AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICE

Annual Report

Home Demonstration Work

1951

BERTIE R. YATES

Agent

[redacted] COUNTY

Asst. Agent

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NARRATIVE REPORT

COUNTY H. D. AGENT'S WORK

CHARLOTTE COUNTY

VIRGINIA

1951

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III. COUNTY SITUATION AS IT AFFECTED THE 1951 PROGRAM

Charlotte County is primarily an agricultural county, Keysville, the largest town having a population of around 600. The county population is approximately 58% white and 42% negro. According to the latest census there were 2010 farms in the county and 75% of its population is located on farms. These farms average 113.6 acres in size.

Timber manufacturing and the cutting of pulpwood are important industries in the county.

Pacific Mills has a large manufacturing plant for the processing of woolen materials. It employs more than 400 workers. A chenille plant employs around 100 workers. These are the only industrial plants in the county.

Due to the fact that many women are employed at these plants, the 4-H Clubs have lost no less than 15% to industry during the last two years.

The chief sources of farm income in the county are: flue cured tobacco, dairying, fired cured tobacco, poultry and beef cattle.

The number of Grade A dairymen is continuing to increase. A new market for Grade A milk has become available to producers in Charlotte County.

Beef cattle production has made a big increase recently due to improved pastures and hay crops and to a strong demand for beef.

The most important commercial truck crop in the county is cucumbers. There is a market for cucumbers and a pickling plant in the county. This employs both men and women.

IV. CONTRIBUTION OF THE 1951 PROGRAM TO BETTER FAMILY LIVING

The 1951 program was planned in an effort to meet the needs of the homemaker in becoming more efficient in her daily duties. It was designed to stimulate her interest in improved methods and practices as applied to her particular interest in homemaking activities. Foremost in planning the year's program of work has been an effort to improve her standard of living and to give her standards which she may use as guide posts to enriched family living.

One of the greatest contributions has been through federation goal activities, Home and Community Beautification. The improvement of home and community grounds has long been felt as a need and for that

reason has been chosen as a long time goal. Prior to 1949 very little had been done in the way of home ground improvement with a few exceptions.

During 1949 six home and community projects were started. In 1950 these grew to 12 and in 1951 to 20. Mr. Smith and Mr. Beecher have made four visits to the county to assist with planning. These visits have been supplemented with help by a local authority. At the present time there are five or more families requesting special help and several others are waiting for additional instructions in order to complete their plans.

For the past three years and Achievement Day tour has been made to give club members an opportunity to see some of the work that has been started and as a further stimulus they have visited well planned and well planted homes. These tours have been planned to include various parts of the county and have become a highlight of the year. I feel that these tours have directly influenced many club members and have resulted in increased interest in improving the arrangement and redecoration of the interior as well as the exterior of their homes.

Continual progress is being made toward getting running water in more rural homes, which is another long time goal, and is one of the great needs of the county.

It is gratifying also to note the continued activity in leadership. Club members have been particularly active in giving their own foods demonstrations. They have given alone 54 demonstrations during the year as compared with 46 in 1950, and have assisted in giving 14 others. Of this number 31 were given without the agent being present.

Program development leaders were used to secure information for the annual report. They distributed and summarized individual questionnaires and forwarded them to the agent.

While the number of 4-H leaders is far from adequate, we do show evidence of progress. Six leaders worked actively with summer groups in comparison with 3 in 1950. These groups met regularly and reported each meeting. They also collected records and assisted with getting exhibits to the county fair and Achievement Day. One leader spent a week at 4-H Camp as camp nurse. Two others went as councellors, giving a week each.

The continued success of the Charlotte County Fair should be noted as one of the highlights of the year. The increased number of exhibits and exhibitors, the increased attendance and the splendid cooperation between vocational teachers and extension personnel, evidence the success of this event.

V. ADULT WORK

A. Project Work

1. Foods

Homemakers never cease to be interested in new and better ways of prepering the inevitable three meals a day. It is not surprising therefore, that 6 of the 11 demonstrations were on food preparation. It was also gratifying to observe some concern for planning and serving as well as for the actual preparation of foods. Demonstrations given were as follows: Candy Making, Table Setting and Service, Planning Sunday Dinner in Advance, Variety in Breakfasts, Hot Weather Desserts and Broiler Meals.

Since more and more homemakers are using electric ranges, we found a great deal of interest in learning to use them more intelligently. The use of the range, including mechanical timing devices, was included in the demonstration on broiler meals. Home advisors from the local power companies were invaluable. They gave 5 demonstrations to which members of 7 clubs were invited, and made individual visits to other homes which requested help.

There were two leaders' training meetings held by the Extension Food Specialsit and one by the agent in preparation for these demonstrations. These were attended by 37 leaders. As a result leaders gave 34 demonstrations and assisted with 12 others.

A check reveals that 145 are using information on meal planning, 130 used suggestions for hot weather desserts and 162 are using their electric ranges more efficiently.

2. House Furnishings

Window Treatment and Selection and Care of Silver, Linen and China were felt as needs among many homemakers and demonstrations were given accordingly. Illustrative material was secured from Extension Specialists and from commercial companies and a training meeting for house furnishings leaders was held by the agent, who in turn gave 9 demonstrations and assisted with 3 others. Following these demonstrations, 123 members report making or adjusting curtain lengths for 342 windows and 98 report using information gained on selection and care of silver, china and linens.

As club choice, two demonstrations were given on cutting and making a slip cover and one on upholstering.

One demonstration was given on cleaning upholstery and another on comfortable and attractive arrangement of the bed room.

In addition to this around 15 days were spent and about 40 visits made to assist homemakers on individual problems.

Homemakers report 5 slip covers made, 2 pieces of furniture upholstered, 5 pieces refinished, furniture rearranged in 14 rooms, 22 rooms papered or painted, 18 floors sanded, 5 bookshelves built in, and 342 curtains made, bought or adjusted to correct length.

3. Recreation

Leaders were almost unanimous in recognizing the need for more wholesome recreation and as a result a demonstration on Recreation and Refreshments for Holiday Parties was appropriately planned for November. A training meeting for leaders was conducted by the agent with members of 5 clubs present, who in turn conducted the demonstration in their respective clubs. Bibliographys of available material were made available to the recreational leader of each club, with an exhibit of books and other material that could be secured from the library and from the agent's office. Party planning was discussed and games were introduced.

Many of the clubs are planning to sponsor parties during the Christmas holidays. The four recently built community houses will be available for this purpose. In other communities they will be given in the members' homes.

July was left open for recreation and club choice and during that month each of the 13 clubs had a family picnic. Some of these were held at the homes of the members. Others were held at nearby lakes and amusement places.

4. Handicraft and Miscellaneous

a. Trays

April was left open for club choice, most of which were handicraft of some type. The aluminum trays are still a popular handicraft as they are useful as well as being comparatively simple to decorate. The Oakview, Wylliesburg, Saxe and Charlotte Court House club members decorated 55 trays.

A special interest group on stencilling trays was held by Miss Peery with 10 people attending. Eight trays were completed.

b. Glass Etching

The Eureka and Red Oak clubs requested demonstrations on glass etching. These were given by the agent. Several articles were etched, following the demonstration, but there has been no carry over

of interest in this handicraft.

c. Wiring Lamps

The Cullen, Aspen and Mt. Harmony clubs held demonstrations on wiring lamps. These were conducted by the agent, who assisted members in wiring 14 lamps.

d. Rug Making

Members of the Bethel-Phenix Club expressed an interest in rug making. This demonstration was given very effectively by leaders, one of whom was borrowed from another club. Two methods of braiding and crocheting were demonstrated. Members reprot 9 rugs completed.

e. Textile Painting

Members of the Midway Club expressed continued intereste in stencilled household articles. This demonstration was given by the leader who had been trained previously by the agent. Numerous small articles have been decorated by the members of this club.

9. Housing

Interest continues in remodeling old homes and making them more attractive and livable. The agent has spent around 5 days and made around 20 home visits advising with homemakers on problems of remodeling.

Improvements reported indicate 14 families installed running water, 7 bathrooms built in old houses, 15 families referred to Health Department for instructions on sewage disposal , 9 indicated putting running water in kitchens that had not previously had this convenience, 13 added closets, cabinets, and other storage space, 26 improved walls with sheet rock, paint, paper or some similar finish, 25 built new steps or repaired same.

2. Other Activities

1. Home and Community Beautification Chosen as Federation Goal 1951

Continuing the work started in 1949 under Art in Daily Living, Home and Community Beautification was chosen as the 1951 Federation with Mrs. George T. Willson as county chairman.

There are now 20 result demonstration projects sponsored by the 12 of the 13 clubs. These include 10 churches and community houses

and 10 boxes. Work is progressing on each of these and are influencing others as is evidenced by continued requests for planning from others within the community.

The October demonstration was a discussion on Improving Walks and Driveways. Leaders trained by the agent gave 5 of these. One of the county wide goals for the year was to give especial emphasis to the improvement of entrances and mail boxes.

Reports collected indicate 27 members seeding grass and improving lawns; 14 planting shade trees; 12 screening off back yard with shrubs; 39 reset shrubs for better appearance; 27 planted 100 more shrubs around the foundation of the house; 24 painted mail boxes; 30 improved walks and driveways.

While plantings are yet rather small to make much showing, enough has been done to make a visit to the result demonstration projects interesting and worthwhile. A countywide tour has been conducted each year as a summary of the year's activities and as many of these projects are visited as can be conveniently arranged.

In further keeping with the federation goal a tour was arranged during garden week in cooperation with members of the Woman's Clubs of Keysville and Charlotte Court House to visit several gardens in and around Richmond. A bus was chartered for the 40 members making the trip. This was so much enjoyed that a similar trip has been planned for 1952.

News article attached

2. Radio

Forty six radio programs have been presented over W.F.L.O. in Farmville. H. D. Club members have taken part in 8 of these and 4-H Club members assisted with 2. Timely information is presented dealing with club activities and with subject matter.

3. Press

Information relating to home demonstration work and 4-H Club activities appear at intervals in the state and local papers. Forty-seven articles were contributed to the paper during the year.

4. Home visits

During 1951 the home agent traveled 11,405 miles and made 427 visits to 215 homes in the interest of extension work. These visits were a means of advising homemakers in problems directly related to the home.

5. Circular letters

Circular letters covering information of a timely nature are sent to leaders and farm families throughout the county.

6. Office and Home Calls

In 1951 the home agent received 56 office calls and 193 phone calls relating to problems of the homemakers.

VI. 4-H CLUB WORK

A. Project Work

1. Food for Pep

Food for Pep was chosen by 92 members in 5 clubs. In this project special emphasis was placed on learning the basic food groups and the simple elements of nutrition. Records were kept of foods eaten over a week's duration during the fall and winter and spring, and these were checked against the basic seven. Demonstrations were given in table setting, dish washing, the preparation of salads. Members were asked to learn to eat one new food. Records were kept of milk consumed during short periods of time. Records collected from 92 members indicate that 45 learned the basic food groups, 73 learned to wash dishes correctly and washed them 14,092 times; 73 learned to set the table correctly and set it 24,291 times; the 92 club member drank a quart of milk on 11,910 days; the 92 members learned to eat 15 new foods. They gave 40 demonstrations to club members and to other groups including the Charlotte Court House P. T. A.

2. Canning and Freezing

Canning and Freezing was selected by 33 members. Objectives were to learn to can tomatoes, fruit and non acid vegetables using approved methods, to learn to judge quality in a canned product and to plan a canning budget for family needs. These girls worked both in groups and individually under the guidance of a trained leader. The 27 records show 1247 quarts canned alone, assisted with canning 7014 quarts; 150 packages prepared for freezing, assisted with preparing 220 packages for freezing; 29 girls made canning plans. Twenty-one girls made over 200 individual exhibits of canned foods and won around $100.50 in prizes.

3. Food Preparation

Food Preparation was selected by 30 club members. Objectives were to teach preparation of simple foods; vegetables, salads, custard and souffle, and simple desserts. This followed the Food for Pep project. Demonstrations were given by a trained leader in the projects selected, which was repeated by the club members. The 29 reporting indicated 767 meals planned, 396 meals prepared; cooked a vegetable 939 times; made salad 343 times; made a milk dish or drink 598 times; made cake 126 times, made cookies 126 times; served club refreshments 6 times and set table 4435 times. Twelve girls exhibited baked products at 3 fairs and farm shows and won 23 places.

4. Vegetable Garden

Vegetable garden was selected by 7 members. Because of adverse weather conditions only 5 completed. Objectives of this project were to teach correct methods of planting and cultivating of the home vegetable garden; proper methods of pest control; proper selection of varieties and through record keeping to learn to estimate the value of the garden in comparison to expense incurred. Each girl's parents were visited to explain the objectives of the project and secure their cooperation. Circular letters of instruction were sent periodically suggesting planting dates, recommended varieties and methods of pest control.

The gardens were visited twice by the extension specialist and four times by the agent. The five girls completing report gardens valued at $657.00 with a profit of $575.30; 1252 quarts canned and 120 packages frozen in addition to some given to friends; prizes won on canned products and on garden exhibits, $82.00 making a total profit of $657.30. The value of this project as a demonstration cannot be estimated.

5. So You Want to Sew

So You Want to Sew was selected by 68 members in 3 clubs. Objectives were to teach the girls to use a thimble and to do simple hand sewing and plain machine stitching for those who were more experienced. Demonstrations were given in the basic processes. Of the 66 girls reporting 63 equipped sewing boxes. They made a total of 247 articles. Learning processes which they checked were as follows: 1. Sew with a thimble; 2. Make a plain seam; 3. Blind stitch; 4. Make and use hem gauge; 5. Lay pattern on straight of material; 6. Sew on button; 7. Gather by pulling a thread; 8. Sew and turn belt for apron strings; 9. Lazy daisy and French knot; 10. Blanket stitch.

6. Room Care and Improvement

Room Care and Improvement was selected by 24 girls in two clubs. Their objectives were to learn through practice the proper care of their bedroom, to rearrange it for easier care, to learn what qualities to look for in selecting bedding, to determine what colors were most appropriate and to make at least three improvements in their rooms.

Demonstrations were given to teach the basic techniques. Girls drew plans of their rooms indicating exposure and blocking in furniture. Samples were used to teach choice of color combination. They were taken on a field trip to a local store to study labels and make comparisons of quality in bedding and towels. Exhibits of closet accessories and curtain material were used in teaching storage and

window treatment.

Reports collected from 22 girls indicated that all had cared for their room three months or longer; 14 made color plans; 20 rearranged their furniture; 10 improved storage space or built a closet; 11 cleaned, painted or refinished walls; 3 refinished floors; 19 bought or made curtains; 17 bought rugs; 8 pieces of furniture were painted; 26 pieces of accessories were made; 5 bought bedspreads; 19 pieces of furniture were bought including 2 bedroom suites; 32 pieces of accessories were bought or made; 8 closet accessories were bought or made and 24 different rooms were improved.

7. Electric I

Electric I was selected by the members of the three clubs at Randolph-Henry High School. Of the 58 girls enrolled 31 completed and turned in records. Electricity is available to nearly every home in Charlotte County.

The purpose of this project was to help club members make better use of their electricity and to teach the proper care and maintenance of household equipment. Both the Extension Service and the power companies gave excellent assistance in discussions and actual demonstrations.

A county wide workshop was held to give members an opportunity to work on individual projects. However, lack of interest resulted in poor attendance and also for the fact that the members did not wish to continue this project for another year.

8. Clothing II

Make or Remake was carried by 16 girls as a year around project. Two groups worked under a leader during the summer months. The others work under the leadership of their mothers with occasional help from the agent. The objectives of this group were to learn to use a pattern in making fitted garments, to acquire more skill in the techniques of sewing, using cotton material. These girls reported making 43 garments valued at $89.00. Ten girls make exhibits in local fairs winning 21 places. A twelve year old girl won third place in the girls' dress revue of the Farmville County Fair in which approximately 40 girls took part, wearing a dress which she had made.

B. Other Activities

1. Fairs, Farm Shows and Achievement Day

The Charlotte County Fairy and Farm Show, held in cooperation with the F. H. A. and F. F. A. members in the county, carried a premium list of $692.21. Exhibits were of a better quality than usual. There was an estimated attendance of 2000.

Forty girls made 214 individual exhibits winning 39 first places and $143.25 as compared with 38 girls making 184 exhibits and winning $123.25 last year.

Five girls exhibited at the Lynchburg Farm Show winning 11 places and $18.00 in prizes.

An additional $33.50 was won by the 15 girls exhibiting at the Farmville Five County Fair and $34.00 on the 5 Sears-Roebuck Garden Projects making a total of $228.75 won on all girls' projects during the year.

2. State Short Course and Camps

Twenty-three girls, representing 10 of the 13 clubs, attended district camp at Holliday Lake the week of June 18-23.

Four members and two All Stars attended State Short Course. Ann Metcalf, one of the members, was initiated into the All Stars.

Two girls attended Conservation Camp at Camp Farrar, Virginia Beach, the week of July 23-28.

The Eureka Grange sent Elsie Kellar as a delegate to the leadership Training Camp at Camp Farrar, August 16-19. Elsie, one of the older youth of Charlotte County and a former 4-H Club member is lecturer for the Grange. She has been a leader at 4-H Club Camp at Holliday Lake for the past two years and feels that the ideas gained will be helpful both in her work with the Grange and at 4-H Club Camp.

3. 4-H Club Sunday

4-H Club Sunday was observed with a morning service at the Keysville Methodist Church April 22nd. Club members, wearing the 4-H [illegible], sat with their agents in a reserved section. Other members assisted with the service by distributing the programs, reading the scripture, offering the prayer, and putting on a candle lighting service. The sermon was appropriate and special music was in keeping with the occasion.

4. I. F. Y. E.

Charlotte County Club members were given an opportunity to participate in the I. F. Y. E. Each of the 13 clubs participated and a total of $13.30 was collected.

5. 4-H Club Week

4-H Club Week was observed in Charlotte County with a radio program over W. F. L. O., a special news article in the three weekly papers covering the county and with an exhibit of 4-H project work in Keysville. Two Keysville businessmen were very generous in allowing the use of their windows for displays during the week.

See clipping attached

6. Recreation

Nine of the 13 clubs held picnics during May. The Clubs at Randolph-Henry High School held three informal parties during the year, the last of which was in honor of 4-H Club members who were graduating.

Six of the clubs secured a movie through the Vusual Aids Department of the schools which they showed to make money for their clubs. Around $75.00 was raised in this way.

7. 4-H County Council

In November 1950 a County Council was organized and goals selected. Members of the council were active in helping to attain these goals. As a result, nearly every member learned the pledge, song, motto, colors and emblem, there was greater participation in the County Fair and Achievement Day and 83% of records were collected, the goal as set by the council being 80%.

VII. YOUNG MEN AND YOUNG WOMEN'S WORK

There are no organized groups of young men and women within the county. However, approximately 30 young women between the ages of 21 and 30 are active members of the H. D. Club. Of this number, two are club presidents, one is County Federation Chairman, others serve as

project and goal leaders. Another, who is lecturer for the Eureka Grange, was sent as a delegate by the Grange to the Leadership Training Camp at Camp Farrar August 16-19. She is also a 4-H Club leader and has attended district camp at Holliday Lake as County Councellor for the past three years.

VIII. SCOPE OF WORK

	1948	1949	1950	1951
No. H. D. Clubs or Groups	12	13	12	13
Membership	192	254	267	243
NO. 4-H Clubs	10	10	13	13
Membership	196	201	237	242
No. YW Groups	0	0	0	0
Membership	0	0	0	0
No. of other families reached	460	475	725	900
Total No. families reached	1850	2300	2400	2450

IX. COUNTY ORGANIZATIONS

A. The County Board of Agriculture

The County Board of Agriculture and community leader system in Charlotte County is used as a means of reaching all farm families. In 1951 the services rendered by these committeemen and leaders were: taking pertinent information and distributing material within their neighborhood and communities, such as pest and insect control, bond drives, securing volunteers for the bloodmobile and others of similar nature, holding special meetings for educational information and assisting in conducting the monthly community groups in the seven communities which are organized. Through this means the home demonstration program reached approximately 550 additional families.

B. County Home Demonstration Committee

The Home Demonstration Committee is an overall organization which conducts business and matters relating to the 13 clubs in the county. It is composed of the club presidents, county federation goal chairmen, and the immediate and past presidents.

This committee meets twice a year, in the spring and in the fall. At the spring meeting the calendar of work is reviewed and any desirable changes made; progress is reported on federation goal activities and the development of the program as a whole; tentative plans are made for Achievement Day; delegates are appointed to attend the State Federation Meeting; a nominating committee is appointed for the elections of federation officers and other matters of a business nature are discussed.

At the fall meeting the calendar is made up; Federation Goal

is selected and chairman is named; officers are elected, presidents are trained; plans are completed for Achievement Day; the year book committee is appointed and other matters of business are discussed.

C. County 4-H Club Council

The County 4-H Club Council is an overall organization composed of the executive officers, reporters and song leaders of the 13 clubs in the county. After the clubs have re-organized for the year, they meet for officer training and set up goals and objectives for the year.

At this time the agents in the county office, assisted by representatives from the 4-H Club department at V.P.I. meet with the individual groups for intensive instructions in the duties of their particular office.

As a result, club officers are more efficient in conducting the business of their club. Objectives have been attained through group concentration that otherwise would not have been reached. The Council set as a goal collecting at least 80% of the project records. The 4-H girls turned in 88.5% of their records.

D. County Chapter of 4-H All Stars

During the past 4 years 6 club members have been initiated into the All Star organization. Of this number only 2 are in active club work in the county at the present time, the other 4 being in college. These members are active in 4-H Club work in the county. One, Edward Colley, is president of the County 4-H Council and is a state winner in the Field Crops project. Both Edward and Ann Metcalf assist with 4-H Club exhibits at the fairs and farm shows and Achievement Day exhibits.

X. LEADERSHIP

A. Contributions of Volunteer Leaders to the Program

1. Organizational

The 42 organizational leaders in the county are responsible for holding regular meetings of their respective clubs and of presiding and conducting any and all business pertaining to them. These officers are namely the presidents, vice presidents and secretary-treasurers of the 13 clubs and the County Federation of Clubs.

The federation officers, county goal chairman and club presidents meet twice each year to conduct matters of business pertaining

to the clubs as a whole.

At the spring meeting progress of the year's program is checked, background information is given and plans are begun for the next year's program. In the fall meeting each club presents its requests and the calendar of work is made up, the federation goal is selected, officers are elected and other matters of business are discussed.

2. Program Development

The 13 program development leaders are charged with the responsibility of ascertaining local needs on a community basis and of discussing ways and means to meet these needs. They help to formulate objectives and long time goals. With the help of the members they prepare a summary of recommendations for the county planning meeting. At the end of the year they collect information on individual and group accomplishments of objectives for the agent's narrative report.

3. Subject Matter

There were 24 foods leaders, 24 house furnishings leaders, 13 home grounds improvement leaders and 16 recreation leaders, who were trained to give demonstrations, thereby releasing the agent for other duties. Six leaders training meetings were held by the specialists and three by the agent with an attendance of 68. These leaders gave 30 demonstrations without the agent being present and assisted with 46 others.

B. Growth of Leadership by Project Leaders

Growth of H. D. Club Project Leadership	1948	1949	1950	1951
No. project leaders and goal chairmen	52	65	76	76
No. training meetings held By Specialist	7	12	10	6
By Agent	0	2	2	2
Attendance at all training meetings	108	106	96	68
No. club meetings held by leaders without agent present	4	36	36	31
No. additional club meetings at which leaders assisted	40	30	36	47

Growth of 4-H Club Project Leadership	1948	1949	1950	1951
No. adult project leaders	12	14	21	28
No. junior project leaders	0	1	9	3
No. training meetings held by specialist:	0	0	0	0
by agent	0	2	5	2
Attendance at leader training meetings	0	3	5	4
No. 4-H leaders trained individually	15	4	7	4
No. club meetings held by leader without agent present	3	3	12	16
No. of additional club meetings at which leaders assisted	5	9	8	6
No. demonstrations given by leaders	8	14	14	42
by adult	8	12	12	39
by junior	0	2	2	3

C. Outstanding Leader and Her Accomplishments

I consider Mrs. David Parsons, former president and foods leader of Oakview H. D. Club, one of the most active leaders in the county. This club prides itself on the fact that its leaders have given all of their demonstrations for the past two years, whereas the county goal was 5 per club. Mrs. Parsons sees to it personally that the leaders from her club get to the training meetings. She never misses a meeting and her boundless energy, enthusiasm and good cheer quickly radiates to others within her group. At present she is recreation song leader, librarian and supper chairman for her club, finance chairman for the Madisonville P. T. A., and a member of the building committee for the Madison District Community House.

As supper chairman, she is responsible for organizing committees, preparing and collecting food for the suppers which her club serves to civic groups as a means of raising funds for the community house which her club and two other organizations are financing. Last winter as chairman of the finance committee for Madisonville P. T. A. she was responsible for planning and putting on a supper and auction which netted around $400.00. She is a member of the board of directors of the Farmville Five County Fair Association and each year renders invaluable service in collecting and arranging exhibits, both adult and 4-H. Each year her club exhibit has won first place. She is also one of the departmental superintendents for 4-H exhibits.

This year her home was selected as a result demonstration in home ground improvement. Each year the club's Christmas party is held in her home. She frequently takes the weekly radio program to release the agent for 4-H or other activities, preparing her own script around some of her club activities or on some timely topic.

Mrs. Parsons gives generously to her community of her own time and effort, but none the less valuable is her success in getting others to work with her. In my opinion she is one of the outstanding leaders in Charlotte County.

VI. WORK IN COOPERATION WITH OTHER AGENCIES

A. County Fair Association, Farmville Five County Fair, Lynchburg Farm Show

At least three weeks was spent in working with the three organizations mentioned above. The 40 girls participating entered around 350 individual exhibits and won $194.75 and 53 blue ribbons.

An estimated crowd of 2000 attended the Charlotte County Fair and it is probably that 1000 families were reached in that way. School children attended as a regular school day. Every school in the county cooperated by sending class room exhibits. The 1200 school children who attended were greatly responsible for interesting their parents and friends in seeing their school and project work. Catalogues and posters, captioned "Charlotte County School and Achievement Day" evidenced the combined efforts of the two groups working in harmony with each other.

We consider this one of the best means of informing the public of what boys and girls are accomplishing in their project work. It is an excellent way to acquaint the public with the 4-H program and the quality of the projects carried.

B. Southside Electric Cooperative and VEPCO

Southside Electric Cooperative and Virginia Electric Power Company have both responded willingly to requests for assistance with 4-H and H. D. Club programs. Representatives alternated in conducting demonstration and discussions on the 4-H Electric Project at Randolph-Henry High School. Each gave 6 demonstrations and 3 days in assisting with this project. In addition to assisting with the 4-H project the home advisers gave 5 demonstration on Broiler Meals and Use of the Electric Range for the H. D. Clubs.

C. County Library

Through the cooperation of the county librarian and the home

agent around 2000 books have been circulated among the home demonstration club members and made available to others not within easy reach of the library. Four clubs, Aspen, Midway, Saxe and Red Oak have deposit stations of from 50 to 80 books each. Others distribute them through their club librarian.

In her annual report, the librarian complimented the work of the H. D. Club librarians and especially the librarian of the Red Oak Club.

D. County Health Department

The County Health Department cooperates whole heartedly with the home demonstration club program. They are always ready and willing to assist whenever called. Miss Frances Barringer, Public Health Nurse, prepared an attractive exhibit for the County Fair. Each year she willingly loans demonstration material for 4-H Club use. She supplies bulletins and other material upon request.

In appreciation for Miss Barringer's service and recognizing our existing need, the clubs voted at their executive meeting to contribute to a loan closet, articles for the sick room to be loaned by Miss Barringer where needed. Gifts have consisted of a wheel chair, crutches, linens for the hospital bed and small articles such as ice cap, hot water bag, etc.

E. County Tuberculosis Association

The home agent cooperates with the County T. B. Association in securing leaders from among the H. D. Club members in assisting with the mass chest x-ray and encouraging members to assist with the Seal Sale. Contributions are made through the clubs and individually. Three clubs, Aspen, Madisonville and Bethel-Phenix bought T. B. bonds.

F. Vocational Home Economics

The home agent cooperates with the home economics department of the consolidated high school in putting on the County Achievement Day and Fair and in exhibiting at the Farmville Five County Fair.

Facilities of the home economics department are made available for leaders' training meetings on foods, which are usually held there.

G. County School Board

The county school board cooperates with the home demonstration agent by allowing school facilities to be used for fairs and achievement days. They also furnish a school bus and driver to transportation available for the H. D. Club Achievement Day tour.

H. County Red Cross Chapter

Members of the board of the County Red Cross have made their building available for meetings and demonstrations of the County Federation of H. D. Clubs. Several leaders' training meetings and one on handicraft were held there. The cooperation of this group is invaluable in holding meetings such as those mentioned.

Club members in turn are asked to cooperate with the Red Cross. Leaders have assisted in securing membership in the organization as well as in soliciting donors and giving blood for the Bloodmobile. The Aspen Club received special commendation for their efforts in securing donors.

I. The March of Dimes

Each H. D. Club was asked to participate in the March of Dimes. Several H. D. Club members served as community chairmen. A chairman was selected in each club to receive contributions. Members contributed practically 100% either through the club or some other organization.

J. Puritans and Dairymen's Association

The home agent contacts key members and helps them plan and serve dinners each month to the Puritans and twice a year to the Dairymen's Association.

K. Eureka Grange

The home agent holds membership in the Eureka Grange and assists with programs when called upon. During 4-H Club Week one program was presented by members of the Keysville 4-H Club.

L. V.H.E.A.

The agent is an active member of the V.H.E.A. She is chairman of the East Central District and as such attends all executive meetings of the association.

M. Woman's Clubs

The home agent is an active member of the Keysville Woman's Club and cooperates with the various committees.

The H. D. Clubs and the Woman's Club sponsored a tour of outstanding gardens in the Richmond area during Garden Week. A bus was chartered and 43 people made the tour. It was felt to be such a success that a similar trip is being planned for the coming year.

N. Parent Teachers Association

The home agent is a member of the Keysville P. T. A. She and the assistant county agent put on a program on 4-H work for the Charlotte Court House P. T. A. in March. A demonstration by two 4-H girls on Salad Making, was a highlight of the program.

O. Nutrition Survey

Four days were spent in the adjoining county of Appomattox assisting with the nutrition survey that was conducted under the auspices of the extension service.

This was a valuable experience and the agent feels that the time was well spent because of the insight it gave into the extent of extension teaching. It was also an opportunity to determine somewhat the needs of the people and methods to be used in getting more information before the people within her own county.

XII. SIGNIFICANCE OF THE YEAR'S WORK

From observation and comment I feel that the program as a whole has helped to stimulate the homemakers interest in improved methods of doing everyday's work and has helped to make her more efficient in her homemaking activities. Through leadership it has developed her and helped her to make a contribution to her community and to her county and through participation in other programs of a civic nature it has enlarged her horizon and helped her to become a part of something larger than her own immediate group.

I feel that the home demonstration program has been a means of improving the standard of living not only for the members themselves, but for the more than 500 who share information passed on to them by club members and for those who are influenced by both radio and press. Club reporters have given favorable publicity to their programs.

The federation goal, Home and Community Beautification, is continueing activities formerly carried for two years previously under Art in Daily Living. This has had a very noticable effect in arousing more homemakers to a consciousness of their home surroundings, resulting in better planning of home grounds. This not only stimulates greater pride, but adds to the value of the home itself.

This program has been the means of gaining favorable publicity for extension especially through the improved church grounds and community projects.

In spite of the fact that many valuable members have been lost to club work through employment in the industrial plants located within the county and nearby, we have managed to maintain a membership of around 250 as compared with 267 the previous year and one new club has been added in 1951 making a total of 13.

There has been an increasing willingness of home demonstration members to serve as 4-H leaders, there being 28 serving this year as compared with 21 in 1950. It is also gratifying that with a few exceptions, those who served previously were willing to continue. Their efforts have helped to encourage girls in taking and in carrying to completion their summer projects.

In competitive contests entered 4-H Club members have made a creditable showing. While Charlotte County contestants were young, both in age and experience, they won 3 first and 1 second place in the 4 area contests entered.

In the Sears Roebuck garden contest they won two sweepstakes placings, a 3rd and 5th.

The Charlotte Elementary Club received the blue award and a $20.00 check for health activities in the Food for Pep project.

The 4-H Council was the means of stimulating more members to attain the objectives selected for the year. It also helped the club officers to perform the duties of their office more efficiently. This was especially noticed in the number of reporters who sent club news to the paper and of the way in which the news was written.

I feel that through their project work 4-H Club members are becoming more skilled in the techniques of homemaking, that their project work has increased their pride and given them a greater appreciation for homemaking activities and has been a means of reaching with information many families that otherwise would not have been reached.