

ANNUAL NARRATIVE REPORT
HOME DEMONSTRATION WORK
DICKENSON COUNTY
• VIRGINIA

1946

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HOME DEMONSTRATION AGENT
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III. SCOPE OF WORK

- A. Home Demonstration Clubs. Number 15. Membership 430.
- B. 4-H Clubs: Number 15. Membership 430.
- C. Number reached through other groups by agent 350.
- D. Number families reached through neighborhood and community leaders 1166.
- E. Other methods used to reach families- publicity, office calls, home visits, circular letters and community meetings. Number families reached 985.
- G. Estimate total number families reached- 2151.
Number families in county 2340.

IV. ADULT WORK

- A. Home Demonstration Club Program.

1. Project work

- a. How was program determined?

The county program started in the individual clubs through discussions of what the women wanted in their club program, recognizing their own needs and interests. These suggestions were listed by the presidents and home agent for future use at the county planning meeting.

The county planning meeting was an all day meeting made up of the president of each club, county officers, home agent and district agent who assembled the suggestions from all the clubs and discussed each. They then grouped them as to needs and importance and some were eliminated. They were then discussed from the standpoint of when each should be scheduled and to best fit the needs of the county and when specialists help was available. At this meeting the whole program was set up with county goals and objectives.

- b. Subject matter fields in which work was carried. Why?

December- Christmas cookery

January, Crafts, Rug making.

February- Housing - County Goal

March- Housing- County Goal

April- Floor Finishes.

IV. ADULT WOMEN, b. Continued

May- Arrangement of furniture

June- Converting oil lamps into electric.

July- Food Preparation.

August- Reseating chairs and stools

September- Selection of clothing- Line - Design.

October- Slip covers.

November- Christmas gift suggestions.

Why?

The county planning committee felt these subjects were some of the needs of the county and included them into the years program.

c. Projects carried with objectives, methods used and results obtained:

December- This being Christmas cooking the objective was to bring the members something new in decorating Christmas cookies to use as tree decorations and something new in fruits using the unbaked fruit cake in a change from the old method of baking, thus saving of eggs and butter during the high prices. This being the Christmas party for the clubs the tree at each club was then decorated in Christmas cookies. 112 women decorated their trees with cookies and 86 made unbaked fruit cakes.

January- The making of handmade rugs to add color and beauty to the homes also to occupy the members during the cold winter days. Three methods were demonstrated, hooked braided and crocheted in order to reach the wants of all members and too, to use up available materials on hand. 136 rugs were made by club members and club members report 72 made by non-club members as a result of the rug program.

A Result Story

Mrs. R. C. Miller, Clintwood, Virginia had received a gift of fifty pounds of looper clips and had never found a use for them until the rug program developed, in fact the looper clips had passed through four families without finding any particular use of them. She immediately started crocheting rugs then purchased a small loom and began weaving blocks and made them into rugs, bedspreads, pot holders, pillowtops, table mats and many other articles and from this she went into weaving wool blocks and turned them into baby sweaters, shawls, caps, booties, bed jackets and scarfs. Learning

IV. Adult Work c. (continued)

these crafts she has solved her gift problems and has ~~worked~~ up an excellent trade which produces good revenue in her spare time.

February) Housing goal
March)

These two months were spent in carrying information to the clubs that was obtained at the County Housing Clinic and will be explained under Federation Goal.

April- Floor finishes Two objectives were in mind on floor finishes; one to use the proper method in finishing new floors and how to remove old paint and refinish in natural or light colors for easier care. These objectives were carried out in the demonstrations. 22 club members have finished and refinished floors.

May- Arrangement of furniture two big objectives were in mind in the arrangement of furniture. One was to arrange large pieces of furniture parallel with walls instead of across corners and the grouping of furniture for better use and comfort. The demonstrations were held in homes where rooms were rearranged and each step carefully discussed and reasons given for each step. 362 club members rearranged their rooms for convenience, comfort and beauty.

June- Converting oil lamps into electric very few lamps in this county had been converted into electric. Many oil lamps were stored away that could have been in use had they been electrified. This demonstration brought out many beautiful lamps bottles and jugs to be electrified. In recent months many families have obtained electricity and they were able to convert their lamps into electric. The converting of oil lamps was much cheaper than purchasing new lamps. Not only the converting of lamps was accomplished but the proper use of electricity to the best advantage in the home was demonstrated. 76 lamps were converted into electric lamps.

July- Food preparation- Yeast breads The main objective was to encourage the use of a variety of breads instead of the usual corn bread and biscuit diets used by the rural folks. So few of the rural club members made yeast bread as they felt it a burden because they didn't know enough about the preparation and the keeping of refrigerator dough. The demonstration consisted of sally lun, loaf bread, five styles of rolls and cinnamon buns. 286 club members report that they have made yeast breads as a result of the demonstrations.

Result stories

Mr. Raymond Wright of Haysi, Virginia, bus company owner and operator stopped the agent one day on the streets of Haysi and

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IV. ADULT WORK- c continued

introduced himself to me and said " How glad we men of Keysi are that you gave that demonstration of bread making. I've heard more men say that their wives had been making such good rolls and how the children love those cinnamon buns and too your meetings give the women something to talk about from on meeting until the next."

The Tarpon Home Demonstration club held it's November meeting at the home of Mrs. Fred Beverley in Tarpon, Va. Mrs. Beverley served as refreshments hot rolls, butter and a variety of marmalades and preserves, cinnamon buns and coffee. Her main objective in serving this was to show the club members how well she'd learned to make bread, and she told them that she wanted them to see, that she actually put into practice some of the things she'd learned at the club meetings.

August- Chair reseatting and weaving the seats of stools.
A very few club members in Dickenson County have resealed chairs by wood split bottom method and had never tried any other material or method of doing this job. The majority of people either hired the split bottoms put into their chairs or destroyed the frames, when the seat was worn out.

The demonstration was on reseatting chairs and all members participated by bringing chairs or obtained a stool to weave the seat into it. The agent demonstrated three sizes of stools that the club members could secure and weave seats into. 62 chairs were resealed and 168 stools completed.

This piece of handicraft work has done more to publicise the work of the home demonstration clubs in the county than ~~any other~~ project carried. In most cases the work was done outside on porches and in yards, therefore being in the public eye created much interest. The actual participation of the women made the work more interesting and carrying home the finished product. Many of the club members reported that their husbands wouldn't believe that they made the stool. The making of stools carried over into the home by the husbands or children wanting to learn how to make stools and many were made and many more in the process of making. A number of women have joined clubs in order to learn how to make stools.

September- Selection of clothing - color, line and design.
At the time this project was selected the club members were particularly interested in clothing as they had been through the war period and not able to secure materials to make up into garments and too, garments that were purchased were of inferior quality and not color fast. During this period of shortages the talk of new discoveries in fabrics, the change in styles were of supreme interest to the members and they wanted this information. This subject was well timed, it hit the season of resurrection of winter clothes and putting them in style by using various methods of lengthening the skirts and the selection of new fall clothes. The latest trends in clothing was used, samples of the latest

IV. Adult Work c. continued

fabrics were displayed and discussed. 276 club members reported that they remodeled for themselves and children 1428 garments and 686 New garments made.

October- Slip covers

The clubs carrying this demonstration grouped in pairs due to the necessary time to accomplish this demonstration. Four demonstrations were given and two of the demonstration were done with the use of plastic leather which turned out beautiful products. Of course this turned out to be more of an upholstery project than slip covers.

28 slip covers were completed and 32 pieces of upholstery done.

November- Christmas Gift Suggestions.

Most of the clubs carried their own meeting on this subject.

The clubs report good meetings held. Many of the clubs set up their objectives for improving their club, as to increase membership, better business and parliamentary procedure. The clubs planned their own Christmas party which will include a short demonstration by the agent.

2. Federation goal carried. Why?

Objectives, methods and results.

HOUSING was selected by the county committee as the federation goal for 1947. Dickenson County is a mountainous county and therefore building sites that are on the level are not always available for buildings. Many homes are built on pole foundation with only one end of house touching the ground instead of excavating and leveling a spot or building a concrete or stone foundation, therefore producing warmer homes and a much more attractive place to live and add to the beauty of the county.

The objectives were as follows:

1. A firm foundation
2. safer flues
3. Better screening
4. Insulate for comfort

Methods used:

A county wide housing clinic was held for housing leaders from the clubs and interested citizens, this included four carpenters that attended. Emphasis were placed on the main objectives set up by the county committee.

IV. ADULT WORK- 2, continued

February and March was devoted to the housing goal. Samples of housing material were displayed at the club meetings and a kit of samples left in each club to be used in the community.

Each club member was encouraged to check these objectives in their own homes and do what they could to meet these requirements and then start a campaign in their neighborhood to spread the information. Great emphasis was placed on the club members contacting families that were planning to build homes and encourage them to meet these requirements.

As for measuring the results of these objectives it is impossible to get direct figures. The club members report that 192 checked the objectives at home and 23 reached the objectives and 22 met part of the objectives. The objective building with a firm foundation has made great strides in the county for two reasons; first, many have concrete block machines have been bought in the county, in fact nearly every community has a block machine and second, eight bulldozers are located in the county and many people are leveling off house seats. For these two reasons the county has benefited greatly in its appearance and the people have more attractive warmer and more substantial homes.

3. Other Activities

County Fair

It is known as the Farmers Fair. It consists mostly of farm products and canned goods, due to the limited space for needlecraft and hand work. The outstanding rugs made by club members were exhibited and some handwork.

National Home Demonstration Week.

The best handmade rugs made in each of the clubs were collected and exhibited in large department store windows, one week at the county seat and one week in the other side of the county. As a result many women over the county have asked for clubs to be organized in their communities.

Health

The club members are interested in a county health center. The board of supervisors appropriated the money and have carried this appropriation for a number of years waiting for the Health Department to get suitable personnel to open a health center.

4. Leadership- Training, use, results

Organization The officers have made great strides in leadership this year. More officers have learned to preside and carry on club affairs according to parliamentary procedure. These officers have worked out means of accumulating treasuries for the first time and are using

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IV. ADULT WORK 4 Leadership continued

this to better their clubs and communities. For the first time the officers in most of the clubs have learned to carry on meetings in the absence of the agent.

Project

One of the county goals was for the leaders to give on demonstration during the year. Six of the clubs carried out this goal. Some of the other clubs met and carried out business meetings without a planned demonstration. The main reason that project leadership has not developed more in this county is that the agent has not had great success in getting leaders to come in for leader training meetings.

Federation Goal

The county goal chairman, home economics teachers, one agriculture teacher, three carpenters and five housing leaders and some interested non club members attended the housing clinic. The home economics and agriculture teacher carried this housing clinic information to their students. The housing leaders present did an exceptionally good job of carrying this information to their clubs and neighbors. The results were given under the Federation Goal.

B. Other Means of Reaching People

Community neighborhood leaders These being key people they are used as contact people for information as well as to give out information. These leaders are used to notify people about meetings and arrange for places to hold meetings.

Special Meetings- This includes community meetings on various programs of special interest. For each meeting special objectives are set, the program or information given, which may be a picture or a show, demonstration or discussion, the results are measured by the practices being carried out and the return of interested people to the next meeting.

Press- When the home agent has something of special interest it is published in the county papers. The reporters of some of the clubs send in news articles, writing up their club meetings. Some releases on the latest information are published.

V. WORK WITH YOUTH

A. 4-H Clubs

1. Organization

A. County Council

V. WORK WITH YOUTHS Organization continued

Organization

At the October Achievement Day program the county council officers were elected and this was followed by a meeting to set up county goals.

Meetings and Programs

The council has two big meetings a year, they are Rally Day and Achievement Day. The officers meet and make plans for these two big meetings. The officers take complete charge of these two days with the agents in the background to advise.

Accomplishments:

250 attended Rally Day. The program consisted of reports from clubs, song contest, reports and pictures of 4-H camp held. Contests and ball games were held among the clubs.

150 attended Achievement Day. A report of the years work by each club, song contest, contest winners awarded, medals, outstanding club recognized and awarded banner, attendance, plaque given for largest attendance of clubs. 9 members attended short course.

2. Project Work

- a. How the program determined and subject matter fields in which work was carried.

The agent studied over the winter projects offered to girls and then selected what she felt best suited the needs of the clubs. The winter projects were discussed at each of the clubs with emphasis on the project Care of Clothing as an interesting winter project. The clubs selected this project for the winter and the following requirements and demonstrations were set up by the agent:

October- Storage of clothing

November- Make mending box

December- Learn to darn socks

January- Learn to patch

February- Blacking a sweater

March- Make shoeshine kit

April- Complete records - Make exhibit of articles made.

V. WORK WITH YOUTH. Project work(continued)

Summer Projects

The girls selected the particular projects that best fitted their needs and interest. The following were selected: breadmaking, food preparation, canning, home beautification and laundry. One girl carried out a home improvement project started the year before and another carried out housekeeping project.

b. Projects with objectives, methods used, results obtained.

1. Care of clothing.

Requirements were set up for the project month by month. The storing of clothes was to teach the child the proper methods in storing all her clothes; making a mending box was to teach them to assemble the necessary things needed for patching and darning; the correct methods to darn socks was taught the girls; the proper methods to patch was demonstrated. The steps in blocking a sweater and the importance of a good shoeshine kit and proper care of shoes was stressed. These were objectives and methods used in care of clothing, as a result, the April meetings were exhibits of all the work done by the club members with completed records.

81 members enrolled and 119 completed the project.

2. Breadmaking

The enrollment was 118 and 102 completed. Four demonstrations were given to each club ~~and~~ breadmaking. The members brought samples of breads for final judging. The club members were used in helping to judge bread.

3. Food Preparation

51 girls enrolled and 27 completed. Four demonstrations were given in the clubs that carried food preparation. One member gave a demonstration at the district contest.

4. Canning.

88 enrolled in canning and 71 completed. Four demonstrations were given to the clubs carrying canning. Two judgings were held, one for selecting fair exhibits and the other for club winner. One girl gave a canning demonstration at the district contest:

5. Home Beautification

16 enrolled and 10 completed. Individual supervision was given these members. The exchange of flowers and shrubs was carried on among some of the members.

V. WORK WITH YOUTH- Project work (continued)

6. Laundry

16 enrolled and 11 completed, individual demonstrations and help was given these club members.

7. Home Improvement and Housekeeping

These two projects were carried by individuals. Both completed their projects. The home improvement was a two year project and the girl entered the state contest and came out second in the state.

3. Other Activities.

a. 4-H Camp

A district 4-H camp was held in Hinton West Virginia the week of July 14. 22 boys and girls from the county attended. The big chief over the camp was elected from the Dickenson county members.

This is the second year for Dickenson county to go to camping and the agents contribute the increase of interest in club work to these camps.

b. 4-H Club Community Fair.

One 4-H club has sponsored a community fair for the third year. 500 exhibits made, 300 people attended and \$100.00 given in prizes. This fair was carried on by 4-H club members and leaders.

c. District 4-H Demonstrations

Three 4-H Club members competed in the District 4-H Contest. one in clothing, one in canning and one in Food Preparation. This was Dickenson's first experience in district contests.

4. Leadership- 4-H

a. Organization

The 15 4-H clubs are fortunate in having 16 good organizational leaders. These leaders serve to guide the members in planning and presenting their programs.

b. Project

There are 12 project leaders. These are not as strong leaders as the organizational leaders. Some project work has been done by these leaders but the agents hope to develop this part of the program.

6. Junior

Some of the older club members are used as junior leaders to the younger club members with their projects, records and parts on programs.

VI. COOPERATION WITH OTHER AGENCIES

1. Home economics workers

These teachers are members of the county council. Subject matter material is given when needed. The help with putting over the county federation goal by working on the county objectives. Two teachers are members of H. D. Clubs.

2. Rural Electrification Program

The agent has worked with the people in various communities not having electricity in helping them formulate a petition to have signed to receive electric power.

The agent is helping to get school buildings served with electric power in order to use visual aids in school and agriculture programs. 50 miles of new electric power lines have been built to serve the rural families.

3. County Welfare Department

The agent has given special help to some welfare clients on various homemaking problems. The agent helps with the christmas campaign for the welfare children. The agent has been invited to attend some social workers conferences.

4. Superintendent of Schools.

A wonderful cooperation exists between the farm and home agent and superintendent of schools. The agents have free access to movie machines and slides and equipment. He goes along 100% on all 4-H clubs in the school and insists that the principals allow the necessary time for 4-H clubs in their school program.

5. Clintwood Woman's Club.

This organization awards a banner each year to the outstanding 4-H club in the county

6. Save the Children Federation.

If the agent finds needy children or families that need clothing who are recommended by club members for help, the agent transfers this message to the organization.

7. Cancer Foundation, Tuberculosis Association & Red Cross

When these drives are put on in the county the agent explains to the club members the reasons for these drives and the benefit that they or their neighbor might have from these organizations. The agent does not put on a sales or money collecting campaign, purely educational information as to the county set up.

VII. Evaluation of the 1947 Home Demonstration Program.

The eleven better organized home demonstration clubs have shaped into real organized clubs and carry their programs in an organized manner. Up to this time it has been hard to get the groups to carry on parliamentary procedure and function as a club instead of just a group.

The interest of the club members has increased intensely. This is shown by the larger majority of the members being present each month at their club meetings. In the past the agent had to drum up the membership but now the club members are spreading information and encouraging their neighbors to come along with them to the club meetings and are increasing their membership.

The outstanding contribution to the home demonstration program in 1947 was the Year Book. This is the first year for the Dickinson county clubs to have a year book. The book is so prepared that the clubs could easily follow through with the parliamentary procedure on conducting their club meetings and this is the reason for the clubs being better organized with an established schedule of each club meeting.

The agent feels that by having the book it has helped firmly establish an organized home demonstration program in the county.

As for the influence of the 1948 program, a much better planned program has been set up by the club members and they are already talking about the 1948 year book and making suggestions that they hope it will include.

VIRGINIA POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE
BLACKSBURG, VIRGINIA

NEW COUNTY BEGINS

DESCRIPTION TARGET