

ANNUAL REPORT

COUNTY EXTENSION WORK

VIRGINIA AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICE

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Dinwiddie County, Virginia

1954

TABLE OF CONTENTS

County Situation as it Affected the 1954 Program.....	
Adult Project Work.....	
Food and Nutrition.....	2
Food Preservation.....	2
Clothing.....	3
Home Improvement.....	3
Housing.....	4
Other Projects.....	4
Food Production.....	4
Poultry.....	5
Water Systems.....	5
District Goal.....	6
Other Activities.....	6
Community Improvement Project.....	6
Home Demonstration Club Week.....	7
Achievement Day.....	8
County Farmers' Conference.....	8
Work with Unorganized Communities.....	9
Paint-Up Contest.....	9
4-H Club Project Work.....	9
Preparing Meals.....	9
Food Preservation.....	10
Room Improvement.....	11
Family Ironing.....	11
Clothing.....	12

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>
County Situation as it Affected the 1954 Program.....	1
Adult Project Work.....	1
Food and Nutrition.....	2
Food Preservation.....	2
Clothing.....	3
Home Improvement.....	3
Housing.....	4
Other Projects.....	4
Food Production.....	4
Poultry.....	5
Water Systems.....	5
District Goal.....	6
Other Activities.....	6
Community Improvement Project.....	6
Home Demonstration Club Week.....	7
Achievement Day.....	8
County Farmers' Conference.....	8
Work with Unorganized Communities.....	9
Paint-Up Contest.....	9
4-H Club Project Work.....	9
Preparing Meals.....	9
Food Preservation.....	10
Room Improvement.....	11
Family Ironing.....	11
Clothing.....	12

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>
Other 4-H Activities.....	13
Rural Life Sunday.....	13
Achievement Day.....	13
Young Women's and Men's Work.....	14
Scope of Work.....	14
Functions of Organizations in the County.....	14
County Home Demonstration Committee.....	14
County Advisory Board.....	15
Program Planning Committee.....	15
County 4-H Council.....	16
County 4-H Project Planning Committee.....	16
Leadership.....	16
Contributions of Leaders to the Program.....	16
Browth of Leadership.....	17
Activities of an Outstanding Leader.....	18
Work in Cooperation with Other Agencies.....	19
Health Department.....	19
T. B. Association.....	19
P. T. A. High School and County.....	20
Appraisal of Year's Work.....	20

72

ANNUAL NARRATIVE REPORT

I. County Situation as it Affected the 1954 Program

Dinwiddie County is located in Southside Virginia, and has as its chief source of income general farming. Products produced are tobacco, corn, peanuts, and a small amount of cotton and market garden. There are 586 owners, 207 tenants, and 77 share croppers making a total of 870 farm families in the County. There are 26 elementary schools and one high school in the County. Values received from most of the farms are not sufficient to meet the necessities, comforts, and desires of life; therefore, men and women seek employment in nearby army bases and urban centers to supplement the family income. There is no community or recreation center in the County. Churches, schools, home demonstration and 4-H clubs provide most of the recreation for the County people. These meetings are held in the homes or schools. One section of the County being urban, causes the pattern of living to vary in that section.

II. Adult Project Work

The Adult Program for 1954 was set up by the County H. D. Planning Committee in terms of better homemaking and rural living based upon the community and County needs, interest and desires of the rural and urban population in the County. The program included the following:

RM

Adult Project Work (Continued)

"Food and Nutrition", "Clothing", "Home Improvement", and "Housing"; the last two are our long-time goals. There were also 5 special interest groups and two months were set aside for club choice to give special attention to varying needs, interest and desires of the people from the different communities throughout the County.

A. Food and Nutrition

Some work has been done with foods since 1946. Therefore, this year we worked on "One Dish" and, or "Oven Meals", Package Lunches, and Use of Fruit and Vegetable Salads and Eggs in the Diet. Objectives were: Teach the importance of a well balanced diet; teach various uses of foods produced on the farm; thus cutting down on cost of living, improve health through better eating habits.

Methods used were: Leader training meetings, demonstrations, bulletins, circular letters, discussion, group meetings, and home visits.

Results showed that approximately 125 oven or one dish meals, 25 egg dishes were prepared, and 35 families improved the package lunches (school and workers). Other phases of foods will be taken in 1955.

B. Food Preservation

Food Preservation included canning and freezing. Objectives: Encourage the Making and Use of Canning Budget, teach latest methods used in canning and freezing of a greater variety of fruits

Adult Project Work (Continued)

and vegetables.

Methods used to carry out this project were: Method demonstrations, group meetings, bulletins, discussions, circular letters, and home visits.

Reports showed that some fruits and vegetables were canned more than last year, but not enough, due to dry weather.

C. Clothing

Some work on Clothing has been done for the past five or more years. Objective: To learn more about the new fabrics found on the market and their uses and care.

Methods used were: Discussions, group meetings, samples, bulletins, and newspaper clippings.

As a result of this phase of the work, the women learned more of the uses of the new fabrics, could cut down on cleaning bill if all materials used were washable.

D. Home Improvement (House Furnishings)

This project has been carried for the past six years and will be continued until the objectives have been fully accomplished. Objectives are: To teach farm and non-farm women the correct placement of furniture in the home, and to create clean, comfortable, and attractive homes.

Methods used were: Result demonstrators, leaders, group meetings, demonstrations, circular letters, discussions, slides, and home visits.

Adult Project Work (Continued)

As a result of this project 12 pieces of furniture have been refinished, furniture in 10 rooms re-arranged for more convenience, color schemes in 50 rooms improved, 5 rugs made, 10 pairs of draperies made, and 7 floors refinished.

E. Housing

Housing is another long-time goal and has as its objective: To provide adequate storage space, to improve convenience through better water supply.

Methods used were: Result demonstrators, discussions, slides, group meeting, circular letters, bulletins, home visits, worked out a plan for a family to re-arrange their kitchen for more comfort and convenience.

Reports showed that ten kitchens were improved, one or more rooms were added in 10 homes, and 5 new homes were built. This project will be continued in 1955.

F. Other Projects

1. Food Production

Food Production includes the family garden. Objectives were: To cut down on cost of food by producing a greater variety of vegetables, encourage production of more and better gardens.

Methods used were: Result demonstrators, bulletins containing timely information, home visits, discussions, and group meetings.

Adult Project Work (Continued)

More emphasis will be put on this project next year. More farm and non-farm families need to grow better and more gardens to cut down on cost of living.

2. Poultry

This included our Poultry Improvement Project conducted by Mr. A. L. Dean, Associate Poultry Husbandman from Blacksburg, Virginia. There are 10 farm families enrolled in the project.

Objectives: Encourage the production of more and better poultry, encourage the keeping of an egg production record, encourage the use of more poultry products, provide a supplemental source of income, and to stress proper management and care.

Procedures used were: Result demonstrators, discussions, leaders, group meetings, circular letters, home visits, poultry trips, and score cards.

Results from this project cannot be reported at this time as the second score will not be taken until December.

3. Water Systems

The objectives for this phase of the project were: To teach the important part a water system would play in terms of better health and encourage more farm families to install water under pressure.

Adult Project Work (Continued)

Methods used were: Discussions at local club and County-wide meetings, circular letters, bulletins containing timely information, and home visits.

Results show that 9 water systems have been installed this year; of this number, there are 4 complete systems with bath, and 5 with water in kitchen, both hot and cold.

III. District Goal

Our District Goal is "Better Housing". It was selected because the people of the County felt more should be done to improve the standard of living through better homes, provide more and better storage space, use of house plans in building or remodeling, and the arrangement of furnishings for more convenience.

Methods used: Group meetings, result demonstrators, home visits, bulletins, letters with timely information, discussions, house plan book, and reports.

As a result of this goal, more farm and non-farm families are using plans for construction or remodeling their homes, and they are improving the interior as well as the exterior.

IV. Other Activities

A. Community Improvement Project

Each home demonstration club in the County was asked to work on some type of a community improvement project in order to improve the communities in the

Other Activities (Continued)

County and to reach more people in organized and unorganized communities. The project selected was in keeping with needs, interest and desires of the people in the various communities. Projects selected were: Improving church or school grounds, painting rural mail boxes in keeping with government regulations, and improving the interior of rural churches.

The Dinwiddie Home Demonstration Club purchased seed and fertilizer and seeded the Mt. Level Church grounds.

This phase of the program will continue and more different projects for 1955 selected.

B. Home Demonstration Club Week

National Home Demonstration Club Week was observed with a County-wide program with approximately 175 club members, friends, and well wishers present. The program consisted of the following activities:

1. Spelling Bee - Using simple home and farm words - one person from each H. D. Club took part, and one standing longest received a prize.
2. Reports from each club on accomplishments on County and District Goals over 12 month period.
3. Quiz - Composed of well known slogans, questions dealing with "food" and "gardening". One person from each club took part, and one standing longest received an award.

Other Activities (Continued)

In order to give all persons present an opportunity to enjoy themselves, a contest was held, and the person naming the greatest number of different vegetables grown in the home garden was winner.

All prizes were articles that could be used around the house.

This program served as a stimulus for those who were carrying out the Extension program as well as others.

C. Achievement Day

This year our Achievement Day was different from previous years. The exhibits were Community Educational Exhibits. The theme used was "Soil and Water Conservation". A group of 4-H Club members presented a skit, "Waste Not - Want Not", and a discussion on water systems was made by representatives from a local business.

As a result of this program 5 farm families have been aroused to the important part a water system would play to better farm living.

D. County Farmers' Conference

The Annual County Farmers' Conference was held in the spring, and had as its objectives: To acquaint the public with the work of the Extension Service, and bring in out of County people who will help us with our farm and home problems, thus improving the standard of living.

Other Activities (Continued)

E. Work With Unorganized Communities

The home agent worked in two unorganized communities this year and acquainted the people in those communities of the goals and objectives of the overall Extension program.

As a result of this work, we were able to organize one new club and reorganize an old club this fall. We are still working in one of these communities unorganized and plan to continue throughout 1955.

F. Paint-Up Contest

This contest began in 1951 between Dinwiddie and Chesterfield Counties. The objectives were: To encourage the painting of the exterior of the homes by the use of paint and siding, which would make the homes more attractive and liveable.

Scoring was done by judging teams from alternate counties.

As a result of this contest, 153 homes have been improved by using siding, paint, etc.

V. 4-H Club Project Work

The 4-H Program was planned by the members, leaders, and agents in terms of needs, interest and desires. The program included: Preparing Meals, Food Preservation, Home Improvement, Family Ironing, and Clothing.

A. Preparing Meals

The project "Preparing Meals" was carried by 10 of the 4-H Clubs this year, and had as its

4-H Club Project Work (Continued)

objectives: To improve health through better eating habits, to teach the planning and preparing of simple dishes, and to teach the important part lunch plays in the diet.

Methods used were: Method demonstrations, bulletins, containing timely information, letters to parents, discussions, group meetings, and leaders.

There were 183 girls enrolled in this project, and 145 completed the project. One hundred twenty-five dishes were prepared - which included making of fruit and vegetable salads, cooking of eggs and egg dishes, and preparing package lunches. Some of the older 4-H Club girls planned, prepared, and served complete meal. Other phases of foods program will be taken in 1955.

B. Food Preservation

Food Preservation which included canning was carried by some members from each of the 4-H Clubs this year, and had as its objectives: To teach latest methods used in canning, to teach the making and use of a canning budget.

Methods used were: Method demonstrations, bulletins, circular letters, home visits, group meetings, and leaders.

There were 50 girls enrolled in the project, and 30 completed same with 775 quarts of fruits and vegetables canned. Nine girls in Darville 4-H Club

4-H Club Project Work (Continued)

along with the leader and agent canned 28 quarts of poultry. This demonstration was helpful to the leader as well as the 4-H Club girls, and the members in turn have canned poultry at home.

C. Room Improvement

This project was taken by one group this year, and had as its objectives: To teach importance of better homes, to create a desire for an attractive room that has adequate lights, sufficient storage space, and is well ventilated, cut down on cost by making simple articles such as lamps from oil lamps or bottles, lamp shades, table scarves, etc.

Procedures used were: Result demonstrators, method demonstrations, home visits, group meetings, leaders, letters to parents, bulletins, newspaper clippings, and discussions.

There were 15 girls enrolled in this project, and 10 completed requirements for same. Ten rooms were improved, and 15 articles made. Articles include dresser scarves, lamps from oil lamps or bottles, and dressing table skirts.

D. Family Ironing

This project was carried by one group and had as its objectives: To teach correct method used in sprinkling clothes, to teach the ironing of simple garments, to encourage the making or purchasing of equipment needed for ironing.

Methods used were: Method demonstrations, discussions, leaders, group meetings, exhibits and home visits.

4-H Club Project Work (Continued)

There were 28 girls enrolled in this project, and 17 completed the project.

During the regular monthly meeting of Mt. Level 4-H Club, who worked on "Family Ironing", an exhibit on work on the project was held. The girls were divided into two groups with each group having one girl serve as leader. Each member was asked to bring garments or articles already ironed from home to be placed on exhibit. Judging was done by the Local Farm Agent and local leader, and each piece on exhibit was given a ribbon, either first, second, or third prize. This was done to encourage club members to complete their projects and those who had done well on the project. There were 25 pieces placed on exhibit.

E. Clothing

This project was carried by 4 older 4-H Club girls in Darville Community. Its objectives were: To teach correct measurements and buying of correct pattern using those measurements, construction of a simple garment, and correct pressing.

Procedures used were: Method demonstrations, leaders, discussions, bulletins, group meetings, and home visits.

There were 4 girls enrolled in this project, and 2 completed the requirements for same, making 3 garments, which included 2 skirts and a blouse.

VI. Other 4-H Activities

A. Rural Life Sunday

The County National Rural Life Sunday Program was held at Mt. Pool Baptist Church on Sunday, May 23, 1954. The Evans 4-H Club served as host to the other 4-H Clubs in the County, however, all of the clubs participated in the program.

The program was arranged by Mrs. L. A. Crawley, 4-H leader, assisted by junior leaders in that section.

During this County-wide program, awards were made to the 4-H members for outstanding work done in 1953. Mr. S. E. Marshall, District Agent, spoke to the group and presented the awards.

Approximately 190 attended this meeting, and this group had a chance to become better acquainted with the 4-H program in the County and what they are trying to do in their overall program.

B. Achievement Day

The County-wide Achievement Day Program was held at Southside High School. This was a joint 4-H and Adult Achievement Day. A group of 4-H Club members presented a skit entitled, "Waste Not - Want Not", which dealt with soil and water conservation. The members also had articles on exhibit.

As a result of this program other 4-H Club members who did not have exhibits pledged to work toward that goal for 1955.

VII. Young Women's and Men's Work

There is no organized group of young women and men in the County, however, work was done with individuals. Objectives were: To help young farm and non-farm people with their problems, reach more people, and improve social standards in the County.

Methods used were: Home visits, circular letters with timely information, bulletins, and leaders.

VIII. Scope of Work

	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954
No. H. D. Clubs or Groups	13	15	16	14	12
Membership	209	234	265	205	172
No. 4-H Clubs	13	13	15	14	13
Membership	296	194	205	230	226
No. other families reached	42	44	46	52	54
No. different families reached	362	378	382	412	425
No. community clubs				1	1
Membership				58	48

IX. Functions of Organizations in the County

A. County Home Demonstration Committee

This organization consists of leaders and presidents from each of the Home Demonstration Clubs in the County. This group serves as an over-all guide for the Home Demonstration Clubs, makes the program calendar for the clubs, checks on progress of program, plans all County-wide H. D. activities, holds one meeting with County Advisory Board to present and discuss their program, and

Functions of Organizations in the County (Continued)

send 4 delegates to District Home Demonstration Meeting in May.

B. County Advisory Board

The County Advisory Board serves as an overall organization for program planning to meet the needs of people on individual, community, and county-wide bases in terms of better rural living. This group plans for County-wide activities, and sends 2 delegates to State Advisory Board Meeting annually. This organization meets 4 times annually, and members discuss problems affecting families within their community, and from these problems formulate workable solutions.

C. Program Planning Committee

The Program Planning Committee is made up of program development leader, president or secretary from each home demonstration club in the County. The purpose of this committee is to plan the home demonstration program for the County based upon needs, interest and desires of people in their respective communities. This year the Committee invited representatives from the following: Home Economics Department, Vocational Agricultural Department, High School Principal, and representatives from Health Department to discuss some County problems as each of the above named representatives saw them.

With community and county problems in mind, the H. D. Program for 1955 was formulated.

Functions of Organizations in the County (Continued)

D. County 4-H Council

The County 4-H Council is composed of officers, junior and adult leaders from each 4-H Club in the County. This organization meets 3 times per year and makes plans for all 4-H County-wide activities, and also sends a representative to County Advisory Board to present the 4-H program.

E. County 4-H Project Planning Committee

The Project Planning Committee met once this year and planned the projects to be taken by members, based upon community and County problems. This year there was a joint Project Planning Committee made up of both boys and girls, and this Committee planned joint projects that would be taken by both boys and girls for 1954-55.

X. Leadership

A. Contributions of Leaders to the Program

1. Organizational - Consists of the club officers, who preside at the meetings and aid in keeping the organization functioning.
2. Program Development - Each club has one Program Development Leader, this person studies the needs and interests based upon problems of their communities, discuss them with the club for their approval and in terms presented them to the County Planning Committee, thus aiding us in developing a worthwhile County Program.

Leadership (Continued)

3. Subject-Matter - Give or assist in giving demonstrations, lead discussions, and give out bulletins and other timely information to club and non-club members.

B. Growth of Leadership

<u>H. D. Club Project Leadership</u>	<u>1950</u>	<u>1951</u>	<u>1952</u>	<u>1953</u>	<u>1954</u>
<u>No. Project leaders (Subject-Matter)</u>	<u>48</u>	<u>55</u>	<u>66</u>	<u>70</u>	<u>78</u>
<u>No. goal chairmen</u>				<u>10</u>	<u>12</u>
<u>No. Program Development Leaders</u>				<u>12</u>	<u>12</u>
<u>No. result demonstrators</u>					<u>25</u>
<u>No. training meetings</u>					
<u>by specialists</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>2</u>
<u>By District Agent</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>2</u>
<u>By Agent</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>15</u>
<u>Attendance at all training meetings</u>	<u>51</u>	<u>121</u>	<u>105</u>	<u>101</u>	<u>523</u>
<u>No. meetings held without an Agent</u>				<u>37</u>	<u>33</u>
<u>No. Meetings leaders assisted</u>				<u>25</u>	<u>35</u>
<u>Demonstrations by leaders</u>				<u>18</u>	<u>25</u>
<u>Growth of 4-H Club Project Leadership</u>					
<u>No. Club officers</u>	<u>39</u>	<u>39</u>	<u>45</u>	<u>57</u>	<u>65</u>
<u>No. adult project leaders</u>	<u>26</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>22</u>	<u>22</u>	<u>24</u>
<u>No. result demonstrators</u>				<u>10</u>	<u>10</u>
<u>No. training meetings held</u>					
<u>by specialists</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>
<u>By Agent</u>	<u>26</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>6</u>
<u>By District Agent</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>2</u>
<u>By member club department</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
<u>Attendance at leader training meeting</u>				<u>42</u>	<u>261</u>

Leadership (Continued)

<u>Growth of 4-H Club Project Leadership</u>	<u>1950</u>	<u>1951</u>	<u>1952</u>	<u>1953</u>	<u>1954</u>
<u>No. 4-H leaders trained individually</u>	8	10	12	10	0
<u>No. club meetings held by leaders without agent present</u>	11	52	40	50	13
<u>No. additional meetings at which leaders assisted</u>	17	18	20	15	18
<u>No. demonstrations given by adult leaders</u>	19	33	30	18	10
<u>junior leaders</u>	11	14	12	7	3

C. Activities of an Outstanding Leader

Mrs. Laura A. Crawley, Evans 4-H Club Leader, has done outstanding work in that Community and throughout the County. She was born and reared on a farm in a Christian home and has always been interested in youth in the Community.

Along with her 25 years of teaching, she was busy with church, Sunday School, missionary, social, and civic work, as well as rearing her family. She served as 4-H Club Leader during the time her son, Theron, won the Silver Cup for Dinwiddie County, the first time the County had ever won an award. This cup was won for judging corn at Hampton Institute while Mr. A. W. Pegram was County Agent.

Since retiring from teaching, she began serving as 4-H Club Leader again. She is determined not to "rust" out. She still works with all County organizations, a member of Board of Managers of State PTA Congress, The Woman's Baptist State Convention,

Leadership (Continued)

Secretary of Retired State Teachers' Department of the VTA, member of County Advisory Board, Home Demonstration Club, and 4-H Leader.

Evans 4-H Club is growing under the leadership of Mrs. Crawley. In 1953 and 1954, delegates to State 4-H Short Course at Virginia State College were from the above named club; for the past two summers the 4-H Club members have gone on a picnic. She encourages the 4-H Club to keep its records, work hard on projects so that they will be able to complete projects.

Under her leadership and guidance, the Rural Life Sunday Program for this year was planned and presented with Evans 4-H Club playing host to all other 4-H clubs in the County. This program was presented at Mrs. Crawley's Church, and a large number of parents and well-wishers of the 4-H Clubs in the County was present.

This leader was instrumental in getting a Home Demonstration Club organized in the Community this fall. We feel that this leader has been a strong factor in strengthening the Extension Program in her Community and in the County.

XI. Work in Cooperation With Other Agencies

- A. Health Department - Encouraged families to attend health clinics.
- B. T. B. Association - Encouraged club and non-club members to have chest X-Rays at free X-Ray Clinic.

Work in Cooperation With Other Agencies (Continued)

- C. P. T. A. High School and County - Worked with Family Night Activity Committee on farm and homemaking problems.

XII. Appraisal of the Year's Work

From problems based upon needs, interest and desires brought out and felt by club members, leaders, representatives from various conditions of the County and agent, the program for 1954 was planned in terms of better homemaking and rural living. The people have been constantly informed of the approved practices of the Virginia Agricultural Extension Service teaching through news letters, discussions, circular letters, method demonstrations, result demonstrations, home visits, group meetings, bulletins, and community meetings, thus causing their work to prove more profitable and thus contributing toward making better rural living and improved people. By planning the program in such a way that it would improve the standard of living of the farm people according to needs as felt and brought in by them, the agent feels that she has been able to help in solving individual and community problems along with improving their standard of living.