Course	15
c. Agricultural Fair	16
d. Achievement Day	16
4. Leadership	16
B. Senior Club	17
VI. COOPERATING WITH OTHER AGENCIES	17
VII. EVALUATION	18

III. SCOPE OF WORK.	Number	Members
A. Home Demonstration Clubs	21	400
Other women reached by Home Demonstration Club members	1500	
B. 4-H Clubs	33	569
C. Other methods used to reach families: publicity 129; radio 3; office and phone calls 297 and visits 490.		
Number families reached	3000	
D. Estimated total number families reached	3000	
Number farm families in county	4330	

IV. ADULT WORK.

A. Home Demonstration Club Program.

1. Project work

- a. The program was determined by holding a discussion meeting in each club in July. The women discussed what they thought they needed most and what the needs of the community were.

The agent presented needs of the county and gave the outlook for Farm Family living. After each club had held its discussion and made a list of topics it wished, a county planning meeting was held when all club presidents came together with their suggestions and the program was made out for all clubs. Whichever topics were asked for most were the ones put in the program.

- b. Projects selected were Remodeling Clothing, three demonstrations in Foods, one to include Nutrition, three in House Furnishings and two in Home Management.

These were chosen because the women felt that they needed more work in Foods, especially Nutrition. Materials were getting more plentiful and they wanted new curtains and draperies and new household equipment, including all kinds of electric things since so many had secured electricity in the past year.

- c. The three demonstrations on Foods included first, Preparation of Home Grown Foods. The women selected potatoes, both white and sweet. They asked for this because they use so many potatoes and liked to have more ways to serve them. They are still talking about how much they enjoyed the demonstration and the recipe their family liked best.

The second demonstration was Nutrition. As one woman expressed it, "We need brushing up on Nutrition ever so often as we forget and get lax about it." The Basic 7 Chart was used with a small folder containing it being given to each club member.

Every Day Table Service for Better Family Relationship was the third topic chosen. In giving the demonstration, the agent used just what the woman in whose home the club met had to work with. She carried a box of demonstration silver purchased at the 10¢ store 9 or 10 years ago, just to show the different pieces of silver and their use. In many homes, the hostess had the different pieces of silver in her own set.

Emphasis was put on the fact that we must have good table manners every day and not have company manners or we will fail to use them at the right time.

Three demonstrations in House Furnishings were given, Color in the Home, Upholstering Furniture and Curtains and Draperies.

For the demonstration on Curtains and Draperies the agent used a projector and showed slides which was much better than using illustrations from magazines. After seeing the demonstration with slides, the clubs each gave \$5 to buy a projector and screen for use of the agents in future demonstrations.

When reporting this fall, twelve (12) women had changed their curtains to the proper length. Some times the women simply buy furniture and furnishings without regard to color. A demonstration was given on Color in the Home. Pictures were used to some extent to show color schemes but generally the furnishings in the room in which the club met were used. The most outstanding color in a rug or piece of upholstered furniture was used and the color scheme built from that. Pieces of drapery and upholstery material were used and a color scheme developed from that. This demonstration was just recently given and no results have yet been noted.

Instead of Upholstering Furniture, the demonstration was changed to fixing the springs in davenport cushions. The assistant agent attended a clinic on this in another county. Later, the agent attended one of her demonstrations and also learned how to do this.

So many women had said, "What can we do with these cushions that have the springs all bunched up in the middle." The agents decided there was a great need to help them fix the cushions.

At each demonstration, the women would remark, "I know she will never get all those springs back in that cushion." After seeing just how to go about it, the women were delighted that it was so easy to do. One woman said, "My husband and I opened one up and had springs all over the kitchen. I finally left him to finish it up as it looked so hopeless to me." He got the springs all back but not in very good shape so later she brought the cushion for us to use in the demonstration.

Two Home Management projects were in the program, Household Equipment and Use of Electrical Equipment. So many homemakers lack adequate tools to work with in their kitchens. They were cautioned not to get too many things that would clutter up drawers and shelves but be sure when they bought a piece of equipment that it was really going to be useful. Two types of food mills and ricers were shown, a good inexpensive can opener, measuring spoons and measuring cups. Knives were very much stressed, different ones for different types of work and a good knife sharpener and its use demonstrated.

A list of essential kitchen equipment was checked by each woman and then a discussion was held to see if they considered each piece essential and if not what they would like to add.

The care of this equipment after it was purchased was also stressed.

So many rural women now have electricity that a demonstration on Use and Care of Electrical Equipment was given. Since manufacturing of small equipment has started again, women are buying. Eighteen reported irons bought, 10 heaters, 8 hot plates, 9 vacuum cleaners, 2 roasters, 1 sewing machine and many other small pieces. Large pieces such as 11 electric stoves, 14 refrigerators, 11 washing machines, 4 home freezers and 3 electric pumps were bought.

In the demonstration, cords of different sizes were shown and their proper use stressed. Some told of sad experiences, such as one loading the washing machine and leaving it running, then coming back to find the motor burned out. Another told of getting a shock from the washing machine and on investigating found one roller was standing in a puddle of water.

The proper use was stressed and the women urged to **keep** the instructions that came with each piece of equipment and re-read it at intervals to impress it more on their minds.

2. Federation Goal

Housing was the Federation Goal carried this past year. The women felt that repairs were needed in most homes since nothing much had been done during war times. Then, people had more money with which to make repairs.

A county chairman was chosen with a local chairman in each club. A check sheet was made out and given to each member to check to see what was needed in repairs around the home.

A program was held in each club in Housing at the time the check sheet was given out. A night meeting was held which served one side of the county when the engineer from V.P.I. talked to the men and women about their housing needs and especially about insulating.

The chairman hoped to see quite a lot of repair work done but the women found materials still scarce and labor very scarce.

In spite of this, 25 women reported quite extensive repairs done. Fifteen installed water, 17 fixed their kitchens, 9 put in a bathroom and installed a sewage system. One woman had her kitchen completely made over. A large chimney and fireplace was torn out and a small flue for a heating stove was installed. Taking out this big chimney, gave a lot more room. All metal cabinets and double sink were installed on one side of the room and around the corner to the electric stove. Small cabinets were placed on the wall above the base cabinets. A new and larger refrigerator was installed, an electric hot water heater and a home freezer. This family lives 25 miles from town but have all the conveniences of a town home except a central heating plant.

Another woman reports; a foundation put under the house, replaced 3 windows and frames, installed 3 new windows, replaced 2 doors and frames, weather-boarded the house and painted complete interior. Plaster boarded upstairs rooms; also rehemmed curtains to proper length and moved all rods to the right place.

This goal will be carried over into another year when we hope materials will be available and labor a little more plentiful.

3. Other Activities

After the women saw the stools the boys and girls had woven seats in at their short course, they asked for this work.

A craft shop in the county made the stools for camp and for the women. 325 stools were procured by the agents and seats were woven in them by the women. 72 women

reported helping others weave seats in stools after their meeting and also helping with weaving seats in 50 chairs.

4. Leadership

Six leader training meetings were held; one each for Food Leaders, Clothing, Home Improvement and Home Management and 2 each for Garden and Poultry.

In all, 51 leaders were trained and 24 gave demonstrations with 45 assisting the agent. 17 garden and poultry leaders from 10 clubs were trained. These gave short discussions of about 5 minutes at each club meeting on, "What to do this month with Poultry" and "What to do this month in the Garden." Each leader had a manual of suggestions which included some bulletins also. These leaders tried out in their own garden and flock what was suggested and then spoke from experience.

An Achievement Day was held for the first time in 5 years. Committees were appointed for Place, Program and Refreshments.

The program consisted of singing, reports from clubs, a Nutrition Skit by a club and a short talk based on the Homemaker's Creed by a local minister.

After the meeting, a social hour was enjoyed when the women could meet those from other clubs.

This was just as afternoon meeting and proved very successful.

*no results
shown*

B. Other Means of Reaching People.

Special Meetings.

One special meeting was held when the engineer from V.P.I. made a talk on housing, described under the Federation Goal.

Three radio talks have been made during the year giving a review of the work done in the county. The radio reaches most of the homes in the county and the agents have heard many women speak of hearing them broadcast.

The two county weekly papers give splendid cooperation in carrying news articles and pictures. A schedule of meetings is always carried and a special article of interest whenever there is something special to report. The daily city paper which covers the south western part of the state always carries the weekly schedule and is anxious for special events also. A local representative collects them to send in. They are very generous in giving space.

V. WORK WITH YOUTH.

A. 4-H Clubs

1. Organization

a. County Council

The 4-H County Council held two meetings this year. The first meeting was held in the fall after the 4-H Clubs had been organized. At this meeting, the officers for the council were elected and the latter part of the meeting the group divided by presidents, vice-presidents, and secretaries for special training. Each officer that attended this meeting did a much better job of conducting their club meetings than did those that were not present.

The second meeting was held in late spring. At this meeting each secretary gave a report on their club activities. The rest of the meeting, plans were outlined for the Dairy Calf Show, Agricultural Fair and Achievement Day.

2. Project Work

a. The program was determined by what the girl and her mother felt she needed most. At the beginning of the winter project and again in the spring, the agents sent a letter to each girl telling about the projects which could be taken. Then, the girl talked with her mother before making a choice. She would make a first and second choice since all the girls in one club took the same project.

b. In the winter, the girls carried projects in house-keeping and care of clothing. Some girls wanted to learn to care for their own clothes while others were more interested in caring for their room.

In the summer the girls were enrolled in clothing, food preparation, food preservation, gardens and poultry. The girls selected the project that would be the most helpful to her and her family.

c. (1) Clothing

Four hundred and one girls enrolled in care of clothing and clothing construction with 312 completing. The girls were taught to darn socks, press a woolen skirt, sew on buttons, and make a lapel pin from old felt hats. One meeting in school was devoted to good grooming. At the end of this unit, the girls brought their sewing boxes and their best darned socks to be judged to see who had the best one in the club. Then, the best from each club were judged and the county winner was selected.

Each girl enrolled in the clothing construction unit made at least one slip and one dress. 191 dresses and slips were made by these girls with 41 dresses and 30 slips being exhibited at the Fall Agricultural Fair.

(2) Housekeeping

Three hundred and eight girls enrolled in Housekeeping with 264 completing. Demonstrations were given on daily and weekly care of rooms, making the beds and lengthening sheets, Christmas table decorations, setting the table, and making table mats or napkins. The girls cared for their rooms daily for at least 3 months and set the table, washed dishes, or cared for garbage regularly for at least 3 months. Each girl made a set of table mats or napkins with 108 exhibiting these at the last meeting. The best mats in each club were then judged. The first place mats were made by Deanne Bowling, age 10, of the Ferrum Junior Club.

(3) Food Preparation

Fifteen girls were enrolled in this project with 12 completing. Demonstrations were given in making custard (both boiled and baked), gravy, salads out of green vegetables, ways of preparing eggs, and making cakes.

After each demonstration, two girls would come prepared to give this demonstration at the next meeting. Ten girls gave demonstrations. Custard was prepared 25 times and eggs were cooked 47 times by the club members.

(4) Garden

Fourteen girls enrolled in the Sears Roebuck garden contest for 5 counties with 8 completing. Each girl planned for a spring and fall garden and for a better garden than their family had had before. They planted five or more different vegetables and canned all that was not used by their family. The girls were visited twice by the agents and visited again in late spring and fall by Dr. F. S. Andrews, Garden Specialist, and the agents to score the gardens.

Some of the vegetables grown were green beans, tomatoes, squash, carrots, peas, beets, turnip greens, lettuce and potatoes. These gardens were valued at \$520.27. Peggy Kirk of the Glade Hill club won first place in the county and when her record was judged against those from the other four counties, she won second place.

(5) Food Preservation

The 14 girls in the garden project also carried this project along with 16 other girls with 23 completing.

During the summer, in the girls homes demonstrations were given in canning acid and non-acid foods and the use of a pressure cooker. At the next meeting, two girls would give the demonstration that was given at the last meeting.

The girls exhibited 85 quarts of tomatoes, tomato juice, string beans, beets, peaches, cherries, blackberries and apples at the Fall Agricultural Fair.

In November, 8 girls completing the Sears garden and canning contest exhibited five quarts of vegetables at the Sears Store in Danville. These girls canned 1985 quarts of vegetables from their gardens. All the canning girls canned 3311 quarts of vegetables and 2554 quarts of fruits.

(6) Poultry

Four girls enrolled in poultry with 2 completing. Fifty birds were raised with 23 birds in flock at end of year. Each of the girls completing exhibited their birds and eggs at the Fall Agricultural Show. One won \$6.75 in prizes and the other won \$6.25.

3. Other Activities.

a. 4-H Camp

Forty nine girls and 3 leaders spent one week at 4-H Camp. This was the first time some of the girls had been away from home without another member of their family. Many of the girls took part in the programs that would not take part in the programs in their own clubs. Each girl came back with a basket she had woven or a stool in which she had woven a seat.

b. Short Course.

Three older girls were selected to attend the Short Course at Blacksburg. These girls received training in giving demonstrations, game leadership and songs which they could use when they returned to their own clubs.

After taking the game leadership class, Betty Jane Flora led the recreation at the Honor Club picnic using the games she learned at Blacksburg. Another girl, Patricia Ann Tucker, showed the girls in her club how to put a hem in a cotton or rayon dress. She learned this from the clothing demonstration at Blacksburg.

c. Agricultural Fair

The third annual Agricultural Fair was held on October 17th and 18th, with 358 entries of clothing, canned fruits and vegetables, poultry, eggs and farm products.

85 quarts of fruits and vegetables, 41 dresses, 30 slips, 4 dozen eggs and 11 birds were exhibited by 4-H girls. First, Second, Third and Fourth prizes were given in each class.

d. Achievement Day.

The achievement program was held in connection with the Agricultural Fair. 250 members and parents came in to see the exhibits and for the program. The program consisted of group singing, short talks and presenting medals to members who had done outstanding work the past year.

4. Leadership.

In the winter, when the clubs met in schools, each club had an organization leader, which was a teacher. Three of these teachers are also project leaders. They carry on meetings without the agents both in winter and summer and they were leaders at 4-H camp.

There were 5 others who were project leaders in the summer. Each of these leaders had their own girls in 4-H work.

Betty Jane Flora of the Rocky Mount Senior club served as a junior leader. She went with the agent to 3 meetings and helped with the small girls who cut out and basted slips and dresses while the agent helped the older girls. She also helped girls that were taking food preservation.

B. Honor Club.

The Honor Club held two meetings during the year. The first meeting was held during the Christmas holidays so the boys and girls in college could be present. At this meeting, objectives were set up for the year and new members were initiated. The objectives were: Keep other members informed about Honor Club so they will look forward to becoming members. Help other club members with completion of records. Help to keep up interest of the members within the Honor Club.

The club held a picnic at the next meeting which was in the summer. Just before going home, Willard Bowman, the president, led the group in a most impressive campfire and candlelighting ceremony. At the Dairy Calf Show in August, the Honor Club had charge of a refreshment booth. The proceeds of this went into the club treasury.

VI. COOPERATING WITH OTHER AGENCIES.

Superintendent of Schools

The agents in the county have the fullest cooperation with the Superintendent of schools and consequently with all the school principals. The Superintendent a year ago requested 4-H Clubs to be organized in the town school as a large number of children come in from rural sections. The assistant farm agent had started the clubs and after the assistant home agent came, she took on the work with the girls.

Last summer the Superintendent, with the consent of the school board, broke a rule and allowed county school buses to be used to take the children to camp. He came to the camp also for part of a day and was very profuse in his praise of the camp.

He has allowed the home economics cottage to be used for the town home demonstration club which meets at night and has grown too large for the homes. This time he asked the consent of the school board and the assistant agent consulted with the school principal and the Home Economics teacher. The latter has asked to come to the meetings too.

The agents are asked to the Southern States board meetings and big general meeting. The agents acted as judge for their feed bag dress contest this past summer.

The agents belong to the women of the Farm Bureau and help them with programs and secured a meeting place for them.

VII. EVALUATION.

One important contribution to the home demonstration program was the fact that the county board of supervisors made the appropriation for the assistant agent. This has enabled the agents to double the number of 4-H Clubs and more than double the enrollment.

It has made it possible to organize two new home demonstration clubs and to plan for further expansion. Teachers have asked for clubs and two communities asked for home demonstration clubs which were organized.

The women showed more initiative this past year in selecting topics for their programs. They are beginning to see beyond their own fence lines. The 4-H Honor Club is getting far enough advanced now to really show some progress and take on responsibility. It is apparent that some very good leaders are being developed in this.

At a recent leader training meeting such a goodly number were out and so much interest shown that the agents are gratified to see the 1948 program get such a good start.

The Honor Club is planning its next program, when new members will be taken in, with just the guidance of the agents. The interest the leaders are showing should greatly strengthen the 1948 program.

VIRGINIA POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE
BLACKSBURG, VIRGINIA

**NEW
COUNTY
BEGINS**

DESCRIPTION TARGET