

ANNUAL NARRATIVE REPORT

COUNTY EXTENSION WORK

Virginia Agricultural Extension Service

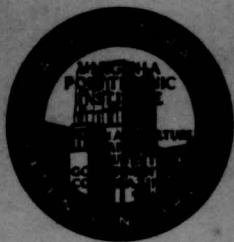
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1960

Lexington
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I. County Situation As It Affected the Program Planned

Louisa County has a land area of 517 square miles. The population (taken from 1958 county census) is 13,584. Louisa County was formed in 1742 from Hanover County, and named for the Queen of Denmark, daughter of King George II. Patrick Henry lived in this county for some years.

About 72% of the total area is forested. There are many saw mills and planning mills, and farmers profit from the sale of farm wood lots.

The fertile clay loom soil yields good tobacco, grain and hay crops. Much of the corn and hay is used on the farms because livestock, poultry and dairy cattle now produce the greatest portion of Louisa's cash farm income. Well over half of the 1,545 farms are now operated on a part-time residential basis. Many members of farm families are employed in manufacturing plants, and other business in Charlottesville, Fredericksburg, Richmond, Orange, Maryland and Washington. There are comparatively few manufacturing concerns in Louisa other than lumber plants, but an overall factory at Louisa and a shirt factory at Mineral provide employment especially for women.

The Louisa Memorial Medical Center was completed in 1952. It houses offices for local physicians, dentists, and the Selective Service Board. In the fall of 1959 a public health center was built. Previously the hospital provided facilities

for the public health offices and clinics. The center provides room for a public health doctor, nurse and sanitarian. After the health offices were moved the hospital was able to increase its bed capacity from the original 23 to 28. All of the rooms have not been fully equipped for occupancy at this time.

The total number of dwelling places in Louisa County is 3,782 of which 34% of this number is Negro.

Louisa has no large urban centers with publicly supported recreation programs, but there are many community activities under the auspices of the schools, churches, 4-H Clubs and other social organizations.

The athletic facilities and playing field of the high school are available for use.

Swimming, boating, hunting, and fishing can be enjoyed at many places in the county. Many Louisa residents are within easy driving distance of Charlottesville and can take advantage of the sports and entertainments there.

Telephone and power service is accessible throughout the county. Practically all of the homes have electric lights and other electrical equipment.

After analyzing the county situation carefully, the years program was geared toward solving the many problems confronting the home makers and farmers of the county.

II. County Extension Program - Adult

A. Organization

1. The County Agricultural Extension Service Board met during the year to plan for the annual picnic, select delegates to the State Advisory Board, and to check with the community-live-at-home members.
2. The General Interest Committee worked to restyle hats.
3. The County Home Demonstration Club Committee composed of the president and program development leader from each club functioned all during the year to see that the leaders and members carried out the calendar of work. The committee plans the Home Demonstration Week Celebration.

B. Subject Matter and Special Interest Areas.

1. Housing was chosen because homemakers wanted:
 - a. To improve health conditions.
 - b. To increase the farm income.
 - c. To improve homemakers working conditions.

The main problems of the people were to find out what things should be considered when installing water under pressure and what could be done when the water level of the well is low. The agent held a leader-training meeting conducted by the specialists on water systems. Leaders asked questions pertinent to their particular situation. As a result of this training meeting, leaders were able to plan their water systems to fit their

individual problem. One (1) water system and one (1) bath have been installed as a direct outcome of this meeting.

Mrs. Hattie Overton has now completed her bathroom. It is equipped with all the conveniences of any modern bath.

Mrs. Geneva Wynn was successful in installing water in her kitchen. Due to financial reasons she was not able to install a bathroom. Her plans are to install a bath in the coming year.

2. Home Improvement was chosen because homemakers wanted:

- a. To improve clothing storage space.
- b. To learn to locate suitable clothing space.

The main problem of the people was the lack of proper clothing storage space. The agent and the House Improvement Specialist met and discussed the problems of the people that had been voiced by them in club meetings. After the meeting with the specialist the agent used the illustrative material to discuss with club members the importance of protecting clothing by having closet storage space. Mrs. Cora Morris of the Mount Gilliam Home Demonstration Club has done more on this phase of work than anyone else. Her newly built clothes closet speaks for itself. Other club members were made aware of the places in their home where suitable closets could be built. As a direct result of this work many of the club members made some type of improvement in their closet storage space.

3. Clothing was chosen because homemakers wanted:

- a. To learn how to do home tailoring.
- b. To learn the more technical points in well-made tailoring.
- c. To learn how to make garments to satisfy the need and figure problems.

The main problem of the people was to learn how to do home tailoring effectively. The agent held lectures and discussions and used visual aids to prepare the people so that they could do an effective job in tailoring. Those who were interested in the work made considerable progress during the short time that we worked on clothing.

A Significant Story in One Subject Matter Phase (Clothing)

Mrs. Cora Morris made a suit in a months' time under the direction of the agent. Mrs. Morris studied her pattern carefully before she attempted to cut out her suit. Most of the supervision during the assembling process was done by telephone. The agent had trained Mrs. Morris along with other clothing leaders on good techniques in sewing and pressing. Whenever Mrs. Morris got to a place where she felt as though the agent should advise her, she would call me.

I had made a similar suit in tailoring school for agents so I knew just what point she would need the greatest help. As a result of this training Mrs. Morris will conduct the clothing work in her club during the absence of an agent.

Mrs. Sarah Wynn and Mrs. Teresa Morris received instruction in tailoring from Mrs. Cora Morris during the absence of an agent

in Louisa County. Both Mrs. Wynn and Mrs. Teresa Morris have constructed well-tailored suits. In addition, Mrs. Cora Morris has made several more garments since receiving her training in tailoring from the agent

C. The community health chests made available by each club has contributed much to the overall program. Sick people in the different communities can have made use of the first-aid emergency supplies. Families are made aware of the fact that this service is made available by the County Extension Service, thereby acquainting more people with the extension program through this small but necessary service.

D. Louisa has no urban families

E. The Farm and Home Development work has progressed very slowly this year because of the hard winter. Families were not financially able to make the improvements that they planned.

III. County Extension Program - Youth

A. Organization

The 4-H Council and Special Interest Committees worked through the individual schools at the planning meeting.

Transportation is a problem for most members.

B. 4-H Project Work

The 4-H Council planned the program for the year. "So You'd Like to Sew" and "Your Room, Pep It Up" were the girls projects. "Forest Appreciation" and "Home Ground Beautification" were the boys projects. Each year before school ends project enrollment sheets are given out for members to check at least two projects that they would like to carry for the next year. After these are tabulated in each club, delegates are elected to attend the planning meeting to present their project choices. Projects are selected on the basis of club tabulation. No project is listed on the sheet that cannot be carried out in the school. The special interest groups choose whatever projects they wish as this group is usually small and meets in the home.

So You'd Like To Sew was such an interesting project that a continuation is in order for the next year so that club members can complete each phase of the program planned. One hundred twenty-five (125) members completed the work by April. The articles made by 4-H'ers consisted of collars, aprons, toys, and several skirts. 4-H members who received training last summer served as junior leaders. Some club members made use of old skirts and dresses to learn the proper methods and procedures to use in cutting and sewing. Club members were measured and told how much material to purchase for the aprons and skirts. Patterns were used for the toys and collars giving the yardage of each.

Forestry was an interesting project for the boys. One hundred seventy-two (172) boys completed the project. The boys learned how a tree grows, how to distinguish between shade and forest trees

and how to protect the forest against fire. One hundred ninety-one (191) members participated in discussions of trees in 4-H meetings. Reports from members and 4-H posters were made for national 4-H Club Week. Mr. Joseph Vaughn rendered his services to the agent in teaching the boys how to identify and protect trees.

C. Other Activities

Each year 4-H members attend a special church service dedicated to 4-H Club Week. This year the attendance was small due to weather conditions.

IV. Scope of Work

A.	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960
<u>No. H. D. Clubs</u>	9	9	7	7	7
<u>Membership</u>	137	142	89	97	100
<u>No. H. D. Groups (Unorganized)</u>	0	0	0	1	0
<u>Membership</u>	0	0	0	14	0
<u>No. 4-H Clubs</u>	10	7	7	7	7
<u>Membership</u>	476	395	395	422	448
<u>No. YMW Clubs</u>	0	0	0	0	0
<u>Membership</u>	0	0	0	0	0
<u>No. Community Clubs</u>	1	1	1	1	1
<u>Membership</u>	25	20	18	13	21
<u>No. Home Economics Committees</u>	0	0	1	1	1
<u>No. General Interest Committees</u>	0	0	18	18	13
<u>No. Youth Committees</u>	0	0	0	0	0
<u>No. Other Organizations</u>	0	0	0	0	0

	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960
<u>No. Farm & Home Dev. Families</u>	1	1	1	2	2
<u>No. Other families reached</u>	179	229	169	155	213
<u>No. Different families reached</u>	294	344	305	376	482

B. Special Interest Activities - Mass media, news articles and group activities are ways of informing the public about the Extension Home Economics program. Key people are contacted for the purpose of arranging meetings to organize clubs in the unorganized communities. Community projects are carried out. Special interest activities are planned for those families and individuals not participating in organized clubs.

V. Leadership

A. Plan for Leadership

	<u>No. in 1959</u>	<u>No. in 1960</u>
1. County program leaders		
a. County Agricultural Extension Service Board	7	10
b. 4-H Council	28	28
c. Home Economics Council	18	18
2. Home Demonstration Leadership		

	No. in 1959	No. in 1960
No. Organizational leaders	36	36
No. Project leaders (subject matter)	36	36
No. Federation program of work chairmen	7	7
No. Program development leaders	18	21
No. result demonstrators	6	8
No. meetings by specialists (training)	3	2
No. meetings by district agents (training)	0	0
No. meetings by agents (training)	6	2
No. training meetings by others	0	0
Attendance at all training meetings	129	28
No. meetings held without an agent	3	2
No. meetings leaders assisted	9	18
Demonstrations by leaders	9	3
Talks and discussions by leaders	9	18
3. 4-H Club Leadership		
No. club officers	42	42
No. adult project leaders	12	12
No. junior project leaders	14	14
No. result demonstrators	7	14
No. training meetings by specialist	0	0
No. training meetings by district agent	0	0
No. training meetings by agents	6	0
No. training meetings by members club dept.	0	0

	No. in 1959	No. in 1960
<u>No. training meetings by others</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>7</u>
<u>Total attendance at leaders training meetings</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>185</u>
<u>No. 4-H leaders trained individually</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>14</u>
<u>No. club meetings held by ldr. w/out agent</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>
<u>No. additional club meetings at which leaders assisted</u>	<u>61</u>	<u>25</u>
<u>No. demonstrations given by adult leaders</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>0</u>
<u>No. demonstrations given by junior leaders</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>5</u>

B. Accomplishments of an outstanding individual

Mrs. Lillie Mansfield, president of the Louisa M. D. Club, and the agent started planning in September for the addition of two rooms to the homemakers home. Mrs. Mansfield followed the plans drawn up for her by the agent. The agent was able to do this after talking with the homemaker about her family living needs and the practicability of the new addition. Things considered when planning for the new addition were:

1. Heating (wood stove influenced the planning)
2. Plumbing (planned for economy as well as convenience; area with plumbing is well grouped for economical piping.)
3. Electricity (adequate fixtures and proper lights.)
4. Proper ventilation
5. Convenience to entrance

Mrs. Mansfield is now very proud and well-pleased with the addition of a laundry nook and reception room.

The homemaker has been connected with extension clubs for thirty (30) years and has learned the value of its services. The homemaker knows that she can rely on the agent's giving her up-to-date information secured through extension research.

VI. For Special Consideration

A.

B. Progress in developing good public relations with:

1. State Extension Organization - Secured the services of specialist, state agent, district agent, other agents and state officials.
2. Within the Parent Institution - Carried out the recommendations from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and Virginia State College.
3. Submitted a copy of the Annual Narrative Report to the County Board of Supervisors.
4. Organizations - Cooperated with services beneficial to both parties concerned.
5. Mass Media Personnel - Made use of newspaper, radio and television whenever possible to inform the public of the extension Program.
6. Business - Used materials and equipment offered by non-advertising concerns.

7. Other Agencies - Used services of county and outside agencies when the services were appropriate and available in order to carry out the Extension Program.

8. Individuals and Families - Tried to be cooperative in every endeavor for the improvement of family living. Provided assistance when needed for the strengthening of the Extension Program in the county.

C. Professional Improvement

The agent's professional improvement includes reading newspapers, magazines, and other publications to keep abreast with the changes in the teaching of Home Economics. Extension workshops are also attended by the agent.

VIII. The Look Ahead

Leadership played an important part in the past years' program. Leaders conducted club meetings during the time that the county was without an agent. Clubs did not become disorganized as a result of leader participation.

The Extension program in the county can be improved this year by including more activities for leader training and leader participation. It is believed that it is only through dedicated leaders that Louisa County can have a successful Extension Program.