

# ANNUAL REPORT

## County Extension Work

1953



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Smyth

**COUNTY**

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III. The County Situation as it Affected the 1953 Program

Smyth County is strictly an agricultural county. The farm families derive their main cash incomes from livestock, dairying, tobacco and poultry. Unfavorable weather conditions and a severe drought caused a shortage of crops and food this year. Cattle prices declined, thus giving the farm families less income for 1953. The high cost of food, clothing and shelter has taken the greater part of the cash income.

IV. Contributions of the 1953 Home Demonstration Program to Better Living

The 1953 program placed emphasis on wise buymanship, foods, clothing, house furnishings, home management and safety.

More than six hundred fifty women and girls were assisted directly in these projects through organized club meetings. Four hundred six home visits were made by the home agent to give individual assistance. There were ~~six~~ hundred nine office calls, seven hundred sixty seven telephone calls, three hundred seventy eight bulletins distributed, and forty-one radio broadcasts presented in carrying out the 1953 extension program by the home agent. Information was passed on to many others by club members, non club members and the local newspaper.

Trained local volunteer leaders held eighty-two adult and 4-H meetings without the home agent. Two hundred fifty six meetings were conducted by the agent.

Meetings were held on planning the home garden and seeds were purchased cooperatively which resulted in a greater variety of vegetables being planted and a cash saving to farm families.

Better planned meals and preservation of food contributed to the health of the families. Wise selection and care of clothing, house furnishings and equipment contributed financially to better living and happier families. Easier cleaning methods and better home management has given the homemaker more time to participate in community work and to know her neighbors better. Families working together in their respective communities has created pride and appreciation in home ownership and has developed better citizens.

Families have become safety conscious due to the county-wide safety program stressing safety in the home, safety on the farm and safety on the highway. Discussions on safety at monthly meetings led

to the removal of many accident hazards. Cooperation with the schools and highway department promoted safety measures among the school children and on the highway.

A convenient kitchen and water in every home is a long-time goal. A water systems survey was made in May to determine how many homes did not have running water. Four hundred forty families were contacted. Ninety-three of these families had no running water in the home. Fifteen families have installed electric water pumps.

Project leaders have assumed more responsibilities in giving demonstrations. Four county-wide leader-training meetings were held. Two girls' 4-H clubs have been successfully carried on out of school under the leadership of home demonstration club members.

A new 4-H club was organized out of school recently. Also one home demonstration club was added to make a total of thirteen organized home demonstration clubs and seventeen 4-H clubs in Smyth County.

Seventy five pressure cooker gauges were tested for accuracy. More families are freezing food as evidenced by the number of home freezers purchased and the number of telephone calls for bulletins and other information.

Six 4-H club members attended the State 4-H Short Course as compared to three last year. Eight women attended the Institute of Rural Affairs. Thirty eight boys and girls attended the district 4-H camp as compared to thirty one last year. Two attended the State Farm and Home Electric Congress in Richmond.

Home demonstration club members worked with other county organizations to promote charitable drives, community fairs and health clinics. One hundred drapes were made by home demonstration club members for the T.B. chest xray clinic.

Two achievement days were held with an attendance of approximately two hundred fifty people. These programs climaxed the years work in the 4-H and home demonstration clubs, and awards were given to leaders and club members for outstanding achievements for 1953. These programs acquainted the public with the county extension program. They gave club members an opportunity to meet new friends and gain inspiration for the new year ahead.

34  
72

V. Adult Work

A. Project Work

I. Subject matter in foods and nutrition

Foods and nutrition were emphasized because there was a need for growing foods to stretch the family income; to prepare time-saving meals; and to feed the family well balanced meals.

1. Objectives

- (a) To improve the health of rural people
- (b) To reduce the cost of living

2. Teaching methods

- (a) Method demonstrations at 36 meetings
- (b) Leader training meetings
- (c) Radio and press
- (d) Cooperation of seed dealer
- (e) Discussions at monthly meetings
- (f) Distribution of bulletins, etc.
- (g) Pressure cooker clinic

3. Results

A greater variety of vegetables were grown at home due to meetings on planning the home garden. Better seeds were purchased for less cost by clubs buying cooperatively from a reliable seed dealer. Gardens were planted earlier and most vegetables matured before the worst of the drought came. An average of 14 different vegetables were planted in the spring garden. This was a good tomato growing year. There should be no excuse for farm families not getting their vitamin C from canned tomatoes. Reports showed that tomatoes topped the canning list. Fall gardens were poor due to dry weather conditions.

Trained project leaders gave demonstrations in twelve clubs on one-dish meals; new ways of preparing vegetables; and correct methods of frying foods. These demonstrations gave the homemakers new and better methods of preparing home-grown foods; they saved time and fuel and stretched the family dollar as well as contributed to healthful diets.

Seventy-five pressure cooker gauges were tested for accuracy and safety before the canning season started. There has been more requests for home freezing information which shows that home freezing of foods is rapidly becoming more popular and less canning is done.

II. Subject matter in clothing

1. Objectives

Selection and care of new fabrics was stressed because of the lack of knowledge concerning the wearing qualities and care of these man-made fibers. Correct dress was studied to teach the women how to buy better quality ready-made clothing; to save money and improve their appearance.

2. Teaching methods

- (a) Method demonstrations at twentyfive meetings
- (b) Cooperation of local stores
- (c) Pictures and charts
- (d) Radio and press
- (e) Window displays

3. Results

Ready-made garments were borrowed from local stores to show new fabrics. Members were interested in checking own clothing to determine content of fabric. They were especially eager to know best methods of cleaning these man-made fabrics.

Reading labels on ready-made garments was stressed and members were warned against buying clothing without instructions from manufacturer on fiber content and care of garments.

Color harmony in dress helped the groups to select more becoming garments and accessories. Women are buying fewer and better quality clothing as a result of the clothing demonstrations.

Window displays attracted the public's attention during National Home Demonstration Week and served to reach others in the clothing project.

34  
72

III. Subject Matter in home management

1. Objectives

- (a) To teach better methods of care and cleaning floors and rugs.
- (b) To teach simple household repair jobs that women can do.

2. Teaching methods

- (a) Method demonstrations at twenty-four meetings
- (b) Cooperation of local stores
- (c) Radio and press
- (d) Home visits.

3. Results

Home methods of care and cleaning floors and rugs enabled the homemakers to save money by doing the job themselves. Trained project leaders gave twelve demonstrations on this subject. Local stores cooperated by furnishing supplies in some clubs. The leader training meeting by the State Home Management Specialist was held at local hardware store which gave cleaning products as prizes. Johnson & Bruce's Wax people sent complimentary cleaning aids also. These demonstrations helped the homemakers to do a better job of house cleaning.

The agent gave twelve demonstrations on household repairs that women can do. The women learned to build adjustable shelves in closets and cabinets; fix loose screws in doors and furniture; putty window panes; fix leaky faucets and patch cracked plastered walls. The State Agricultural Engineer trained the agent. A local lumber plant and hardware store cooperated by lending tools, etc. for the meetings. Others were reached through radio casts and the local newspaper.

IV. Subject Matter in house furnishings

1. Objectives

- (a) To improve the appearance of the home through correct window treatment

2. Teaching methods

- (a) Method demonstrations at twelve meetings  
(b) Pictures and charts  
(c) Cooperation of local stores  
(d) Sample materials from fabric companies  
(e) Radio and press  
(f) Home visits

3. Results

Twelve demonstrations were given by the agent. Meetings were held in homes where window problems were discussed and corrected. Simplicity in window treatment was stressed from the standpoint of attractiveness, light and balance for the room. Approximately one hundred fifty families improved the appearance of their homes through better window treatment.

V. Subject matter in housing

1. Objective

- (a) Help people plan convenient homes to meet family needs

2. Teaching methods

- (a) Home visits  
(b) Radio and press  
(c) Specialist's help

34  
72

### 3. Results

Individual visits were made to help make plans for remodelling kitchens, building bathrooms, and closets in rural homes. Meetings were held in homes where remodelling was done. More people have requested house plans made available by the state extension office. One family finished remodelling their home this year. This project was started three years ago when the extension housing specialists and the home agent visited the family to plan for remodelling their old home. Plans were drawn up by the specialist. A new roof was added the first year. Finances did not permit them to remodel house until this year. The old kitchen was torn down and replaced with a utility room, storage room, furnace room and bathroom. The former dining room is now a convenient kitchen with modern equipment and built-in cabinets. An additional bathroom was installed upstairs. A central heating system was installed and walls replastered.

## VI. Subject matter in rural arts

### 1. Objectives

- (a) To create an appreciation of art in the home
- (b) To interest others in club work

### 2. Teaching Methods

- (a) All day work shops
- (b) Follow up meetings by local leaders
- (c) Exhibits at achievement day

### 3. Results

Three clubs conducted workshops on designing and etching aluminum trays. These meetings were followed up with extra meetings held in the absence of the agent.

More than one hundre fifty trays were etched. This project has created much interest among club members and others for the past three years. Originality in design was displayed. One club member drew her own design from ivy leaves collected from her yard. Tray making has been a source of enjoyment as well as a means of making money for rural women.

Meetings were held on basket making, reseating foot stools and Swedish darning. One meeting in each club was given to handicraft. Club membership increased as a result of these meetings.

VII. Subject matter in poultry

1. Objective

- (a) To teach better management of home flock

2. Teaching methods

- (a) Discussions at monthly meetings by poultry leader
- (b) Monthly poultry letters sent to leaders
- (c) Radio and press

3. Results

A five minute report was given by leaders at each monthly meeting. Timely information for these discussions were sent to leaders in advance of meetings. The average home flock consisted of about twenty-five hens. Better care and feeding of flock supplied the family with eggs for home consumption and supplemented the grocery bill.

VIII. Subject matter in water systems

1. Objective

- (a) To have running water in every rural home.

2. Teaching methods

- (a) County survey
- (b) Cooperation of local power company and dealers
- (c) Radio and press
- (d) Special meetings
- (e) Home visits

3. Results

A county water systems survey was made cooperatively by agricultural and home economics teachers, extension agents, and local power company to determine the need for running water in the homes. Home visits were made by these agencies to check. Four hundred forty check sheets collected showed that ninety three families had no running water under pressure in the home. Eighty families wanted help because of insufficient water supply and cost of installing water system. Two hundred sixty eight families had running water in home. Of this number, one hundred seven families had water by gravity and one hundred sixty one had water by electric pumps. According to reports from local dealers, approximately sixty water pumps have been purchased and installed this year.

B. Other Activities

1. Participation of an outstanding family

The Parker StJohn family has participated whole heartedly in the county extension program. Mrs. StJohn has served as vice president of the county home demonstration committee and secretary of her local club. She has served as foods project leader of her club for the past two years. Her husband is active in the farm program and civic organizations. Her three children are active

H-H members. The two daughters are All Stars. They have shown leadership ability at H-H camps, Achievement Days, Short Courses, and in their local club which meets out of school.

The family remodelled their home this year after consulting the home agent and the Extension Housing Specialist on plans for doing the work. The entire family takes an active part in the church and other community activities.

\*  
\* II. Participation of a club in community projects

Saltville home demonstration club took a needy family of five to help as their community project. The family had a child who was mentally sick, the father was injured on his job and not able to support the family. The club sent food, clothing and furniture to the family. Medical care was given the child until the welfare board was able to place the child in a home. Milk was furnished the family for a period of two months.

\* \* \*  
Another family was sent a basket of food at Christmas. Bedroom slippers were made for the local hospital patients.

\* III. Community improvement work

Two communities entered the community improvement contest sponsored by the Bristol Chamber of Commerce. The objectives were as follows: (a) To solve community problems through organized efforts and (b) to develop a sound system of farming and home making and (c) To provide educational and social programs for the entire family.

Monthly educational meetings, a community fair and special social functions were held. Crossclose club held a handcraft show where outstanding local talent was displayed. They held their second annual vegetable and flower show in the fall. The state extension garden specialist and the Marion garden club president served as judges.

Lack of cooperation of members in securing survey check sheets for the communities did not permit them to compete in the area contest. Therefore, figures on improvements made are not available.

#### IV. Federation goal activities

##### 1. Objective

- (a) To help families recognize safety as one of the important problems in their occupation and living.

##### 2. Teaching methods

- (a) County safety chairman
- (b) Local club safety chairmen
- (c) Discussions at monthly meetings
- (d) Radio and press
- (e) Cooperation with P.T.A.'s and highway department.

##### 3. Results

County chairman prepared safety kits for local club discussions held at each monthly meeting. Check sheets were used to make families conscious of hazards in the home, on the farm, and on the highway. Broadcasts and news articles by the agent and local chairmen helped to reach others on safety measures. One club was instrumental in improving the road and a railroad crossing in their community. Another club contacted the highway department to improve a hazardous bridge. Approximately two hundred accident hazards were removed in the home. Unusual accidents were reported to the National Safety Council. Movies on safety were shown at parent teachers meetings and cooperation was given teachers on school bus safety for children.

V. Achievement Day

1. Objectives

- (a) To acquaint the public with extension program
- (b) To evaluate accomplishments for the year
- (c) To gain inspiration for the year ahead

2. Teaching methods

- (a) Exhibits
- (b) Guest speaker
- (c) Panel discussion

3. Results

Approximately one hundred twenty five club members and friends attended the achievement program. An exhibit of unusual homemade gifts by club members attracted wide attention.

Highlighting the program was the talk by a native of Estonia. She told of her family's experiences there and how she and her husband were forced to leave their country when it was overrun by the communists.

A panel discussion of the club presidents, led by the home agent, portrayed outstanding achievements of the local clubs for the past year. Special music and a social hour with refreshments were enjoyed.

Club members look forward each year to this program. It is a time when they can show the public their achievements, gain inspiration for the new year and enjoy a good time together.

34  
72

VI. 4-H Club Work

A. Project work

I. Subject matter in foods and nutrition

1. Objectives

(a) To teach the girls to prepare and serve nutritious meals at home

(b) To improve health of rural families

2. Teaching methods

(a) School cafeterias for demonstrations

(b) Demonstrations by members

(c) Radio and press

(d) Records

(e) Home visits

3. Results

Forty two girls in three clubs were enrolled with thirty eight completions. Three hundred fifty dishes were prepared and two hundred eighty five meals served by these members at home.

Each club prepared and served a club luncheon to their mothers and teachers. The girls participated in all demonstrations. Awards for outstanding work was made at county-wide achievement day.

34  
72

II. Subject matter in clothing

1. Objectives

- (a) To teach fundamental principles of sewing
- (b) To teach clothing construction and wardrobe planning

2. Teaching methods

- (a) Inventory of wardrobe
- (b) Plan for clothing needs
- (c) Construction of simple articles and garments
- (d) Records
- (e) Home demonstration members for project leaders
- (f) Dress revues

3. Results

One hundred fifteen girls in six clubs were enrolled in Unit II and Unit III projects. One hundred one girls completed. One hundred twenty articles and seventy five garments were made by these girls. The girls also learned to do swedish weaving and how to knit. Exhibits of things made were judged at club meetings. A style dress revue was held to select the county winner. The winner modelled her outfit in the district contest and received a blue ribbon award. Other awards for achievements were made at the county-wide achievement day program

III. Farm and Home Electric Project

1. Objective

- (a) To improve the lighting in rural homes

2. Teaching methods

- (a) Demonstrations
- (b) Home visits
- (c) Talks by members to other groups
- (d) Records

34  
72

### 3. Results

Thirteen girls were enrolled with twelve completions. Two members taking the second year project served as junior leaders. They gave demonstrations at club meetings on fixing electric cords, making lamps, and lighting a study unit. Two farm homes were visited to observe electricity in use. Two demonstrations were given by club members to others in their community. The county winner received an all expense trip to the State Farm and Home Electric Congress. She is serving as a junior leader in her club again next year.

#### IV. Subject matter in room improvement

##### 1. Objective

- (a) To make more attractive bed rooms

##### 2. Teaching methods

- (a) Demonstrations at monthly meetings
- (b) Home visits
- (c) Records

##### 3. Results

Ten girls were enrolled in this project. Only five completed. The other five girls were younger and had to share a bedroom with another member of the family. This probably accounted for their lack of interest.

#### B. Other activities

##### I. Camp

##### 1. Objectives

- (a) To develop leadership
- (b) To strengthen h-H club work

2. Teaching methods

- (a) Educational and recreational programs
- (b) Radio and press
- (c) Reports

3. Results

Thirty eight 4-H club members attended the district camp for one week. One adult leader, the home agent and the assistant farm agent also attended. Seven more members attended camp this year as compared to last year. Outstanding leadership was shown by the campers. One girl was selected to represent the Health H for the camp. Home demonstration clubs donated money for transportation of certain members to camp. One home demonstration club paid the expenses of one girl to camp. One 4-H club held an Easter bake sale to provide money for six members to attend camp. Reports were made at home demonstration and 4-H club meetings after returning home.

II. Achievement Day

• 1. Objectives

- (a) To acquaint public with 4-H program
- (b) To strengthen county program
- (c) To recognize leadership and work done

2. Teaching methods

- (a) Let members plan program
- (b) Member participation
- (c) Educational talk
- (d) Recognition
- (e) Radio and press

### 3. Results

Approximately seventy five club members and parents attended the program. The district farm agent was the guest speaker. A panel discussion was led by Nancy StJohn, an All-Star. Those participating were the members who attended camp, State Short Course, and the Electric Congress. Certificates of recognition were awarded to three adult leaders with five years or more service. 4-H mechanical pencils were awarded to nine adult leaders for services rendered in 4-H club work. Plaques were awarded by the Marion Chamber of Commerce to the outstanding boy and girl for their leadership in 4-H work. Other county project awards were made by the agents.

### III. Contests

#### 1. Objective

- (a) To encourage better project work

#### 2. Teaching methods

- (a) Explanation of all contests at local clubs
- (b) Selection of winners
- (c) Train county winners for area contest
- (d) Radio and press

#### 3. Results

One girl entered the area contest in clothing. Awards to county winners in each project were made at the achievement day program.

### VII. Young Men and Young Women's Work

There are no organized young men and young women's clubs in the county. However, these young people took part in the community club activities and home demonstration clubs, especially the recreational programs.

VIII. Scope of Work

	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953
No. 4-H Clubs or Groups	9	12	12	12	13
Membership	237	301	352	369	379
No. 4-H Clubs	9	10	11	11	10
Membership	171	189	203	206	179
No. YW Groups	0	0	0	0	0
Membership	0	0	0	0	0
No. other families reached	2403	2513	2585	2585	3000
No. different families reached	2000	2100	2125	2150	2200
No. community clubs	0	3	3	2	2
Membership	0	250	250	150	150

IX. Organizations that functioned in the 1953 program

A. County Home Demonstration Committee

This committee served as the planning board for the home demonstration program. Interests and needs of the local clubs were gathered by the presidents and program development leaders during the year and used as a basis for planning the county program. Two meetings were held, one to plan the program and one to make adjustments and plan for other programs, such as, achievement day, district meeting and State Federation meetings.

B. County 4-H Project Planning Committee

This committee, consisting of the adult leaders and three older 4-H girls from all local 4-H clubs, met in August to select the girls' project work for 1954. Clothing, foods, electricity, and food preservation were chosen by ten clubs.

C. County 4-H Council

The county council met twice during the year to plan for camp and achievement day.

D. Civic Organization

The Marion Chamber of Commerce sponsored 4-H work by awarding plaques to the outstanding 4-H boy and girl in the county. This organization also took part in the home demonstration achievement program.

X. Leadership

A. Contributions of the volunteer leaders to the program

1. Organizational

These leaders served as officers of L-H and H.D. clubs, conducted all business matters at club meetings and were responsible for reporting club activities to the agent and press.

2. Program development

These leaders collected community data, needs and interests of club members as a basis for county program planning. Monthly reports by these leaders led to group discussions of program needs. They were members of the county home demonstration committee.

3. Subject matter

These leaders gave eighty two demonstrations in the absence of the agent reaching 1544 people. They attended three county-wide leader training meetings. They exhibited project work in store windows during National Home Demonstration Week. They helped collect individual project reports for their club's annual achievement report published in the county newspaper. They gave radio broadcasts and passed information to non club members.

B. Growth of leadership by project leaders

HD Club Project Leadership	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953
No. project leaders (subject matter)	18	24	26	30	32
No. goal chairmen	9	12	12	12	13
No. training meetings held by Specialist	2	3	3	4	2
by Agent	5	11	13	6	8
Attendance at all training meetings	75	98	142	127	140
No. club meetings held by leaders without agent present	28	30	64	60	53
No. additional club meetings at which leaders assisted	23	36	8	21	35
<b>Growth of 4-H Club Project Leadership</b>					
No. adult project leaders	11	11	14	16	17
No. junior project leaders	4	5	10	5	5
No. training meetings held by specialist	0	0	1	0	0
by agent	2	0	5	7	10
Attendance at leader training meeting	60	43	70	44	75
No. 4-H leaders trained individually	6	11	14	12	5
No. club meetings held by leader without agent present	14	20	20	30	29
No. of additional club meetings at which leaders assisted	25	42	49	16	32
No. demonstrations given by leaders					
by adults	40	50	20	30	29
by juniors	11	15	24	15	25

C. Activities of outstanding leader

Mrs. Fred McDonald, a member of the MtCarmel home demonstration club, has served as leader for the Marion girls' 4-H club for the past four years. Mrs. McDonald has two daughters in this club with a membership of fifteen. This club meets out of school and has been very active under her leadership. She has attended monthly meetings and served as project leader. She helped the girls sponsor an Easter bake sale. Six girls attended 4-H camp and used the money from the sale to help pay their camp expenses. She furnished transportation for two of the girls to the State 4-H Short Course and other special events. Three of the girls served as pages at the home demonstration achievement day program. One girl took part in the area dress revue contest, winning a blue ribbon award.

Mrs. McDonald has served as president and vice president of her local home demonstration club. She is now vice president of the county home demonstration committee and is active in her home demonstration club where she gives monthly reports of the 4-H activities. No job seems too great for her. Her willingness to serve her community is unexcelled. Her heart and interest is in helping the young people develop leadership.

XI. Work in cooperation with other agencies

1. Health department

- (a) Home demonstration clubs helped sponsor local drives such as Red Cross and Polio
- (b) Held pot luck dinners and entertainments to raise money for the polio fund
- (c) Made 100 drapes for the tuberculosis chest clinic
- (d) Made paper scuffs for the hospital patients.

2. Parent teachers association

- (a) Home demonstration clubs helped purchase equipment for school hot lunch kitchen
- (b) Cooperated with home demonstration clubs in holding safety programs.

3. Local Power Company

- (a) Worked with power company to promote better lighting and running water in the home.

4. Radio and Press

- (a) Club members and agent cooperated by giving weekly broadcasts and news articles on Extension program.

5. Farmers' Home Administration

- (a) Contributed timely news articles for monthly F.H.A. bulletin sent to clients
- (b) Held pressure cooker clinic with help of F.H.A. Supervisor.

XII. Appraisal of Year's Work

The Extension program has contributed much to better home making, better living and improved people. The past year marks real progress toward greater leadership. Rural families have been assisted in maintaining a comfortable standard of living, adequate housing, a high level of health and desirable human relationships. The programs have stimulated a closer working relation among communities and families. It has given families a realization of their privileges and responsibilities as citizens of a free country.