

ANNUAL NARRATIVE REPORT

COUNTY  
EXTENSION  
WORK

FILED

*Virginia Agricultural Extension Service*

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1961

Southampton  
**County**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

<u>SUBJECT</u>	<u>PAGE</u>
Highlights of 1961 Program	1-2
County Situation	2-3
<u>County Extension Adult Work</u>	
County Advisory Board	3
County Home Demonstration Committee	4
Home Demonstration Planning Meeting	4-5
Subject Matter & Special Emphasis Area	5-6
Textile Painting	6-7
Yard Beautification	7-8
Improving Sanitary Conditions	8-9
Simple Refreshments for Entertainment	9
Making Plans for the Holiday Season	10
Subject Matter	10-11
Other Activities	11
<u>County Extension Youth Work</u>	
Organization - 4-H Council	11-12
Leader Association	12
<u>4-H Project Work</u>	
So You'd Like To Sew	12-13
Your Room	13
Looking Your Best	13-14
Other Activities	14
State Short Course, Wildlife Conference, Regional	14
Rural Life Sunday	14-15
Scope of Work	15
Brief Statement of Scope of Work	15
<u>Leadership</u>	
Organizational	15
Home Demonstration	16
4-H Club	16
<u>Accomplishments</u>	
Outstanding Individual In Leadership	16-17
Special Consideration	17-18
Good Public Relations	18
Professional Improvements	18-19
The Look Ahead	19

### Highlights of 1961 Program - County

The Extension program covers seven districts. Due to the fact that the county has a large rural population, the extension program is set up to give guidance in solving problems of the people. Its purpose is to set up plans in improving better practices in homemaking and farming to meet the family needs, and to help rural and urban people to appreciate more of the things available for the improvement of their living conditions.

Living trends have changed a great deal in the county. Many homemakers and farmers are seeking employment outside the home. Farm families are moving into the urban areas. In this county farming is the main occupation, however, farming is not the only source of income. The extension activities are selected to meet the changing situation and to show homemakers time saving advices on how to budget time, energy and money to improve home management to meet the needs of the family members.

The 1961 program of work in Southampton County was interrupted for six months because of the absence of an Agent. A majority of the clubs discontinued with their regular meetings, however, several clubs continued to execute the year's work with leaders and members assisting.

For the brief period that the clubs worked, favorable results have been noted in the way of improved methods used and a slight increase in standards of living.

The youth program was most deficient as a result of the absence of the Agent. There was no successfully completed Home Economics Projects. The present Agent found that to a certain extent the past efforts of the Extan-

sion program have been hurt because parents, leaders, and 4-H'ers have criticized the incompleteness of 4-H work.

The present Agent assumed responsibilities on September 1, 1961, and began active work in all phases of the Extension program. The month of September was spent primarily in becoming acquainted with the county and its people.

The 1961 achievements under the guidance and leadership of both Agents are summarized in this report.

### I. County Situation

Southampton is divided into two areas, rural and urban, however, in 1960, the urban area has extended into a portion of the rural area. Southampton County is 607 square miles, 388,480 acres and lies in the coastal plain on the North Carolina border. The land is level and is good for the production of peanuts and cotton.

The population of the county has slightly increased, as shown by the 1960 Census from 25,522 to 27,151. The urban population is 7,251. There are 2,344 farm homes and 978 rural non-farm homes in the county. The number of farmers have increased to 977 white farmers and 985 non-white farmers.

Agriculture has always been the chief industry, although manufacturing is growing in this area. The soil is well suited for cotton and peanuts. Southampton is the leading county in both crops. In the past decade there has been a big increase in soybeans. There are a few dairy farms which find a market not only in local towns but in Norfolk's Metropolitan area. Livestock production is also increasing in the county. There are many hog sales in the county.

The Camp Manufacturing Company and St. Regis Paper Company afford work for urban and rural men and women while various Peanut Shellers and farsaing make up the rural families income.

Facilities Available - In this county there are forty-eight grade schools and two high schools. This year an additional consolidated school has been built in the county. There is another consolidated school being built in the county, Ivor community, and the school will probably open in September.

The majority of homes in the rural and urban areas have telephones. Four railroads and important highways furnish good transportation to marketers. Franklin has a community hospital, Raiford Memorial, that serves Franklin and the surrounding areas. There is another hospital being built in the near future. There is a public library in Courtland which serves all people.

A brief analysis of the situation is that extnesion families have realized the need for special goals. Therefore, leaders and agents goals have stressed on increasing land ownership, setting aside finance to meet the most important needs of the home such as education, home improvement, medical expenses and other necessities for better living.

## II. County Extension Program - Adult

### A. Advisory Board (County)

The County Agricultural Extension Service Board is an overall county committee which gives service to the entire extension program. The present enrollment is sixty members representing the various magisterial districts in the county. The board has met once this year to set up and work out county plans for the year's activities. The board has not selected a farm and home development family for 1961. There will be a new community in this year's 1961 Farm and Home Development program.

County Home Demonstration Committee

The work of all Home Demonstration Clubs in the county is governed by the Home Demonstration Committee. The committee has met twice this year.

On January 24, 1961, the Home Demonstration Committee met for the purpose of analyzing last year's work and to clarify new year's plans. Prior to the meeting, the County Home Demonstration Club program for 1961 was sent to all clubs for the purpose of giving all homemakers an opportunity to state their ideas and ways to carry out the program.

During the meeting three sewing clinics were established for the month of April, May and June. New officers were elected. A recreational committee was appointed to help the Agent in making plans for the educational tour to Manteo, North Carolina. A member was elected from the ten clubs to serve on this committee.

On March 22, 1961, the committee met for the purpose of making plans on how to carry on meetings during the remaining of the year until a new Agent comes to the county. Delegates were appointed to represent in the Home Demonstration District meeting in May. Also the recreational committee planned a meeting date to start their work in planning their tour in August to North Carolina. Plans for National Home Demonstration Week were discussed. Each club is to participate in the program.

H-D Planning Meeting

In September, twenty-six H-D representatives, the District Agent and the Home Agent met for the purpose of planning the 1962 program of work.

Previous to the planning meeting, time was allotted in the clubs for a discussion and selection of projects that would help to meet the needs of the various communities. During the planning meeting, there was discussion

on the county situation, the needs and interest of the homemakers. The results of the discussion indicated that the major problems are as follows:

1. Lack of adequate wholesome and supervised recreational activities.
2. Low sanitary conditions.
3. Poor dietary habits of family members.
4. Financial difficulties.
5. Large percent of tenants.

After careful consideration was given to these areas, the year's program was established to effectively meet the needs in the community as well as in the home. The projects include the following: Food and Nutrition with emphasis on ways to include a quart of milk a day in the diet, how to overcome food dislikes, and outdoor cookery. Clothing - special areas of interest are principles of dry cleaning at home, and points to consider when buying basic garments. Home Storage with emphasis on family needs for storage space, where and how to build home storage, and bedroom and clothing storage.

Special Interest activities will include classes in How to Lose Weight Safely and Furniture Arrangement. The county<sup>goal</sup> will be Better Housing - Health and Recreation.

Each club has decided to continue to cooperate with the T. B. Association by collecting articles for the chest. In addition, other community projects will be Home Ground Beautification and Repairing and/or Building New Toilets.

B. Subject Matter and Special Emphasis Area

The subject matter and special emphasis area for 1961 was planned by the people with the assistance of the Agent to meet their needs.

The program development leaders were people who knew the county-situation and they planned a program to include long and short term goals, method demonstration, discussion and result demonstration.

The following media were used in the 1961 program of work that helped our goals were leader training meetings, monthly club meetings and demonstrations.

1. Textile Painting

During the month of December, Rural Arts Leaders conducted meetings in their respective clubs. The following topics were discussed:

- (a) Material needed for textile painting
- (b) Cutting stencils
- (c) Kind of material to paint
- (d) Steps in painting
- (e) Mixing colors

After discussion, demonstrations and organization of groups, the ladies decided to make the following things:

- (a) Kitchen curtains
- (b) Scarves
- (c) Dish towels
- (d) Place mats & napkins
- (e) Children's clothes
- (f) Head Scarves
- (g) Table cloths

a. Goals - The homemakers goals were to design patterns for interest, originality, balance and pattern suitable to the material and to the use of the article. They were to develop good workmanship in cutting, painting, mixing colors and general appearance.

b. What people are to learn - The people are to learn the basic techniques in cloth stenciling. They wanted to learn the materials or tools to use in textile painting. How to cut a stencil, what to paint, steps in painting, mixing colors and care of equipment.

c. Teaching Method - The program was carried out by leaders and the Agent by giving demonstrations, distributing bulletins and leader training

meetings.

d. Results - One hundred and thirty<sup>nine</sup>/H-D members were engaged in the textile painting project. Textile painting proved to be an entertaining and interesting activity for the ladies during this time of the year. Various articles were made for the home and family members.

The change brought about in this project was that the people began to recognize the need for improving old discarded articles that could still be used after renovation.

## 2. Yard Beautification

The month of February was devoted to Yard Beautification. The homemakers realized the problems and need to improve their home grounds. The homemakers were interested in what they could do to have an ideal home and not only a neat and convenient interior but also attractive grounds around them.

a. Goals - During the month in club meetings, the Agent along with Home Improvement leaders set up the following goals for yard beautification in communities:

1. To help make the home a better place to live by improving the exterior as well as the interior.
2. To develop pride in the home.
3. To develop a greater appreciation for keeping their surroundings attractive at all times.
4. To learn that it is a good financial investment.
5. To learn the qualifications of a well landscaped home.
6. To help the homemaker to have a greater appreciation for flowers, trees and shrubbery and to teach them how to plant and care for them.

b. What people are to learn - The people are to learn the following about yard beautification:

1. To make a plan before landscaping.

2. To learn the various annual and perennial flowers, shrubs and trees.
3. To learn how and when to prune hedges and trees.

The changes expected were to develop pride and appreciation for keeping their surroundings attractive at all times.

c. Teaching Methods - The program was carried out by leaders and the Agent in giving demonstrations in which a poster display of various names of trees, flowers and shrubbery. This was to help members to learn to recognize them. Bulletins were distributed to members to read on the care of these plants.

d. Results - The change brought about in this project was that the people began to recognize the needs for yard beautification around the home and on the farm. A plant exchange day was established in order that more homemakers become acquainted with more names of plants and flowers.

### 3. Improving Sanitary Conditions

Due to the fact that many homes have outside privies and wells, homemakers want the help of the Health Department and Extension Service in increasing good practices in maintenance of these facilities to secure the health of the family members.

a. Goal - The goal was to help homemakers to realize the importance of maintaining healthy surroundings to keep down sickness. To seek help from the Health Department to inspect toilets and wells to see if the toilets and wells are far enough apart so as to keep drinking water from being contaminated.

b. What people are to learn - The people were to learn the distance a toilet should be from the house and well. To learn the depth of a privy to keep water from being contaminated. To learn the various chemicals to be used to spray in order to keep down harmful bacteria.

c. Results - As a result of this program, homemakers became aware of the importance of maintaining family health through good sanitary practices. They realized the part that the Health Department can do for them in protecting their health.

4. Simple Refreshments for Entertainment

1. Objectives:

- A. To acquaint the ladies with the many nutritious food that may be used for simple refreshments and snacks.
- B. To encourage the use of nutritious foods for in-between meals.
- C. To give the ladies the opportunity to prepare inexpensive, but attractive refreshments for family members.
- D. To aid in development of planning meals as a unit rather than an individual thing.

2. Procedures:

- A. The agent and leaders gave a method demonstration on how to prepare simple refreshments stressing the qualities of attractiveness, nutrition and inexpensiveness. The food prepared included tuna-cheese dip and cranberry fruit punch.
- B. Pamphlets and bulletins were distributed to club ladies.
- C. Each club lady prepared two dishes for her family and reported as to how her family enjoyed it.

3. Results

Many of the club ladies expressed their opinions that the demonstration was most helpful in that they had more time to spend with their guests when entertaining, they can now prepare inexpensive, nutritious snacks for their children, they have a better idea of the different types of refreshments that can be served and it helped to solve the problems of what to serve.

5. Making Plans for the Holiday Season

1. Objectives:

- A. To plan and execute a time-saving schedule for the Christmas season.
- B. To learn more about inexpensive and simple Christmas decorations that can be constructed by the homemaker.
- C. To plan a nutritious and attractive menu for the holiday season.

2. Procedures:

In an informal discussion, the agent and club ladies discussed a suggested time schedule for homemakers to follow in preparation for the Christmas season. In addition, the agent discussed suggested nutritious menu for the holiday. The agent passed out pictures with directions for making simple and inexpensive decorations. Club ladies shared with each other some tips on time saving holiday preparations and recipes.

3. Results:

The club ladies indicated that the information on the time schedule was most timely and helpful, too they stated that they would put this information into effect, heretofore, they have been too rushed and too tired to enjoy the holiday season. Many of the club ladies desired to make the suggested simple decorations, so they decided to construct at least one Christmas decoration during the club choice month, December.

B. Subject Matter - Special County-Wide Tuberculosis Drive

- I. Problem - The clubs each year set aside as their goal to cooperate with the Health Department in the Tuberculosis Christmas Seal Drive. The problem that encouraged the club members was that many patients at Piedmont Sanatorium were from Southampton County that needed help.

II. Solving the Problem - The families cannot solve the problem completely but they are contributing toward helping the Association by setting up a chest and making Christmas boxes for the patients. This year the thirteen clubs gave one large box for the entire county.

C. Other Activities

1. Tidewater Fair - The Zuni Home Demonstration Club participated in the Tidewater Fair during the week of October 3-7. The exhibit was on Textile Painting. Emphasis was placed on the various types of design that could be stenciled and the variety of articles that could be painted.
2. National H-D Week - No particular even marked the observance of National Home Demonstration Week in the county for 1961. However, approximately 60 ladies attended the District meeting in Sussex County.
3. Urban Work - At present there is no definite extension program or plans established for urban families, however, the agent has given special assistance when asked by any urban family.

III. County Extension Program - Youth

The 4-H Club work is progressing in this county due to the fact that there are more leaders and the interest of 4-H parents. Leaders and parents are stressing that all members keep in mind their motto, "We Learn by Doing". 4-H leadership is excellent among parents and leaders. Therefore 4-H members are taking a more lively interest in their club work because they are enjoying good cooperation from their parents.

A. Organization - 4-H Council

The 4-H Council is composed of officers from each club and leaders. The council met this year to train officers and secondly to plan the program

of work for the year. The council met in December to train officers and to plan activities for National 4-H Week. The council and project committee selected projects keeping the following objectives in mind:

1. The needs of 4-H'ers
2. Their age level
3. Interest of club members
4. Club attendance in schools and facilities available
5. Projects that show growth

#### Leader Association

The Leader Association's function is to develop and carry out the youth program. This year the association met to establish a better leadership among 4-H'ers, club leaders and parents. The association helped in planning the activities of National 4-H Week and other activities with the 4-H Council.

#### B. 4-H Project Work

##### I. So You'd Like To Sew

###### A. Objectives

1. To learn how to make and equip a sewing box.
2. To learn how to operate a sewing machine.
3. To learn how to follow directions on patterns to make simple articles.
4. To learn how to make toys, collars and blouses.

###### B. Procedures

1. Method demonstration was given by leaders and agent on above objectives. The objectives at the beginning of the year were discussed and memory books were passed out to keep accurate reports on projects and let members know what was to be done.
2. The following media was used in carrying out the program:
  - a. Charts
  - b. Bulletin board displays
  - c. Filmstrips on Fashion for 1960-61

- d. Memory books which contain materials illustrating club projects.
- e. Magazines on new ideas were brought to meetings.

## II. Your Room

### A. Objectives

- 1. To learn how to give daily, weekly and occasional care to room.
- 2. To learn how to make inexpensive articles for the room.
- 3. To learn how to frame and hang a picture.

### B. Procedure

- 1. Demonstrations and discussions were conducted by the Agent.
- 2. Demonstrations were given on making trash can from ice cream containers.

### C. The following media was used in conducting this project:

- 1. Monthly pamphlets were given to members.
- 2. Memory books of instruction for projects.

### D. Results - Fifty-seven members are enrolled in this project. There are only twenty trash cans completed.

## III. Looking Your Best

### A. Objectives

- 1. To encourage girls to give proper care to hands, nails, skin, feet and hair.
- 2. To encourage girls to look their best by giving proper care to clothing.

### B. Procedures

- 1. Pass out memory books to all members.
- 2. Give demonstrations on care of nails, hair and skin.
- 3. Give demonstrations on selecting clothing for various occasions.

### C. Results

There was one demonstration given by the Agent on the proper way to care for nails.

D. Other Activities

1. National 4-H Week

On March 9, 1961, our annual 4-H program, which is a county-wide affair, was given in the Southampton County Training School Gymnasium. The program consisted of poems, songs, skits, educational demonstrations and dances, which were centered around the National theme, "Live, Learn and Serve Through 4-H". The program was climaxed by a presentation of awards to 4-H boys and girls and club leaders who had done outstanding work in 4-H activities. Six awards were given to girls in clothing, electric program, achievement and county leadership. The means of mass media were circular letters to parents and public announcements in schools and churches. The attendance was approximately four hundred parents and friends.

E. State Short Course and Wildlife Conference and Regional

Ten delegates attended the Short Course at Virginia State College along with a leader. During the week, 4-H members participated in classes, tours, and recreation.

Mr. Lemel Warren, Jr. was awarded a fifty dollar (\$50) bond for having completed satisfactory records on livestock, especially pigs, for four years. He was also selected to attend the Regional Conference in Washington, D. C. in August.

Three 4-H boys attended the Wildlife Conference at which time they attended classes and received training in 4-H work, forestry, wildlife and soil conservation.

F. Rural Life Sunday

4-H members observed Rural Life Sunday for the purposes of re-dedicating themselves to the aims of 4-H club work and of stimulating the heart to recognize the significance of pledging the Heart, Hand,

Head and Health to greater loyalty for improvement of county youths.

Club members participated in the Sunday School and Church Service by ushering, saying the 4-H pledge, creed and singing songs.

IV. Scope of Work

	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961
No. of H. D. Clubs	12	12	13	13	11
Membership	307	350	358	400	195
No. of H. D. Groups (Unorganized)	0	0	0	1	1
Membership	0	0	0	8	8
No. 4-H Clubs	13	13	15	15	12
Membership	280	290	341	441	339
No. YMW Clubs	1	2	2	1	1
Membership	28	56	38	38	38
No. Community Clubs	1	1	1	1	1
Membership	60	100	54	54	54
No. Home Ec. Committees	1	1	1	1	1
No. Gen. Int. Committees	0	1	0	1	1
No. Youth Committees	1	1	1	1	1
No. Other Organizations	0	1	0	0	0
No. Farm & Home Dev. Families	1	3	9	9	9
No. Other families Reached	1020	2121	3450	5400	5400
No. Different Families Reached	1840	1925	2564	3460	3460

B. Brief Statement on Scope of Work

During the year clubs gave campaign rallies to increase membership in their club. Each member was responsible to bring in as many new members as possible. County program and community projects increased the interest of non-members. Newspapers articles were written each month to tell of activities in clubs. Home visits were made in communities by the agent and club members to inform persons of the extension program. Circular letters were sent out as other media to increase interest. This year membership has increased by the above media of communication.

V. Leadership

A. Growth of Leadership

1. Over-all program leaders

a. County Agri. Extension Service Board	1959	1960	1961
	96	96	96
b. Youth Council	96	96	96
c. Home Economics Council	120	126	126

2. Home Demonstration Club Leadership

	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961
No. Organizational leaders	1	1	1	1	12
No. Project leaders (subject matter)	140	140	140	160	144
No. Federation program of work chairmen	24	24	26	28	28
No. program development leaders	24	24	26	30	30
No. result demonstrators	10	15	20	6	6
No. training meetings by specialist	8	10	8	25	2
No. training meetings by dist. agents	5	2	6	13	0
No. training meetings by agents	1	0	0	4	4
No. training meetings by others	5	2	6	13	13
Attendance at all training meetings	155	190	108	84	84
No. meetings held without an agent	25	27	92	110	110
No. meetings leaders assisted	24	74	92	104	104
Demonstrations by leaders	18	36	94	115	115
Talks and discussions by leaders	18	36	104	108	108

3. 4-H Club Leadership

	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961
No. Club Officers	94	96	96	96	108
No. adult project leaders	36	42	48	50	19
No. result demonstrators	10	10	25	35	35
No. junior project leaders	26	26	26	40	40
No. training meetings by specialists	1	1	0	4	4
No. training meetings by dist. agents	0	0	0	2	0
No. training meetings by agent	1	1	1	3	3
No. training mtgs. by club dept. mbrs.	0	2	2	0	0
No. training meetings by others	48	82	31	40	40
Total attendance at ldr. tr. meetings	12	32	24	34	34
No. 4-H leaders trained individually	55	55	58	68	68
No. club mtgs. held by ldrs. w/out agent	0	60	38	43	43
No. additional mtgs. at which ldrs. asst.	25	24	30	35	35
No. demonstrations given by adult ldrs.	12	15	36	40	40
No. demonstrations given by junior ldrs.	10	15	24	34	34

B. Outstanding Individual in Leadership

Mrs. Delia Yancey, an active Home Demonstration Club member and a 4-H Adult leader is considered one of the most outstanding persons in leadership. For the past six years she has been helping boys and girls in 4-H work. She is always cooperative and willing to give service whenever called upon. She is a member of the State 4-H Leader's Association of Virginia. She is now serving her second term as president and a ten year member of the Capron H-D Club. Mrs. Yancey is also a Food Leader and a member of the

Advisory Board of Southampton County. Mrs. Delia Yancey is an interested and patriotic member of the county. With these factors in mind, the County Advisory Board and other organizations of the county agreed that she deserves recognition this year.

#### VI. Special Consideration

A. The most significant achievement of extension work in Home Economics and 4-H Club Work in this county is development of good leaders. The Leader Association is organized and working. In previous years it has not been as active as it should have been.

#### Problem

Leadership in this county is very good, however, the problem was establishing a working organization.

#### Method Used

A list of persons was made by the agent that would be willing to work and cooperate in helping to promote Home Economics and 4-H work. Mr. H. M. Spruell was selected president of the State 4-H Association of Virginia and he worked along with the agents in getting the organization started. Circular letters were sent out to five persons in thirteen areas to see if they would work in the Leaders Association. Home visits were made to persons who were on the list.

#### Results

The organization is now active and the following plans have been made: (1) Purpose - to improve 4-H work in communities where it is now organized and to get those who are not affiliated with 4-H work to join, (2) help to bring leaders in closer contact with Extension Agents.

The organization will hold meetings quarterly to interchange ideas and discuss problems relating to the development of young people.

This organization will assist boys and girls in conferences and all other activities in the county.

B. Good Public Relations

1. Co-Workers - Meetings have been held with other agents and supervisor for the purpose of discussing the extension program problems as they exist in the county. Agents from tri-counties were called upon to assist in special programs and leader training meetings.
2. General Public - The agent has assisted in work in schools, churches and other civic organizations. The agent has asked the assistance of other organizations for educational talks, demonstrations and programs. The agent has given aid in planning programs for P.T.A., N.H.A., Women's Council, talks, demonstrations and judging in churches and schools or some phase of homemaking, family relationship, and community improvements.
3. Commercial Interest - The agent has developed good relationship with commercial enterprise. The stores have cooperated with her by loaning materials for demonstrations.
4. Other Professional Workers - Working with teachers in school by helping them plan programs, bulletin boards and other school activities have been very helpful in developing good relationship. The agent works with ministers and doctors and this has also brought about good relationship with those not affiliated with the extension program.

C. Professional Improvement

1. Agent has read bulletins, newspapers, magazines and books and other related materials to improve her knowledge in homemaking and other fields to keep up with the latest trends.
2. Agent has attended agents and leader training meetings in and outside the county in improved teaching methods, knowledge, to learn new ways of putting over to the people subject matter.
3. Agent has cooperated with other workers and agencies to obtain new ideas in extension work and other professional fields.

4. Agent has attended special work shops as, tailoring school.

VII. The Look Ahead - The past year's program has been going ahead fairly well. The people have been cooperating, and willing workers in every phase of the extension program. The program was not perfect but the people have accomplished many improvements. The following plans have been suggested to try and strengthen the 1962 program of work in this county:

1. Continuous training of leaders to help carry out the program.
2. Teach good record keeping to club members and take time to check them.
3. Let all clubs make their own plans of work before offering yours.
4. Try to do one job well before attempting another.
5. Do not carry H-D work too fast as to leave out the most important factors in homemaking.
6. Plan the program of work around the interest, needs of the community.
7. Agent will show an interest in all families, have understanding, solve problems that confront her and be patient and tolerant in trying to do a successful job in extension work.
8. Be frank, firm; but kind, cooperative and agreeable in all phases of extension work with club members and co-workers.