

ANNUAL NARRATIVE REPORT

# COUNTY EXTENSION WORK

*Virginia Agricultural Experiment Station*

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Name

NAME DEMONSTRATION \_\_\_\_\_  
Title

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I. The situation in Middlesex as it affected the program planned for 1960 was the geographical location. The county is small and considered rural, containing only 132 square miles of land.

Because of the low and rather level land, there is a high humidity. There are a few rolling hills and some marshy areas. The county is surrounded by three bodies of salt water.

The population trends classify Middlesex as rural. There are 3,901 white and 2,814 non-white. There are 2,746 farm and 3,969 non-farm residents, making a total of 6,715.

Agriculture is the dominating source of income in Middlesex. The types are dairying, beef cattle and crops. At the time the plan of work was written, the sale of farm products was equally divided between crops and livestock. Many men are employed in nearby counties - West Point Pulp Mill, Forktown plants and in colonial Williamsburg. The county is three-fifths forest from which pulpwood is cut and sold to these pulp mills. There are also oyster and fish-packing houses that operate in the winter and tomato canneries in the summer. Due to the large water areas, a second source of income is the water - fishing, oystering and boating. There is no industry in the county; however, there is a Levi Plant fifty miles away where a few women travel to work.

The facilities in this county are much the same as those in other communities in this area. There is a consolidated high school and four elementary schools. Many county-wide meetings are conducted at the high school and all 4-R meetings are conducted in schools. Three-fourths of the white homes have phones, and electric power service is available throughout the county.

At present there are four doctors and many registered nurses in the county. We now have a rescue squad and a medical center of which the members are qualified to teach first-aid. There is a county health department and welfare department.

This county, in the summer, is a recreational area with boating, fishing, swimming and picnicing. There is no need for planned recreation. In the winter this is limited but the schools, churches and organizations offer much. Many people travel sixty miles to Richmond for supplies and recreation.

Though there is an opportunity for the men to sell their farm produce in Middlesex, there are no markets where women can sell their crafts.

All of these facts and others had a direct bearing on the program that was planned in 1960 for the adult home demonstration and youth 4-H programs.

## II. County Extension Program - Adult

### A. Organization

#### 1. Home Economics Committee

##### a. Foods and Nutrition Committee

This committee functioned in developing the County Home Economics Extension program by forming to study the nutritional needs of the people.

The committee members made a survey in all schools on the use of milk and breakfast. The survey proved that the teenagers were not getting enough milk and that more study should be placed on better breakfasts. The committee suggested a demonstration in 1961 on milk dishes and it was accepted. There will also be a special interest sponsored by this committee in 1961 on "The Better Breakfast."

##### b. Clothing Committee

This committee did not materialize because of the illness of the specialist on the day that the committee was to meet and make plans. However, it has been set up for January 1961.

#### 2. County Home Demonstration Club Committee

This committee was the main group that functioned in developing the County Home Demonstration Extension program. It is composed of the executive board which includes seven women. These seven women, or the president, meet prior to a meeting to discuss the coming business. The group meets three times a year and on call from the president.

The county program development chairman meets all program development chairmen and plans the monthly programs and special interests. The county committee passes on the planned programs and makes plans for other home demonstration activities.

## B. Subject Matter and Special Emphasis Areas

### 1. House Furnishings

There are many varied topics under this heading that the people felt were problems and needed help with them.

As a result of the homemakers requesting help on how to upholster a piece of furniture in order to save money, this work was put into the program. The homemaker learned how to use an old piece that still had good lines and wood, thus adding a practically new piece of furniture to her home.

The agent attempted first to teach the women what to upholster, how to do it, and then to recognize a good piece of furniture. The people were to learn how to measure the piece, select and cut the fabric and make bias covering for the cording, and then how to upholster from the frame to the cover.

The change expected in behavior was that the homemaker would realize she could do this herself, and have a creditable piece without unnecessary expense.

This work was carried on through leaders that were trained last year. The agent visited the home and helped to select and measure the chair. Booklets on upholstering were given out at this special interest meeting.

The results of upholstering were small compared to other work, but many have helped others in the class. There were fourteen pieces upholstered this year.

The results in terms of changes in people were most gratifying because those that received the training say they know more about what is in a good chair and what to look for when buying. They have helped others buy furniture as well as in upholstering. The husband of a home demonstration club member said, "I really like the furniture you helped my wife buy." The agent did not directly assist in the buying, but helped her through the special interest class.

Many women now upholster for a part-time job. Others have changed by learning a skill that will help to raise their standard of living and make a more livable home.

This topic was carried on in monthly demonstrations by the agent. The topic was "Color in House Furnishings." At the home demonstration luncheon, the speaker's topic was "Color" - the background for the year's work. The agent attended the House Furnishings Market in North Carolina the year before and used much of the information gained there. She and the specialist who trained her visited a local store and planned a furniture exhibit of an early American room. This was on display during the month of May. Good cooperation was shown at the stores.

The agent visited many homes and helped many individuals plan color coordinates in the home.

The results of this project brought about a change of behavior in people due to the new trend in color. This recent trend is more restful and pleasing to the eye.

Twenty-four families changed their color schemes.

Draperies and slip covers are the center of interest in a room, and both were requested and planned for as special interests in 1960.

The agent requested a specialist to teach women how to make well-made draperies to enhance the charm of the room.

The women were expected to learn how to select fabric, to measure windows and to fashion draperies. The changes that were expected resulted in neatly made draperies and a better knowledge of their adaptability to the atmosphere of a room.

The procedure for this work was first a special interest school conducted by a specialist. The homemaker would go home and apply her own selection and handiwork from the information she had gained.

There were thirty-nine pairs of draperies made.

The change in behavior was that the homemaker realized it was all easier than it looked, and that draperies nicely made enhance the attractiveness of the home and cut down on the family budget. There were many people attending this meeting who were non-home demonstration club members, thus changing their idea of extension work and its purpose.

With so many young married couples buying furniture, and others replacing, a request was made to teach homemakers how to learn what they should look for in buying furniture.

The agent conducted a monthly demonstration on "Buying House Furnishings." The specialist worked with her and the lesson included suggestions on buying furniture as well as on color and finish. All homemakers were urged to visit furniture stores that month.

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The procedure for this work was first, a special interest school conducted by a specialist. Then the homemaker would go home and do her own.

There were thirty-nine pairs of draperies made.

The change in behavior was that the homemaker realized it was all easier than it looked and draperies nicely made enhance the home and cut down on the family budget. There were many people attending this meeting who were non-home demonstration club members, thus changing their idea of Extension work and it's purpose.

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The results in terms of changes in people was their newly acquired knowledge of furniture construction; and from comments on their new furniture, their belief was that they had bought the best quality of furniture that their money could purchase.

How can I make my chairs look nice without upholstering? The use of slip covers was requested.

The agent attempted to slip cover a chair with others working instead of everyone bringing a chair.

The people attending were to learn how to make a well-fitted slip cover.

The change that was expected in the people was a new skill learned.

This was a special interest meeting as a result of the agent attending a similar meeting in another county.

The results were favorable. A few made slip covers and those that did felt a change because they had learned a skill that would help them in the future. Six families said they had help on making slip covers.

What happens to that old piece of good furniture? Refinish it.

The people's problem was how to refinish furniture. The agent attempted to teach them how through a special interest meeting. They were to learn how to antique white, refinish the interior of a salad bowl, refinish walnut and a chest of natural wood.

The change that was expected was a better appreciation of good lines in an old piece of furniture in order that refinishing may be worthwhile.

The results were very outstanding. The changes in those attending were: I've learned how to refinish, now to get time to do my table; I know so much more about different types of wood. In many homes you can also see results of the booklet on "New Life for Your Old Furniture."

Eight families refinished furniture and ten families re-arranged furniture from individual help from the agent.



#### MIDDLESEX FURNITURE CLASS

Miss Helen Rowe, second from left, Middlesex County home demonstration agent, gives instruction in applying stains at a furniture refinishing class held this week at Saluda. Looking on are (left to right) Mrs. Shepherd Chowning, Mrs. Richard Marshall, Mrs. Robert Fulk and Mrs. J. J. Forrer.

## 2. Clothing

The problems in clothing that resulted from the topics below getting into the 1960 program were:

- a. Homemakers wanted to learn how to sew.
- b. They wanted to be well-groomed.
- c. They wanted to improve clothing construction methods and advanced homemakers wanted to learn how to tailor.

The agent attempted to teach all three request. They were: to learn how to select pattern and fabrics and how to use these together; also good construction methods. In another demonstration they learned how to coordinate their dress, take care of their hair and skin. In tailoring they were to learn how to hand-tailor a suit, dress or coat.

The procedure the agent used was first, all construction would be in special interest workshop meetings. The agent attended a tailoring workshop in Richmond with specialist before beginning a local tailoring school. The agent had a half-day school on fabrics prior to both beginners and tailoring schools. Commercial concerns loaned pattern books and samples of fabrics.

The beginner's class was taught by leaders for a period of three days.

The leaders also helped with the tailoring school.

The agent gave monthly demonstrations on "Good Grooming."

The results speak when a woman says, "I'm so proud of this." This makes one feel that she had a small part in changing a homemaker's attitude toward sewing.

There were eleven families helped in buying clothing fabrics. One hundred and seventy-three garments were made and sixty-seven remodeled. Four new people learned to sew and seventeen pieces of home tailoring equipment was made. Thirty women said they were helped from the demonstration on "Good Grooming."

To add to that well-tailored suit, a tote bag was requested. The homemakers wanted to learn how to make these.

The agent attempted a special interest class and the women learned how to make the frame. She especially urged originality in the outside design.

The changes expected were decidedly noticeable - another art, one to be proud of and one that could be taken anywhere.

The agent gave a demonstration before the special interest group on making tote bags and handles.

The results of this special interest meeting - seventeen bags made and the proud feeling of another job well done.

### 3. Foods and Nutrition

The homemaker's needs in this subject matter field were close together.

How could a homemaker have a mix prepared ahead of time in order to have hot bread?

How can a woman loose weight?

How can we learn the cuts of meat?

Give me something on "Holiday Foods."

These were all felt as needs for the homemaker in order to feed her family.

The agent attempted to meet these needs by special interest and demonstrations at monthly home demonstration clubs by agent or leaders.

The agent would give a demonstration on "Master Mix" and let the people learn how to use the method of measuring dry ingredients.

The changes in people that were expected were to save them money and help give more nutrition to the daily diet.

The methods used were monthly demonstrations by the agent and booklets on "Master Mix."

The results were interesting and a change of habit from buying prepared mix. Seventeen families now use this mix.

The agent started and carried through for eight weeks, a weight control class.

The change that was expected was a more nutritious diet for over-weight people and for them to loose weight.

The agent met with the members, weighed them and took pictures. At each meeting there was a guest connected with the class for some topic the group wanted discussed. Other professional workers, such as doctors, nurses and employees from the health department, worked with us. The Home Economist from VEPCO also worked with the group.

The results were very good. Ten certificates out of a group of 43 were awarded. These women plan to meet in January to see if they have curbed their diets.

The change was that the mind can control the weight and this all results in a more attractive person.

The next school will be in December - the 1961 program.

The "Holiday Foods" demonstration was given by the leaders.

In the program, it was attempted to teach women how to prepare breads.

The change was to show them how easy it was to make up and prepare ahead of time.

The leaders were trained by the Food and Nutrition Specialist and they gave a demonstration at all meetings. They also distributed the booklet "Christmas Everywhere" and candy recipes.

The results have been good. Reports of how many who had never made yeast breads are now making it.

There were twenty-two families helped on meal planning and one thousand, nine hundred and eighty-seven jars of canned food compared to six thousand, five hundred and sixteen pounds of frozen food.

The Foods and Nutrition Committee made a survey in connection with milk and the type of breakfast a teenager would eat in Middlesex.

This committee has made two recommendations for the 1961 program.

To add to a healthier community, thirty-seven people had physical examinations.

#### A. Arts and Crafts

Create in women an art and do it through the Outside Christmas Decoration Contest.

The women felt a need for an art and that is why nature leaf prints and copper jewelry were put into the program.

The women were to learn principles of art and the methods.

Changes that were expected were a new skill and something to express one's self.

The specialist trained leaders for this program.

There was an Outside Christmas Decoration Contest in December with twenty-three families taking part.

The Home Economist from VEPCO helped with the Christmas Decorations.

The results of both programs were shown throughout the county-one in spirit at Christmas with so many putting something on the door or in the window.

Art is something that helps all to change behavior, to find one's self and also have a deeper appreciation of work.

#### 5. Home Management

What type of insurance do I need? This was the question and a need for many people.

The agent secured insurance representatives to talk to each of the seven home demonstration clubs on "General Insurance."

The women were to learn insurance and how it fits in our everyday life and it's benefits.

A change of reasoning for insurance was expected.

Another method was a talk given by Miss Lana Folkes, Social Security representative, who spoke on "Social Security."

The results of these meetings are intangible and only time can help a family.

The remarks from homemakers have been most encouraging and the families do feel they have a better understanding of insurance and its importance.

The homemakers felt the need of learning how to clean and store rugs and clothing in order to save money.

The agent attempted to give a demonstration on various methods of cleaning and storage. They were to learn how to remove spots, stains, and how to press and clean.

Twenty-four families now do their own cleaning and storage.

The change in people was noticed in their attitude toward this type of job after they tried it.

## 6. Housing

A need of helping families plan new homes was requested and a desire for help on remodeling was suggested.

This was all done on an individual basis with the help of a specialist.

The attempt was made to help where there was a need in the home and to remodel and make convenient kitchens in old homes.

The people were to learn how to read blueprints, use lost space, coordinate colors and the importance of good organization in the home.

Miss Mary Settle, Housing Specialist from VPI, conducted a meeting for all of those planning to build or remodel. Later the agent and specialist visited the home.

As a result, many changes were made in regard to building ideas. The specialist gave many ideas that an amateur would not have thought of. The agent worked with many new homes and quite a few kitchens were remodeled. Three new homes were built, eleven repaired and eight made kitchen and laundry improvements.

## 7. Federation Program of Work - Home and Community Beautification

The problem that the home demonstration women felt was to beautify Middlesex roadsides and homes.

An attempt was made to have everyone erect a sign at the entrance of the farm or home, clean up around the farm and home, and plant a dogwood, lilac or crepe myrtle in the yard. At each home demonstration club meeting, there was a five minute discussion at each meeting on lawns. A demonstration was to be given on flower beds and rooting shrubs. Also result demonstrators were to be set up.

The women were to learn how to root shrubs and care for them, also to plan a flower bed.

The changes that were expected that more homes in Middlesex would improve the exterior and lawns.

The work was carried on by the specialist giving a demonstration for leaders on rooting and the care of boxwood, pruning, planning and preparing flower beds.

The specialist visited many homes and at the present time, there are ten result demonstrators.

The results of this work are of great value to the county because residents take pride and the tourist travel in the county is high so it is beneficial to hold their interest.

Many learned to prune - the method used in order to give the bush or tree a natural look.

A SIGNIFICANT STORY ON LANDSCAPING THE HOME OF MR. AND MRS. GEORGE TJSSEM  
IN SALUDA, VIRGINIA

Their problem was how to landscape for a tri-level home.

The problems were many but first the front and back lawns had tall pines and they had to decide which ones to leave. Then there was the problem of finding a grass that would grow under the pines that were left standing.

The back lawn was sloping, thus all the water from the other back yards would flow into theirs.

Mr. Paul Smeal, Assistant Horticulturist from VPI, came down and visited the home. The suggestions were made to top dress and plant rye grass first and leave the trees as they were. On the hill next to the drive where it sloped, he suggested that they plant yew and next to the house plant holly. In the back, two levels were divided for certain family areas.

The results of Extension help to Mr. and Mrs. Tjessen were that they now have evergreens and rye established on the front lawn. They have put many truck loads of soil in the back yard and it now takes the appearance of two levels.

Properly landscaped homes can do much for the value and add so much to the community.

The Tjessens are continuing with the suggestions made by the Extension for landscaping the sides of the home. This will serve as a result demonstration.

C. Other Home Demonstration Activities that contributed to the Over-all Extension Program

1. Home Demonstration Community Projects

The Daleville Home Demonstration Club selected the Middlesex Health Center as their project. Two years ago, Mr. Beecher, the landscape specialist from VPI, came down and gave some good suggestions on landscaping and types of plant material suitable for that type of building. The chairman, Mrs. John Layport, put out shrubs, trees and her husband put some soil on the slide to level the parking lot. Pictures were taken before and will be taken after the project is completed.

2. County Home Demonstration Objectives

- a. All club members bring yearbook to meeting and keep it up to date.
- b. All clubs are responsible for at least five meetings during the year.
- c. All clubs participate in socials for Jr. and Sr. 4-H Clubs.
- d. Each club be represented at the District and State meetings.
- e. Each club contribute \$3.00 to the county treasury by February for county expenses and \$4.00 to become a member of the Federation of Home Demonstration Clubs.
- f. Invite other homemakers to Home Demonstration Club meetings.
- g. Take part in Femles for Friendship and IYF programs.
- h. Urge members to read five books or more from the public library.
- i. Do some work on Federation Program of Work.
- j. Each club will be expected to complete all of these objectives in 1960.

### 3. National Home Demonstration Club Week

The communications chairman, Mrs. Jack Stoddard, gave the Extension a nice write-up on the home demonstration work. The local newspaper ran pictures of the homes and laws that were open to the public on May 9th.

A tour began at 1:00 P.M. and the group toured the lawn of Mr. and Mrs. James T. Crittenden, Ill, that had been landscaped by the Extension. The second home opened was that of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Crittenden which depicted the interior and furnishings that the Extension had helped the homemaker plan. The third home, that of Mr. and Mrs. Ben Hurley, showed the family room and kitchen planned by the husband. The last home that was opened was the home of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Koegel. Their lawn was also toured. The living room displayed many of Mrs. Koegel's hobbies.

The home demonstration women had tea at the club house in Urbana all afternoon for the guests.

The tour contributed interest toward Extension and gave the people a better idea of what Extension is doing.

### 4. Home Demonstration Anniversary Luncheon

This was similar to other counties achievement programs.

Home demonstration club members from all parts of the county attended and brought their favorite dish. Approximately eighty-nine homemakers attended.

The speaker's topic, "Color" was enjoyed by the women. The County Chairman, Mrs. Louis Richardson, gave a report on the year's work. The agent presented reading certificates and gave a short report.

### 5. Northern Week Fair

The Dellaville Home Demonstration Club put up an educational exhibit on "Winter Bouquets" and many homemakers took canned fruit, handcraft items and bakery products to be judged.

Each club had a chairman who was responsible for getting the entries to the fair at Warsaw.

#### 6. Judging

The home demonstration women judged the County 4-H Contest and helped with adjoining county fair.

#### 7. 4-H Party

The home demonstration club women gave a party for the 4-H'ers in the four elementary schools.

#### 8. Home Demonstration Federation Meeting

Twenty women attended the District Federation Meeting at Poquoson and two attended the State Federation Meeting at VPI.

#### 9. Outside Christmas Decoration Contest

Twenty-three homes added to the spirit in the county by putting up Christmas decorations and entering the contest. The county cooperated with GE and three electrical lighting pieces were given. The County Home Demonstration Club Committee gave a cash prize of \$10.00.

#### 10. Tours

The Saluda Home Demonstration Club toured Colonial Williamsburg to study art as a result of their class on art in July.

#### D. Farm and Home Development

In 1959, Farm and Home Development had its start in Middlesex. The agent has worked with three families this past year.

The problems most often encountered are in housing - either remodeling or adding a room. The assistance rendered was by the specialist and the home agent. They came into the county and visited the homes and made recommendations.

In one instance, the family of Mr. and Mrs. Gwynn Stewart, the Housing Specialist came down and helped Mrs. Stewart with her plans for adding two rooms and a porch. She also suggested colors for the other part in order to make it lighter.

The results have been slow thus far as Mr. Stewart works as a carpenter and he is doing all of the work at home. They have added the two rooms and porch and also a center stairway. The rooms on the inside have been completed in order for them to move in but they still have one end to finish. They decided to put in a fireplace and book cases. Mrs. Stewart has painted the kitchen, living room and dining room a light beige. The room looks very nice and light. Some more work has to be done in order to make it complete.

It has been planned for this home to be opened during the next county tour in order for others to see what can be done with a bit of planning.

### III. County Extension Program - Youth

#### A. Organization

##### 1. 4-H Clubs

The youth in Middleton have an opportunity to belong to 4-H Clubs. Last year 103 girls belonged to this program.

There are seven 4-H Clubs and they all meet in school except for a couple after school project groups.

These clubs are organized with officers and at each meeting there is a short business session and a demonstration by a leader or club girl on a phase of home economics.

##### 2. County 4-H Council

The council is composed of all officers of the seven 4-H Clubs. They meet three times a year and plan and carry out the 4-H youth program. Special committees were appointed by the president. The officers of this council serve in an advisory capacity to the agents.

##### 3. 4-H Committees

There are various committees for each 4-H activity that is carried out during the year. These are composed of young people and a sponsor.

## B. 4-H Project Work

### 1. Room Improvement

In 4-H every member is allowed in Middlesex to select the project he wants according to his needs. The project, room improvement, had the most requests. It was planned in this project for every girl to have a floor plan of her room. Those without a shoe rack would make one to add to their accessories. Every girl would learn the principles of flower arranging.

The agent attempted to teach principles of good accessories and furniture arrangement.

The methods used for carrying out this project were demonstrations by the agent to 4-H Club members on furniture arrangement by the use of a flannel-graph.

The agent visited homes of the girls enrolled in this project and discussed their program in room improvement. She also gave a demonstration on how to make the shoe rack and how to paint an ice cream carton to make a trash can.

Information pertaining to this project was given to each child and they could do other things in addition to what was planned.

The results that were obtained in changes of people were their habits in caring for their own room. There were sixty-four articles made from the demonstration and thirty-two rooms cared for. The thirty-two members arranged flowers two hundred and eight times after learning the principles of flower arrangement.

This project was one that all the girls seemed to enjoy and many have re-enrolled in "Your Room" project for the 1961 term.

### 2. Clothing

This project was selected the same as room improvement.

The agent attempted to teach basic sewing principles, how to use a sewing machine, how to baste, and then to put all this into practice by making a simple garment.

The change that was expected was to have girls learn a skill that would be of so much help later in life.

The methods used were demonstrations on various fabrics and how to make articles in the first year clothing project. The agent visited many homes and helped with individual clothing problems. She assembled information on both clothing projects and distributed to the members.

The results of this clothing project were most gratifying because of the number who learned to sew. The girls start off with a needle case and at the end of two years, to make a dress. The second year, girls made twenty-nine garments and remodeled and made for others a total of forty garments.

One little girl remarked, "It is so nice to be able to sew on Mother's machine."

The change that was noticed in those taking clothing was their interest in perfection and the skill they had learned and how they were going to apply it.

### 3. Career Exploration

This project was selected by the senior group in order to get some idea of careers.

It was attempted to teach and let the group learn by having people in certain careers come in and talk to the group, thus giving them some requirements and advantages of the job.

The methods used were local people. They would come in and speak on their career and then have a question and answer period after each meeting. Information was given out concerning the career studied.

The results gave many ideas of what careers are offered. Advice on how to seek information on careers was given and also where one might find financial aid.

### 4. Looking Your Best

This project was selected by those club members who wanted to improve their appearance. It was planned that the girls would develop good grooming habits.

The agent would attempt to teach girls how to take advantage of their faults, how to conduct themselves in public and how to care for their clothes.

The methods that were used were demonstrations at each meeting and a discussion on a requested topic. There was an adult leader who conducted a half-hour talk once a month on a specific topic.

The change that was expected was for all teenagers and sub-teens to take more of a personal interest in themselves.

Through these demonstrations, girls developed poise and more confidence in themselves.

The good grooming principles that the girls learned caused them to serve as inspirations to the younger group.

#### 5. Foods and Nutrition

The girls selected this project because they wanted to learn the correct methods of preparing a well-balanced meal.

The agent attempted to answer all requests for food. Miss Janet Cameron trained three 4-H food leaders and now they carry on an after school foods project group. These 4-H'ers learned table settings, basic food units and how to prepare foods.

The methods used were demonstrations by the agent and leaders. The agent visited many homes.

There were two girls in the county 4-H contest giving food demonstrations.

The change that happened in the food groups was the 2, 455 dishes prepared and 181 meals served by the girls themselves.

The interest has developed in the girls helping their mothers more. The parents have more confidence in the child in order to turn the kitchen over to the child who has received training from a leader.

## C. Other Activities

### 1. Community Activities

#### a. Youth Round-Up

This program was planned by a special committee for the purpose of involving many local people in a parade and horse show. A cake walk was held to raise money for 4-H road signs. All of the day's activities had a place in contributing to the Extension youth program.

### 2. Camps

#### a. Jamestown 4-H Camp

This camp contributes much to the program through the crafts and fellowship with other 4-H'ers. We had twenty-eight to attend from Middlesex.

#### b. State 4-H Conservation Camp

Two girls attended the State 4-H Conservation Camp. One girl received a scholarship from the Bank of Middlesex and the other was from the Junior Woman's Club.

#### c. State 4-H Short Course

Three girls attended the State Short Course at VPI in June. They were junior leaders and county council officers. They received much help which would be of value to them.

### 3. Rural Life Sunday

A special committee planned a most impressive vesper service overlooking the water on May 18th. Approximately 100 attended.

### 4. 4-H Talent Night

This was connected with the awards program. Each club had four acts in this show which serves as an opportunity for the youth to display their talents. The winners in the junior division received a scholarship to camp and the senior, a trip to VPI. The agent presented awards at this night program to outstanding 4-H'ers.

#### 5. Northern Neck Fair

The 4-H Council put up an exhibit on "Learn, Live and Serve Through 4-H." They won 2nd. place.

Individual exhibits were entered in the fair with many winning prizes.

#### 6. 4-H County Contest

The contest was conducted to determine county winners. There were demonstrations, speeches, modeling and exhibits. Record books were displayed with many participating. The winners in each group attended the District Contest in Marsh.

#### IV. Scope of Work

	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960
No. H. D. Clubs	6	7	7	6	7
Membership	171	195	222	222	198
No. H. D. Groups (unorganized)				1	
Membership				12	
No. 4-H Clubs	6	6	7	7	7
Membership	121	118	122	117	122
No. YM Clubs					
Membership					
No. Community Clubs					
Membership					
No. Home Ec. Committees			1	1	1
No. General Interest Committees					
No. Youth Committees					
No. Other Organizations					
No. Farm & Home Dev. Families		4	4	3	3
No. Other Families Reached	30	423	450	250	331
No. Different Families Reached	50	400	425	200	230

The public was informed in many ways about home demonstration club work.

The agent visited and the homemakers visited others and told them about home demonstration work and invited them to the meetings. She also had a weekly radio program and a newspaper article once a week.

The agent was asked to speak before a local garden club, Episcopal ladies guild, P. T. A. and many other civic groups. At each meeting she told about the program or gave some current trends or information helpful to the homemaker.

The agent attended a Home Economics College Workshop at Mary Washington College where she interviewed many girls interested in Extension.

#### V. Leadership

##### A. Growth of Leadership

1. The program leaders are in other fields but there are five in the Foods and Nutrition Committee.

##### 2. Home Demonstration Club Leadership

	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960
<u>No. organizational leaders</u>		21	35	40	35
<u>No. project leaders (subject matter)</u>	59	152	175	68	140
<u>No. Federation Program of work chairmen</u>	7	8	8	8	8
<u>No. program development leaders</u>	6	8	8	8	8
<u>No. result demonstrators</u>	10	13	9	45	17
<u>No. training meetings by specialists</u>	7	3	9	10	10
<u>No. training meetings by dist. agents</u>	2	2	1	1	
<u>No. training meetings by agents</u>	15	16	2	2	
<u>No. training meetings by others</u>					
<u>Attendance at all training meetings</u>	146	166	87	105	88
<u>No. meetings held without an agent</u>	31	22	29	20	27
<u>No. meetings leaders assisted</u>	30	32	50	84	258
<u>Demonstrations by leaders</u>	30	50	35	20	70
<u>Talks and discussions by leaders</u>	48	60	70	85	100

### 3. 4-H Club Leadership

	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960
No. Club Officers	53	57	63	69	50
No. adult project leaders	9	10	7	6	4
No. junior project leaders	1	4	5	3	3
No. result demonstrators	2	3	5	15	30
No. training meetings by specialists	2	1	2	1	4
No. training meetings by dist. agents					
No. training meetings by agent	8	4	4		
No. training meetings by members club dept.	1				
No. training meetings by others			4		
Total attendance at ldr. tr. meetings	98	53	90	13	51
No. 4-H leaders trained individually	3	6	7	3	3
No. club mtgs. held by ldr. without agent	5	10	1	6	9
No. additional meetings at which leaders assisted	49	50		9	6
No. demonstrations given by adult ldrs.	1	12	4	21	25
No. demonstrations given by junior ldrs.	4	6	2	10	20

#### B. Story on Leadership

The county is blessed to have young married people to add to the challenge of the future.

To direct the home demonstration county program for the year of 1961 and 1962, Mrs. James T. Crittenden, III of Hardyville, Virginia, a young, dependable homemaker of 22 has taken this challenge. She is the wife of a farmer and the mother of a daughter, Kathy, 2½ years old.

She began her club life three years ago as a member of the Deltaville Home Demonstration Club. The second year she was elected secretary and treasurer and will serve in this capacity again this year.

Mrs. Crittenden has learned to tailor through the Extension program.

When the Crittendens moved into their new home, the Extension agent worked and planned with them the entire color scheme for the home, the furnishings and Mrs. Crittenden made her draperies.

Mr. Beecher went with the Home Agent to landscape the lawn. Mr. and Mrs. Crittenden have seeded the lawn, put out plant materials and have made a safe driveway.

Last year they showed their lawn during National Home Demonstration Club Week.

Mrs. Crittenden has served as a project leader in art for her club during the past year. She also put up an educational exhibit at the Northern Neck Fair on "Winter Bouquets."

Today, Mrs. Crittenden is thinking of new ideas for the home demonstration program. She has developed in her leadership and will make a definite contribution to the Extension program.

## VI.

### A. For Special Consideration

Landscaping has been one significant achievement in Middlesex during this past year.

The work was started in 1956 with Mr. A. S. Beecher, Horticulturist from VPI, visiting a number of homes and giving them some suggestions for landscaping and methods of preparing a safe driveway.

The problems in Middlesex are mostly with plants, especially boxwood and azaleas. How to landscape and what to plant in certain areas are other problems.

The methods that were used in order that landscaping was rated as a significant achievement were, the visits by a specialist and the time he gave to help the homemakers and her family have a more attractive home lawn. Also the home agent visited these homes and others too and gave suggestions for plant material. She also checked on previously planned homes to see if they had made any progress. Publicity was one method that helped to tell others about landscaping.

The results have been very visible because of the view one gets as he rides along the highway and sees what the home owner has done.

This year seven home lawns were completed. Already in 1961, eleven homes have been landscaped and some of these the agent hopes will be open for the tour.

The agent has helped a large number of owners identify damage to their shrubs and plants. She has also taught many how to prune shrubs.

Leaders the months of September and October spoke on "Boxwood, Rooting Shrubs, Care of Plants and Planning of Flower Beds for the Home Lawn."

A goal is to have a dogwood in every home lawn in Middlesex in 1961.

## B. Public Relations

The home demonstration agent does a great deal of public relations work.

She deals with various people, for instance, the county workers. They request her services and she willingly works with them in order to help the county.

The general public is all demanding and the agent is on all at all times. She not only does her job but helps others out.

The agent reports to the Board of Supervisors once a year in order to keep them informed of her work. She also talks with them on various occasions and they are invited to all A-H and HD activities.

The commercial interests are high in Extension in Middlesex whenever a request is made by the agent. The local businesses are most cooperative and the banks help with young people and their program. The agent also works closely with the Home Economist from VEFCC.

## C. Professional Improvement

The agent attends as many workshops as possible, thus furthering her education. She reads all professional booklets, magazines, and articles when time permits.

The agent goes on tours to certain areas for professional improvement. This year the agents in the Northeastern District have been on two tours outside the area - one in Waynesboro, Virginia and the other in Washington, D. C.

## VII. The Look Ahead

The home demonstration agent, who deals both in youth and adult work, feels that this past year's program in Middlesex has been one of progress.

The home demonstration club members have not grown. By this I mean that those who have joined this year have balanced those leaving or passing on. However, there has been more non-home demonstration members in the special interest classes this year.

The leaders who have been trained by specialist for five demonstrations did an outstanding job from all reports.

The 4-H girls have had a very good program this past year but there is a great need for adult leaders in order to meet the demands of these young people searching for additional information.

There are so many demonstrations, home visits and office calls that cannot be measured in appraising the year's work but they, too, have definitely made a contribution.

#### Outstanding Contributions to Family Living in Middlesex by the County Extension Service

The comment from a homemaker who has just learned to prune her boxwood, destroy the insects that infest her lovely bushes and trees, and learn the principles of harmony and coordination of color within her home, signify the Extension contributions toward her. This homemaker also said, "How much do I owe you?" As an agent you can say, "You don't owe me anything because this is my job and it has been a pleasure for me to help you." All the time you think of the change in behavior you caused in that lady and her home. She too can help others and the Extension will live on.

Perhaps another contribution to family living is to work with a young girl at the age of ten. Through 4-H she may be enrolled in clothing and room improvement. Last year she learned to sew, how to use the machine and many other things. This was a learning process - a change in behavior of the child and the parents. To groom a child may be grooming the parents, too.

In room improvement, the child learned how to care for the room and make an accessory. All of these thirty minute demonstrations by the agent made definite contributions to the child and to family living. These are visible and one that everyone profits in and develops pride. This could lead a child in the field of home economics, the career with so many opportunities.