

# ANNUAL REPORT

## County Extension Work

1953



Mary E. Hagler

**Agent**

BLAND  
**COUNTY**

**Asst. Agent**

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### III. BLAND COUNTY

Bland County is located in the Appalachian Mountain range in Southwest Virginia - the elevation ranging from 2,500 to 3,400 feet.

There are 787 farms in the county. The total farming acreage is listed as 125,072. Much of the county's 236,160 acres of woodland is a part of the Jefferson National Forest.

The county population is 6,437, a decline of 300 since the 1944 census.

Bland is primarily an agricultural county with beef cattle, dairy cattle and sheep predominating. Non-farm families earn a livelihood from the following industries in the county: Hosiery Mills, employing regularly 80; Childrens' Ready-To-Wear Factory, employing 160; six privately owned lumber industries; two Manganese Mines, coal mining, State Highway Department, Celanese Plant at Narrows, and the Radford Arsenal make it possible for heads of families and other members to live in the county and commute to work.

The 1952 school census showed 1377 students enrolled in 9 county schools - 3 high schools, 1 junior high, 3 white grade schools and 1 colored grade school.

30 Lutheran, Presbyterian and Methodist Churches serve the county.

The county does not have recreation provided by commercial concerns, such as theatres, etc. All recreation is carried on through Churches, schools and clubs.

### IV. CONTRIBUTION OF THE 1953 PROGRAM TO BETTER LIVING

The project, "The Work Dress" - selected by the Home Demonstration

Clubs this year has been most outstanding in club accomplishments. The selection of fabrics and patterns, fitting, cutting and finishes were included in this program.

The program was conducted through one leader-training meeting, 10 trained club leaders, one regular monthly demonstration and one all-day monthly demonstration in each club, and through home visits by leaders and agent. The Achievement Day program was a "Cotton Tea."

As a result of the Work Dress Project, the following accomplishments were realized: 112 work dresses, 15 work jackets and 34 work aprons were made.

Approximately 75% of the club members used all the information on work dress features given in the club. In addition, they have passed on the information to 1,115 other people, the equivalent of 4 persons per club member.

In the 1953 program the members want to take the next step forward - "The Better Dress", which will be included in the January and February programs.

Bland's second Home Demonstration Achievement Day Program was a result of the "Work Dress" project. For each member to show her work dress, jacket or apron - a program was prepared in which each club acted out a scene. The scenes included a different demonstration that had been given to the club in the past year. The 4-H Club and Home Demonstration Club Members' children gave entertainment on the program.

Pictures of this Achievement Day exhibit will be found at the end of this report.

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V. ADULT WORK

A. Project Work

1. Foods and Nutrition

The foods and nutrition program was brought out in the Federation Goal which was "Health." This information will be found under Federation Goal.

One club out of the 10 clubs in the county chose "Cake and Icing" as their club choice. This stimulated other interest, and as a result, "Cakes and Icings" was included as a one month demonstration in the 1953 Program.

2. Clothing

The clothing project included cleaning sewing machines, the selection of fabrics and patterns, fitting, cutting, and finishing of the Work Dress, jacket and apron, and re-styling hats. The objectives from the 1953 Plan of Work include: 100 sewing machines cleaned, oiled and adjusted; 75 work dresses made; women to learn process of short cuts in family sewing; 200 hats re-styled and cleaned and women to learn and know hat styles.

To carry out these objectives: 47 leader and agent demonstrations; 12 all-day meetings; clothing articles appeared for two months period in the Homemakers' Column in the local paper; 8 clubs chose "Practical Christmas Gifts" as club choice; home visits; clothing leaders in each club have given clothing tips; mimeographed materials on the Work Dress from VPI; bulletins on fitting dresses and pattern alterations, as well as timely pamph-

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lets from Spool Cotton Company have been distributed to each club member.

As a result of the program, 122 dresses, 15 work jackets, 34 aprons were made, and 154 hats cleaned and re-styled, 36 sewing machines cleaned and 20 clamp-on aprons made.

### 3. Home Management

Farm labor shortage and women working made a great demand on the homemaker for time and step savers. With this objective, the Home Demonstration Clubs chose "Saving Time in Housecleaning." Method used: 12 method demonstrations; home visits; leaflets on cleaning aids from VPI given to interested members.

As a result of this project the following accomplishments were realized: 115 members attended this meeting; 100 dustless dust cloths made and 75 broom covers.

### 4. House Furnishings

Three months were devoted to The Convenient Kitchen in the 1953 Home Demonstration Program. The objectives set up were: Study kitchen plans and kitchen units, make plans for kitchen, study kitchen plans and its use, storage in the kitchen, building storage units, color of your kitchen, types of finishes on walls, woodwork and floors; light for your kitchen, management center in the kitchen; relaxing area in the kitchen.

One month was devoted to making lamp shades, with the objective-improving the family life area with better light.

The methods used were: 12 demonstrations to each club given on planning and arranging the kitchen; 12 demonstrations to each club

on storage; 12 demonstrations were given on color, finishes (wall and floor), light, management, and the rocking chair. 12 demonstrations were given on lamp shades and lighting in the home. Each member scored her own kitchen; pictures of remodeled kitchens were shown and discussed; also samples of different floor coverings, special racks, filing compartments, finishes, were shown. Slides were shown on proper and improper lighting. Lamp shades were made at the meeting, and a number of home visits were made throughout the 4 months.

Materials from VPI on convenient kitchens, cleaning aids, kitchen woodbox, raising table heights, table with a dozen uses, and the pamphlets on planning the kitchen and work room. "How To Make A Lampshade" was given to each club president. Timely pamphlets from Johnsons Wax Company have been distributed to club members who were interested.

As a result, 280 families have made an improvement in the kitchen, including storage, cabinets, lights and floor coverings. New appliances purchased were: 8 electric stoves, 9 water heaters, 10 freessers, 12 sinks and 4 clothes dryers.

Special Meetings on House Furnishings: The Agent attended the first day of the "Upholstery Clinic" at Richlands in Tazewell County to get help in conducting the Bland County clinic. The result - an upholstery clinic was held in Bland by the agent, assisted by a leader. Six attended the meeting, and 1 settee and 4 chairs were upholstered and 1 chair was repaired. Another upholstery clinic was conducted by the agent for the Bland Home

Economic girls who came to the Home Economics Cottage to upholster all the furniture in the cottage. The attendance was 8, and 1 couch and 4 chairs were upholstered. The cost of materials was \$62.00, this meant a saving of \$60.00 for the Department.

The upholstery of furniture is still going strong. The agent held one meeting, assisted by a leader, on making drapes. Six attended the meeting, and three pairs of drapes were made.

The agent also assisted one school in selection of stage curtains. These were made at a great savings.

#### 5. Rural Arts

Basketry was a one club choice meeting for one club in Bland this year. As there was a leader training meeting last year, a leader from another club held this meeting. As a result, 26 baskets and 15 trays were woven.

As a result of the demonstrations given in 1951, ten chairs and fifteen stools have been reseatd with fiber this year.

54 aluminum trays have also been etched. This work has been accomplished by individual and special meetings conducted by leaders.

As November was club choice for each of the 12 clubs in the county, 8 clubs were interested in practical Christmas gifts. As a result, paraffin was melted and whipped with an egg beater and a candle was molded in a tin can or shaped square into a candle. 75 candles were made. 40 leather bags and 32 stenciled pieces were made.

6. Other

(a) Water Systems

The County Agent and Home Demonstration Agent worked at two meetings with a group composed of agriculture and home economics teachers, veterans' instructors, superintendent of schools, the one water system dealer in the county and the A. E. P. Company representative in making plans to get water under pressure in the homes.

First a survey was made through the schools and a movie was shown.

As a result of the 735 homes surveyed, 370 homes do not have water under pressure. 365 have water under pressure.

Twelve water systems have been installed this year.

(b) Landscaping

One month's demonstration was conducted in improving home grounds. The purpose of such a demonstration was to study the landscaping of lawns, learn the types of shrubs, trees and flowers to use to their best advantage in helping to beautify the home and community.

The methods used were: Two demonstrations were given in Eland County. Pictures of different types of incorrect and correct ways to arrange flowers, and a model house with drive, lawn, trees, barn, garden and flowers was set up. Pamphlets from VPI on lawns, garden roses, gladiolus, delphiniums, chrysanthemums were distributed to club members who were interested.

As a result, many members will carry out this information at the end of the dry season.

B. Other Activities

1. An Outstanding Family

Some of the outstanding features the agent has found in one family who lives in Bland County include: the homemaker is a member of the Home Demonstration Club - only missed one out of the 12 Home Demonstration Club meetings this year - attends all programs, leader and county committee meetings, helped the agent hold one upholstery clinic; conducted four Home Demonstration Club meetings in December, when there was no agent, on cleaning sewing machines; assisted the agent in conducting one meeting on measuring and making draperies; a h-h Club leader; conducted four h-h Club meetings; helped make plans for Achievement Day; her daughter is an active Home Demonstration Club member; she has two active granddaughters enrolled in h-h clubs.

Her accomplishments this year include: made two work dresses, one apron, assisted in cleaning eight sewing machines, three chairs upholstered, made two kitchen improvements, made two lamp shades, restyled two hats and made one pair drapes.

2. A Club or Group in Community Projects

The County Home Demonstration Committee

Each of the twelve clubs in the county have been most active in community affairs, as can readily be seen by the following activities:

Each club contributed generously to health drives, including polio, I. E., heart and cancer; club mothers in each club sponsored the "Mothers March" on Polio in her community and raised more than \$625.00 from the drive.

As a special county project, the clubs raised \$139.40 for the Fair Building Project. This project provided the following for the Fair building: paint for building, \$55.40; wash basin for rest room, \$28.75; glue for building, \$51.60; others include mirror, towel dispenser and toilet paper holder.

Three clubs sponsored Community Christmas Trees for their Communities.

### 3. Federation Goal

Eleven clubs paid Federation dues this year, and thirty-six women attended the District Federation Meeting in Pulaski. Health was selected as the Federation Goal for a period of two years. Each club appointed a Federation Goal Leader to help promote this goal.

The objectives were: Have Health Nurse go to each club and give a 15 or 20 minute talk on health and the value of a physical examination; offer services to clinics in the county; 100% of club members have a physical examination; 100% of club members have both spring and fall gardens; each member eat more leafy and yellow vegetables; strive to have all members to get milk in diet; each member rest 15 minutes daily; encourage 50% of club members to carry some good health insurance; every club member cooperate with special drives for better health.

The results: a leader training meeting was conducted by the agent in which Federation Goal Leaders of each club attended and made plans for carrying out the goal; the nurse attended six Home Demonstration Club meetings, and gave a talk on Health.

The Home Demonstration Club members gave service to the X-ray, pre-school clinic, and donated \$75.00 to the dental clinic. 100% of members had both spring and fall gardens. After a survey, it was found that 45 members carried Health Insurance. 30 members had typhoid shots. The Health Department is giving Home Demonstration members and others complete physical examinations - so far, 45 have had physical examinations, and due to lack of time, it was decided to carry Health again in the 1953 Program and add Safety.

The Home Demonstration Federation goal leaders were influential in getting the Ordinance passed for the Health Department.

4. County Objectives

The project "Fair Building" was a continuation from last year. These objectives were:

- (1) Complete rooms on fair grounds, wash basin, trash can, mirror, towels and rack, ceiling.
- (2) Ten meetings conducted by project leaders.
- (3) Each member be more active.
- (4) Have club members help non-club members.

The result: The 12 Home Demonstration Clubs raised \$134.40 for the Fair Building. \$55.40 was spent for painting; wash basin, \$28.75; flue for building, \$45.60; \$4.65 for mirror, towels dispenser, and paper towel holder. 18 leaders conducted demonstrations.

5. Result Demonstrations

Three result demonstrations on kitchen remodeling and two on

landscaping are being carried out in Bland County.

VI. 4-H Club Work

Project Work

1. Food and Nutrition

Three clubs in the county chose Food Preparation as their 4-H project. During this project the following topics were studied: table setting, breakfast, measurements for cookies, milk dishes, how to give a demonstration, planning and serving club refreshments, with the objective - to improve family living. Ten members chose bread making as their project, and two members chose freezing as their project.

17 method demonstrations were given by the agent, mimeographed material from VPI was given each club member, and home visits were made.

The results: 201 meals served; 110 dishes served; 80 times making bread; 179 quarts and 40 pounds meat frozen.

One girl entered the District Contest in Bread Making, and won 2nd place.

2. Clothing - Units I and II

Three clubs chose these projects with the objective of improving family living. During the project, the following projects were studied: needle cases, pin cushions, aprons, skirts, blouses, pattern and material selection, learning the pattern, cutting the dress, basic seams and darts, zippers, putting the dress together, sleeves and necklines, finishing details.

Methods used: 18 method demonstrations, training given to leaders,

mimeographed project material from VPI and home visits.

The result: 134 articles were reported. One girl entered the District Contest on "So You Like To Sew" and won 2nd place.

3. Room Improvement

Three clubs chose this project for improving family living.

The subjects studied were: making a dustless dust cloth, washing windows, winter arrangement of flowers, sections in dresser drawers, correct lighting for study, waste basket, bulletin board, dressing table and stool, arranging furniture in bed room.

Methods used: 15 method demonstrations, training given to leaders, home visits and mimeographed material from VPI.

Results: 15 rooms taken care of and 12 articles made. One girl entered the District Contest and won 2nd place.

4. Others

Rural Electrification

32 girls enrolled in the Electric Project in the county this year with 20 completing.

Subjects studied in the electric project were: repair and service of cords, reading electric meters, making lamps, drawing plans for kitchen, using correct electrical symbols and care of electrical appliances.

Methods used: movies, method demonstrations by the Appalachian Electric Power Company representatives, tours, leaflets and materials from VPI.

The results: 5 lamps were made; 15 club members repaired at least

3 service clubs, 10 toured the electrified kitchens, 5 girls learned to read home electric meters; 20 girls completed projects. One representative was sent to the Electric Congress in Richmond.

B. Other Activities

1. Community Activities

A play was given by one club to raise money for their treasury. 4-H girls helped give an entertaining number on the Home Demonstration Club Achievement Day Program.

During National 4-H Club Week, members from various clubs gave a program for Kiwanis supper. All club members were recognized by standing, telling their names and club project. 30 members attended the supper.

2. Camp - Seven girls attended the 4-H Camp at Camp Summers, Hinton, West Virginia. The Wythe County School Board provided a school bus for transporting Carroll, Wythe and Bland County

3. Rural Life Sunday - The 4-H Club members had a special part on the worship service in four different churches on Rural Life Sunday. Three 4-H Clubs bought and made corsages for their mothers. Newspaper publicity was given the event.

4. Recreation - Achievement Day

The annual recreation day was held on the Bland County Fair grounds with forty-two 4-H'ers and 10 adults attending the meeting. The highlight of the day was a talk by Mrs. John Suurikivi on "Children's Activities in Estonia." Planned group recreation and excellent food made the day a success.

- 5. Fairs - Cooperation of 4-H'ers and other organized groups and individuals made possible a large combination exhibit. Two 4-H Club members served as superintendents. 70 entries were made in foods and clothing and many ribbons taken.
- 6. Contests - Three 4-H Club girls entered the "istrict Contests: one in Room Improvement, one in "So You Like To Sew" and one in Breads. Each girl won 2nd place.
- 7. State Short Course - Two outstanding club girls attended 4-H Club State Short Course. A worthy member was selected and accepted into the All-Star Organization this year.

VII. Scope of Work

	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953
No. HD Clubs or Groups	11	12	12	12	12
Membership	205	264	275	215	
No. 4-H Clubs	7	9	11	9	
Membership	122	138	142	116	
No. 4-H Groups	-	-	-	-	
Membership	-	-	-	-	
No. other families reached	200	250	300	300	
No. of different families reached	100	125	150	160	
No. community clubs	-	-	-	-	
Membership	-	-	-	-	

VIII. Functioning of Organization

A. County Home Demonstration Committee

The first County Home Demonstration Committee met March 24, 1953

for the purpose of planning a program for the remainder of 1953. The Second County Home Demonstration Committee met October 11, 1953 for the purpose of planning the 1953-54 Program. The following objectives were set up: To raise \$200.00 for the Fair Exhibit Building; to encourage a large delegation to attend the District Federation Meeting of Home Demonstration Clubs. To observe National Home Demonstration Week with picture and articles in local newspaper. Promote Achievement Day Program. To take part in drive of "Pennies for Friendship," sale of aluminum name plates to build club treasuries.

The accomplishments: \$139.40 for the Fair Building; 36 attended the District Federation Meeting; observed National Home Demonstration Week with 5 pictures and 1 article in the Bluefield Daily Telegraph, and 13 pictures and 2 articles in the county paper; promoted Achievement Day Program by a "Cotton Tea" - 100 attending; set up 1953 Program; \$6.85 given to "Pennies for Friendship;" \$16.00 cleared from sale of aluminum name plates

B. County 4-H Club Council

One meeting of the County Council was held this year to plan the county program of work, and the meeting of October, 1952, trained club officers to conduct their clubs efficiently for 1953. This year the 4-H County Council purchased a 4-H Club Banner.

IX. Leadership

A. Contributions of Volunteer Leaders

1. Organizational: All leaders have assisted in carrying on the Home Demonstration and 4-H Club programs. The officers of the

- Home Demonstration and 4-H Clubs presided at meetings, kept records, arranged for meeting places, conducted business sessions, assisted with securing club supplies, responsible to see that leaders attended training, program and county council meetings.
2. Program Development: The Program Development leaders have conducted club discussions on program planning in two months' programs prior to planning meetings; attended county Home Demonstration Planning Meeting; 11 out of 12 participated in planning the county calendar of work and gave reports to clubs on planning meetings, and assisted in carrying out the Federation Goal.
  3. Subject Matter: 5 project leaders, including foods, handicraft, gardening, clothing and house furnishings, were appointed by each club leader at the first of the Home Demonstration Club year. These leaders have functioned in bringing brief reports at club meetings. The clothing leaders have aided in giving 18 demonstrations.
- E. Growth of Leadership by Project Leaders, Adult and Junior Works:

HOME DEMONSTRATION CLUB PROJECT LEADERSHIP

	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953
No. Project leaders (subject matter)		59	77	48	60
No. goal chairmen		11	12	12	12
No. training meetings held by Specialist	1		3	4	1
by Agent	0		4	3	1
Attendance at all training meetings		11	115	108	84
No. Club meetings held by leaders without agent present		0	24	74	17
No. additional club meetings at which leaders assisted		21	56	7	18

Growth of 4-H Club Project Leadership

	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953
No. adult project leaders		12	15	10	8
No. junior project leaders		7	7	2	2
No. training meetings held by specialist	0	0	0	0	0
by agent	2	15	3	0	0
Attendance at leader training meetings	16	107	14	0	
No. 4-H leaders trained individually	3	10	2	4	
No. club meetings held by leader without agent present	0	4	6	6	
No. of additional club meetings at which leaders assisted	0	84	31	35	
No. demonstrations given by leaders					
by adults	4	21	6	6	
by Juniors	0	2	0	2	

C. Activities of Outstanding Leader

This year our outstanding club woman has been our county vice-chairman.

She has conducted admirably the Achievement Day Program, as well as represented the Home Demonstration Extension Program in several out-of-county meetings. She has been most cooperative with the agent.

In her own community she has served as leader of the Home Demonstration Club. She has helped 25 women individually with club projects when they were unable to attend the regular meetings.

In her home she has upholstered 1 chair and 1 chair cushion, slip-covered 1 couch and 2 chairs; made 6 lamp shades, made kitchen improvements, cleaned sewing machine, restyled 2 hats and resealed 1 footstool.

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She is president of the W. S. C. S. and active in many other organisations. She has 50 women in her Bible Class.

She and her family are excellent Extension workers and Boosters.

I. Work in Cooperation With Other Agencies

The agent has cooperated with the Home Economics Department in holding an upholstery clinic to upholster the badly worn furniture in the Home Economics cottage, and in supplying printed materials and information.

She has assisted the Home Economics teacher and principal in measuring and selecting the material for stage curtains. The agent has assisted with all health drives, and has found ample opportunity to work in cooperation with the Appalachian Electric Power Company engineers and home economists on home lighting and electrical equipment.

II. Appraisal of Year's Work

The County Home Demonstration Committee functioned 100% this year.

You can always find some of your tracks in most every home you visit. If it isn't a braided rug, upholstered furniture, it is a picture or a lamp shade - or even the work dress, apron or hat. You can always spot many improvements.