

ISLE OF WIGHT COUNTY
NARRATIVE REPORT OF
HOME DEMONSTRATION AGENT WORK
December 1, 1946
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Negro

"FOREWORD"

The following report includes the activities sponsored and completed in an attempt to raise the standard of home making in Isle of Wight County.

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SCOPE OF WORK

Six Home Demonstration Clubs have been organized in Isle of Wight County with a total membership of 88. Four of these clubs are located in communities in which extension work is less than two years old. All club members are asked to carry the things that they learn in the club meetings to five other women.

There are 141 older youth and 4-H girls enrolled in eight organized clubs. The agent has given 105 days to these girls.

Approximately 200 farm families have been reached through the local agent with the extension program organization.

There is a County Home Demonstration Committee with twenty-two members. This committee consists of representatives from nine communities in the county. The function of this organization is to help make the year's program of work for 4-H Clubs and Home Demonstration Clubs. Each member takes a copy of the program of work back to her respective communities.

The County Advisory Board which has met three times this year deals largely with work for men.

The County 4-H Council has for its purpose to train 4-H officers for general meetings and programs.

LEADERSHIP

The six presidents of their respective clubs are truly our club leaders. They select the meeting places, set the time and notify the members of meetings. Also, we have six house furnishings and surroundings and six foods leaders. Nine training meetings have been held for these leaders. They have given thirty-four demonstrations. Other members who are especially qualified to give demonstrations and lead discussions are encouraged to do so. By doing this, we believe that more subject leaders can be secured.

Mrs. Josephine Chapman, a member of the Windsor club, gave two demonstrations in reseating chairs with shucks. As a result of these demonstrations, eighteen discarded chairs were reseated and put in use. Our leaders and members help encourage the work by bringing to the club meetings the small things that they have made in their homes.

The Foods Preservation Leaders bring very good samples of canned foods to the meetings. They state the number of jars they have canned. These reports and displays encourage other members to do more. Mrs. Crocker of the Godwins H. D. Club, wore an

attractive dress that she had dyed and made from barnyard linen. From this demonstration, a discussion of the many things that could be made from barnyard linen followed. The women later reported having made ten dresses, numerous pairs of curtains, runners, pot holders, etc., from barnyard linen.

Our 4-H work suffers somewhat from the lack of leadership. We only have six leaders for eight clubs. Fortunately, our leaders are quite well-versed in this work. We have held four training meetings for the 4-H leaders to check their knowledge of Project Instruction and requirements and get their ideas about community needs.

The Livey Neck 4-H Club leader and children sponsored a style show demonstration to the public; the proper things to wear on different occasions. This program was presented in a community where too many people wore the wrong colors and styles to the wrong places. A comparison was made between the wrong and right way of dressing.

RESULTS

In the line of production, families were trained when to make their seed purchases, planting dates and methods selecting essential equipment and insect control. Home makers were urged to plant their gardens nearer the houses. They were also urged to plant a variety of vegetables. We noticed that about thirty home makers

have made this change. They plant early and late vegetables of the same kind, which gives them a variety of fresh vegetables to eat for a longer period and a better chance to preserve the required amount for the family.

The Home Makers were advised to re-condition their brooder houses and rid them of insects before putting in their baby chicks. They were told when and how to cull chickens.

Canning is a demonstration most women are interested in. Demonstrations in canning vegetables, fruits and meats were given in each club and to many unorganized groups. As a result of the canning demonstrations, there were 1,788 quarts of fruit jars, 8,940 quarts of vegetables, 1,093 quarts of meats.

Approximately thirty more women are using pressure cookers this year than used them last year. Many women agreed that screw bands should be removed from jars twenty-four hours after canning time because they tend to rust and make jars difficult to open.

The storing of canned fruits and vegetables was discussed. Pictures and materials on same ~~were~~ passed out to the women. Five women have made improvements for storing canned goods.

The Basic Seven was discussed with the women.

They were told to use it as a guide in marketing and menu planning. Special training has been given on balanced diets for children. Sample school ^{lunches} ~~branches~~ were given to the clubs. Because of the predicted change in style trends, the high cost and inferior materials, home makers have been encouraged to take the best care of their clothing and buy as little as possible. Both home makers and 4-H children have been shown how to clean, press and store winter garments. Five sewing machines have been cleaned and re-conditioned.

The agent gave instruction in clothing construction, showing the economy of making as many clothes as possible for the family.

Miss Mabel Winegan of the Trinity Home Makers Club, who likes to sew, was encouraged to make her spring suit. She not only made her suit, but made her pocket book and hat. The cost of the outfit was \$22.00. The material in the suit was superior to the materials seen in many \$50.00 suits.

I took her to three other clubs and asked her to style three dresses she had made from barnyard linen and also the suit. I believe this encouraged ten women to learn to sew who have never attempted to sew before.

Home makers were shown how to make jumpers from dresses that had outlived the sleeves; children's dresses from adult dresses. Also, they learned to make old hats look new by changing the band, flower and other minor details.

House repair and home safety was discussed during my home visits. Forty chimneys and flues have been cleaned, five door steps were repaired, new pipes put in old heaters and some old heaters destroyed. Following the discussions and instructions in the study of house furnishings and home management, eight rugs were cleaned and stored, fifteen chairs, recovered, five closets built in bed rooms, thirty-two rooms have been painted, ten kitchen floors have been covered with inlaid linoleum, five sinks were installed in kitchens and two bath rooms added to homes. Three new kitchens have been completed and one laundry room.

Lectures and demonstrations were given on time saving equipment; as a result, ten pressure cookers have been purchased and twelve pressure sauce pan cookers have been added to kitchens in Isle of Wight County.

The Home Demonstration Clubs have rendered their assistance in improving their respective communities. The Godwins group of sixteen women, canned seventy quarts of vegetables for the community school lunch room. Also, they gave \$15.00 to purchase shubbery to improve the school grounds.

The Central Hill group furnished a ladies' room for the Central Hill Church.

The Rushmere Home Makers group rates as the most

outstanding. They held their meetings regularly. This club exhibited the best cooperation with the agent in putting over the extension program as planned. There are many good examples of food production and conservation as well as kitchen improvements in this club. The group sponsored an entertainment that netted \$50.00. The money was used to improve their local school lunch room.

Mrs. Eugenia Jones, whose address is R.F.D. 4, Smithfield, Virginia, can rightfully be called the outstanding club member for the year. She has lived on the farm less than two years. This year she grew twenty varieties of vegetables in her garden and canned them, using her pressure cooker for the first time - 476 cans of fruits and vegetables. Her excess vegetables are sold in her store. Last month, she purchased a cow that not only gives her butter for the table, but gives her three extra pounds to sell each week at \$0.80 per pound. She has made a spread and vanity covers as well as papered her rooms.

4-H WORK

One hundred and forty-one 4-H Club members and older girls were enrolled in project work. One hundred and twenty-seven were completed.

The monthly meeting were held for the most part in the school. We secured the cooperation of parents and gave our demonstrations in homes in the various communities.

Requirements were given the girls, sponsors and their parents.

The agents gave demonstrations in the projects to the groups. The sponsors gave demonstrations to the groups that could not be reached by the agents. All of our projects were conducted in this manner.

The Carsville Club improved her school grounds and sponsored a bus trip to Richmond which caused their meetings regularly and enjoyed doing project work.

OTHER WORK SAVED BY THE AGENT

The agent cooperated with the T. B. Institution, the Parent Teachers Association and collected fifteen bundles for the over sea drive.

APPRAISAL

The year 1946 has historical significance as the first full year of reconversion. With so many new home makers, many young and inexperienced, the Home Demonstration Clubs have been able to play important parts in their assistance to home makers. When a person learns to use discarded clothing to an advantage, make beautiful the unsightly places in the home and surroundings, grow and preserve food stuffs, that person is truly learning to get the most out of life. These are the guiding principles that have governed this agent's activities during the year of 1946. I am proud to say that it has been with tangible success. Now I know that most women want ample food, nice things made economically and clean, beautiful surroundings. I know too, that once they are made conscious

of the need of these qualities by suggestions made available through pamphlets, club meetings and fellow club members, they will realize that these examples aid greatly toward making better home makers.