

ANNUAL REPORT

County Extension Work

1953



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Agent

Asst. Agent

Lancaster

COUNTY

NARRATIVE REPORT

LANCASTER COUNTY

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HOME DEMONSTRATION WORK

Alice B. Wooding

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III. County Situation As It Affected The Program

In Lancaster County there are about 300 full time farm families, contrary to the census which shows more than 600 farms. The 300 part time farms supplement their income from the water or other employment.

Vocational home economics is taught in two of the three high schools and vocational agriculture is taught in one of the three high schools. There is a Negro Home Demonstration Agent in the county also.

1952 and 1953 were both dry years, when the county farm people suffered from unusual dry weather. Incomes have suffered severely which in turn affects the number of water systems, remodeled kitchens and other farm and home improvements.

IV. Contributions of the 1953 Program to Better Family Living

The 1953 program has contributed much toward better family living. The agent gave a demonstration on Saving Time and Energy in Household Tasks which resulted in rearranging equipment and tables in the kitchen for a convenient mixing center, cooking center and storage center, thus eliminating extra steps involved in the kitchen activities.

Janet Cameron, Food and Nutrition Specialist, gave a demonstration on preparing baked foods for the freezer. Many families here have

home freezers and the homemakers are constantly using and replenishing food in the freezer.

The agent feels that work in the house furnishing field has contributed to better family living. Four-H members and Home Demonstration Club members have both received training in refinishing furniture, bottoming chairs and stools with fiber rope and chairs with cane. Many work shops have been held to rebuild chairs, tie springs, pad and upholster. The agent assisted one group in rebuilding the chairs in the church. The agent has assisted in planning color schemes and arrangement of furniture in the living room, dining room and bedroom.

Fifteen men and women attended the Institute of Rural Affairs at V.P.I., Blacksburg, Virginia, and ten women attended the District Federation Meeting of Home Demonstration Clubs in Spotsylvania.

One-hundred thirty eight 4-H Club members enrolled in Clothing I, Good Grooming, and 136 completed; thus carrying out the theme "Be good to look at, be good to talk to, and be good to be with."

Two 4-H Clubs enrolled in Clothing, making thirty-eight garments. The above activities contributed to better family living in that the cost of living was cut, a certain amount of satisfaction gained from doing the job correctly in the home and by allowing more time for family fellowship.

V. Adult Work

A. Project Work

1. Foods

The agent gave demonstrations in all of the Home Demonstration Clubs and distributed leaflets and bulletins on Making Candy; Planning, Preparing and Serving a Buffet Meal; and Preparing Baked Foods for Freezing. An all day meeting was held for planning, preparing and serving a buffet meal. Each club was divided into groups for the preparation of the buffet meal. The group enjoyed the participation and a larger attendance was noted for foods meetings than any other during the year. The agent used the radio and weekly newspaper for carrying the recipes and stories of club work along this line. The agent received many telephone calls from non Home Demonstration Club members requesting more information and instruction in following the recipes to obtain better results. Many Home Demonstration Club members have bought candy thermometers and loaned to others to insure a perfect product when making pulled mints. The uncooked fondant recipe, with it's many variations, has been an over-all favorite.

2. Clothing

Iva Byrd Johnson, Clothing Specialist, trained Home Demonstration Club leaders to give the demonstration on Restyling

Hats. Lovely hats were made from old ones that had not been used for years after they were cleaned, blocked and restyled.

Material in leaflet form was given each member on methods of cleaning hats and restyling them.

3. Home Management .

The agent feels that more home visits should be made to discuss keeping accounts before asking for participation from the family. As yet it is too personal to be discussed as a group and as long as there is money for essentials the need for budgeting is not felt. The agent plans a different approach for 1954 with special emphasis on this in January.

Many Home Demonstration Club members rearranged kitchen equipment, utensils and food staples so as to have a mixing center, cooking center and storage center. One member went so far as to move her home freezer for greater convenience.

4. House Furnishings

Many work shops and clinics have been held in the Home Demonstration Club meetings on refinishing furniture, rebuilding furniture and upholstering. One request was made by the church. Many homemakers buy furniture at auction sales but they usually have to put some work on it before they use it; slip cover, rebuild it, or refinish it. The agent does some personal service

along this line if the request comes outside of the Home Demonstration Club.

The Home Demonstration Club members were real interested in the demonstration on arrangement of fresh and dried flowers. The agent started in March with a news article on what to plant for dried flowers. In June and July she showed what to collect and how to dry it. The news article caused many telephone calls. The Home Demonstration Clubs had an educational exhibit on arranging dried flowers at the Northern Neck Fair. The exhibit showed dried flowers, grasses, seed pods, etc. and then several arrangements.

5. Housing

Very little money has been spent in building and remodeling by farm people due to the two consecutive dry years that cut the cash crops. Interest has been voiced on the subject but always for the future.

6. Rural Arts

This year there was not a monthly demonstration on crafts but special meetings have been held on stenciling chairs, trays and trash baskets; etching trays, etc. The women were more interested in perfecting the skills and using the crafts they had had some experience with other than learning new ones. Weems Club especially made use of the crafts and ex-

hibited them at the Northern Neck Fair and received many ribbons.

7. Other

In each Home Demonstration Club there was a poultry, garden and landscape leader. These leaders gave timely suggestions at each meeting. The poultry and garden leaders received material from the specialists and A. S. Beecher trained the landscape leaders in January for their part for the monthly meetings. Landscaping was the Federation Goal and will be discussed in detail under B (4).

The January demonstrations were on Simple Electric and Plumbing Repairs with emphasis on repairing electrical cords, making extension cords, wiring plugs for iron, toaster, lights, etc., and putting washers in a dripping faucet. The groups were very interested in this saying the men in the family never had time for such jobs consequently leaving them undone until they were pushed aside and new ones bought or a plumber called.

B. Other Activities

1. Community Improvement Work

In March a Farm, Home and Community Improvement Project was organized in the lower Corrotoman area. This group was responsible for having swimming lessons taught the children

in the community with twenty-three receiving certificates. This group realized the necessity for improving the road around the community school so they hauled five loads of dirt to the road, spread and packed it. Each family has made an improvement in the front and back yards by pruning and removing shrubs, making plantings and planting flower borders. At one meeting the program chairman showed the film on the 4-H Club Breakfast at National Club Congress. This organization has brought the group closer together and created a common interest in improving the farm, home and community.

2. Federation Goal

The clubs selected Home and Community Beautification for the Federation Goal. Each club member has made improvements in the front and back yards such as cleaning up, pruning shrubs, planting flower borders, painting picket fences, adding trellises, filling holes in the driveway and screening unsightly outdoor buildings. Some reported painting homes, repairing gutters, steps, porches, etc.

Two clubs, Rehoboth and Ocran, selected improving mailboxes for the community project. In Ocran the boxes were judged and a shrub of the winner's choice was given as first prize. This club had taken pictures before the improvements were

made and had them for the judges to use in making their decisions. The money was raised for the award by selling unusual potted plants and flowers within the club.

3. County Objectives

The clubs were proud to report almost one hundred percent completion on all goals. All clubs paid federation dues. Five girls were sent to Jamestown 4-H Club Camp on scholarships. Every club had a delegate at the Institute of Rural Affairs except one. Ten women attended the District Federation Meeting of Home Demonstration Clubs in Spotsylvania and an invitation was extended to the Federation to meet in Lancaster in 1954. Another goal to place marker under portrait hanging in the Court House is to be worked on for 1954. Two bake sales were held to raise money to meet the needs of Home Demonstration Club expenses.

4. Result Demonstrations

The most outstanding result demonstration is being worked on by Mrs. J. T. Courtney, Jr. She enclosed a back porch and made a part of it into a kitchen. She and her husband are doing the work. It progresses slowly because of a low cash income and other demands of farm and homemaking. The agent has discussed arrangement of equipment and utensils, color schemes, etc. with Mrs. Courtney. Mrs. Courtney was

youth chairman in the Farm, Home and Community Improvement Project and was instrumental in having swimming taught to the children in the community.

Over a period of time Mrs. Urban Dobyns has caned four straight chairs and a rocking chair for her dining room.

VI. 4-H Club Work

A. Project Work

1. Clothing

Mrs. Pollard Bussells, 4-H Club Leader, conducted the clothing project for Kilmarnock Seventh Grade girls. Each girl made an apron, a blouse, a gathered skirt and at the December meeting each girl made a tea towel and stenciled it. The Lively Senior Girls 4-H Club took the clothing project and during National 4-H Club Week had charge of the School Assembly Program and modeled the dresses they had made. From the two clothing projects there were twenty-three completions making a total of thirty-eight garments made.

2. Room Improvement

Malissa Ficklin, 4-H member of Lively Senior 4-H Club, was a first place winner in the Room Improvement District Contest held in Richmond. She sanded and refinished the floor, made decorative lamps, papered the walls, made a study unit and

took care of her room for the entire year, passing in an excellent record. Landscaping and Home Improvement were combined projects for several clubs that had both boys and girls. Demonstrations were given on how to paint woodwork and how to clean paint brushes, color schemes and arrangement of furniture, rug making (braided and hooked), completing stools (bottoming and refinishing). Demonstrations were given on what to select for flowering shrubs and ornamental shrubs and arrangement of ornamental shrubs. The agent also showed slides on Good Landscaping. There were ninety-five enrolled and ninety completing.

One-hundred thirty-eight 4-H Club boys and girls enrolled in Clothing I, Looking Your Best, and 136 completed the project. The agent gave demonstrations on polishing shoes showing the recommended shoe kit; care of the hair giving a shampoo when facilities were available; care of the hands; basic seven to good eating; how to set the table and good manners at the table. In some of these meetings the children gave the demonstration after having been taught the correct procedure.

3. Public Speaking

Madeline Lankford, the county winner in Public Speaking, took part in the State Contest at V.P.I., Blacksburg, during

the State 4-H Club Short Course. She did not place but we felt the experience was good for her and she plans to enter the contest again next year.

4. Electrification

Twenty-eight senior boys and girls at Lively High School enrolled in the 4-H electrification project and only two completed. The agent does not feel this project was a failure even though there were only two completions. It was the wrong time of year in the late spring when the baseball season was in full swing, May Days, Music Festival Days, etc. The principal of Lively, Mr. Dameron, was most cooperative giving these members two hour periods for four days for project instruction and for a tour to an electrified farm. The VEPCO Agricultural Engineer and Home Economist gave the project instructions and directed the tour over Will Crabbe's electrified farm. The agent ordered and distributed necessary bulletins and record books. Time was too limited to visit each home, push the work, and collect record books. The bright spot in this dark picture is that the clubs asked for the electrification project again this year. By working over a longer period of time with regular monthly meetings and demonstrations the agent feels the project will be a success in '54. The Lions Club was asked to buy necessary

demonstration materials and materials by which the members could make extension cords, wire sockets, etc. The Lions Club contributed \$40.00 to this project.

B. Other Activities

Madeline Lankford received an award for leadership in the 4-H Club. Besides completing the electrification project, meal preparation project and entering the State Public Speaking Contest, she acted as spokesman for the Style Dress Revue during National 4-H Club Week and for the Achievement Program. Madeline attended the State 4-H Club Short Course at V.P.I., Blacksburg, Virginia, and attended the 4-H Club meeting in Richmond on Room Improvement given by Thalhimers.

Malissa Ficklin and Bobby Flowers also attended the State 4-H Short Course. Thirty-one boys and girls attended 4-H Camp at Jamestown along with two leaders and two agents. Tim Giese and Garnet Lewis both attended week-end camp and served well as junior leaders during the week of camp.

The 4-H Club at Lively had an oyster roast which they enjoyed immensely. Each child paid twenty-five cents and ate either oysters or hot dogs. Games were played and led by the 4-H members. This social was held in the oyster house. Some of the members had never been in one and the host, Milton Conrad, was delighted to show and explain the different processes.

Lively 4-H Club and a Club at Kilmarnock each had a hike through the woods in the spring, collecting and naming leaves and wild flowers. The hike was climaxed with a marshmallow roast and games.

During National 4-H Club Week Lively 4-H Club had charge of the school assembly program. The senior girls modeled dresses they had made and prizes were awarded to the winners. Reports were given of camps, project work and other activities. Four-H members took part in an essay contest and the winners gave their talks over WNNT, radio station.

The 4-H Club girls again showed the dresses they had made at the Achievement Program. Madeline Lankford gave the same talk she had used in Public Speaking Contest, reports were given of camps and awards were presented to the 4-H members.

VII. Young Men and Young Women's Work

No organized work has been done.

VIII. Scope of Work

	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953
No. HD Clubs or Groups	11	12	12	8	8
Membership	349	355	358	251	260
No. 4-H Clubs	5	11	11	11	10
Membership	172	268	281	218	284
No. YMW Groups	0	3	0	0	0
Membership	0	56	0	0	0
No. other families reached	1050	1200		507	281
No. different families reached	1697	2000		622	848
No. Community Clubs					1
Membership					30

IX. Brief Statement As To Functions Of Organizations

A. County Home Demonstration Committee

The County Committee met twice a year, once to plan the program and another time to check on accomplishments and make definite plans.

This committee provided two scholarships for 4-H members to Jamestown Camp and gave \$10.00 toward expenses of delegates to the Institute of Rural Affairs.

The County Committee sponsored the 4-H and Home Demonstration Club Achievement Day with approximately one-hundred attending.

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The committee set up the Year Book in rough form and had the Extension secretary mimeograph it and assemble it.

The County Committee asked that each club select two project leaders; each to give two demonstrations during the year.

The committee had two bake sales during the year to defray expenses of the organization.

The County 4-H project planning committee did not meet as a group. However, the agent discussed the projects with the County Agent, the principals and teachers of the schools, the Home Demonstration Committee and a representative of the Lions Club. The projects have the cooperation and respect of these groups.

B. County 4-H Club Council

The County 4-H Club Council met in January to set up goals for the year and to receive instruction for conducting a meeting.

The Council met again to make final plans for National 4-H Club Week which was celebrated in Lively High School with an Assembly Program and participation on a radio program.

X. Leadership

A. Contributions of Volunteer Leaders to Program

1. Organizational

The 4-H Club meetings in Lancaster County are held in the

class room. Each teacher assists with the organization of 4-H Club meetings.

2. Program Development

- Mrs. Willie Barrack, Lively School, is 4-H sponsor. With her help, that of other teachers, principals, Home Demonstration Committee and representative of the Lions Club Youth Committee the 4-H program was developed. Mrs. Barrack and Mrs. Blanche Bussells met with the 4-H Council to plan the activities for National 4-H Club Week.

3. Subject Matter

Mrs. Pollard Bussells, Fleets Bay, was the 4-H Clothing Leader. She gave nine demonstrations. Her girls each made a towel and stenciled it, a blouse, a skirt, and an apron and passed in record sheets. Teachers assisted with project work when the agent requested it.

B. Growth Of H. D. Club and 4-H Club Project Leadership

<u>HD Club Project Leadership</u>	<u>1949</u>	<u>1950</u>	<u>1951</u>	<u>1952</u>	<u>1953</u>
No. project leaders (subject matter)	6	14		14	14
No. goal chairmen	7	7		9	8
No. training meetings held by Specialist	1	0		6	5
by Agent	5	4		0	1
Attendance at all training meetings	23	28		33	57
No. club meetings held by leaders without agent present	4	13		18	23
No. additional club meetings at which leaders assisted	45	44		33	63

Growth of 4-H Club Project Leadership

No. adult project leaders	21	21			1
No. junior project leaders	3	5		5	
No. training meetings held by specialist	0	0		0	0
by agent	9	27		7	9
Attendance at leader training meeting	23	62		31	9
No. 4-H leaders trained individually	16	25		12	1
No. club meetings held by leader without agent	23	31		0	9
No. of additional club meetings at which leaders assisted	29	26		42	18
No. demonstrations given by leaders	29	46		42	9
by adults	20	28		0	9
by juniors	9	18		42	0

C. Activities Of An Outstanding Leader and Her Accomplishments

Mrs. Pollard Bussells, Fleets Bay, was project leader for Kilmarnock Seventh Grade 4-H Club girls. She met the club each month in the school cafeteria for one hour and forty-five minutes. She had eleven girls in her club. Each girl made and stenciled a tea towel, an apron, a blouse and a skirt. Mrs. Bussells gave a report of 4-H Club activities at each Home Demonstration Club meeting. She requested her club send one girl from her club to Jamestown Camp which the club did. Mrs. Bussells assisted the girls in keeping record sheets and collected each record at the close of the project with one hundred percent completing. Mrs. Bussells is project leader for this group in the eighth grade this year. With their background she intends to assist them in making a dress. She has two project groups organized for '54 beginning in October of 1953.

XI. Work In Cooperation With Other Agencies

The agent was requested to make a talk on the work of a Home Demonstration agent to Kilmarnock High School. The agent made a similar talk and gave a demonstration to the young farmers in Wicomico. The agent cooperates with the Welfare and Health Board, in school activities and with the Women's Clubs.

XII. Brief Appraisal of Year's Work

The agent feels the Fall Planning Meeting in September showed a great deal of interest, thought and fore-planning of Home Demonstration Club officers to build a program that would meet the needs and desires of homes in the county.

The agent feels that subject matter from the fields of House Furnishings and Foods contributed more to better homemaking, better rural living and improved people. The monthly neighborhood meeting has a tendency to draw the neighbors together for a friendly fellowship. It also stimulates a sense of competition for improving better living conditions.

The 4-H Clubs are much stronger this year and the agent receives more cooperation from the teachers, principals and civic organizations.