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# VIRGINIA

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## AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICE HOME DEMONSTRATION WORK

### ANNUAL NARRATIVE REPORT

BUCHANAN

COUNTY

1949

Agent Miss Dennis Blevins Dec. 1, 1948 April 8, 1949  
Date worked from to

Assistant Agent \_\_\_\_\_  
Date worked from to

Agent Miss Leota Sullenger Oct. 15, 1949 Dec. 1, 1949  
Date worked from to

Assistant Agent \_\_\_\_\_  
Date worked from to

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Miss Dennis Elevins  
and  
Miss Leota Sullenger

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III. SUMMARY of ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Probably the most outstanding accomplishment in the Buchanan County Home Demonstration program for the past year has been the excellent work accomplished by the leaders in the program. Buchanan County was without an Agent from April 8th through October 15th. It was necessary for the leaders to carry the program at this time, if the club members were to keep their organization together in any respect. This past year exemplifies how a group of people with common interest can carry out goals previously set up by the planning committee and the absence of an Agent, and direct the program. Buchanan Home Demonstration Club women were fortunate in having a County Agent interested in the home program, who gave freely of his time and effort in aiding the clubs by meeting with the clubs and giving demonstrations. County Agent gave demonstrations on landscaping the home and vegetable gardening to a total of 330 women from March through September during the absence of the Home Agent. Garden Creek, Slate Creek, Little Prater, Roseann and Davenport met regularly during the year. These clubs might well be cited for outstanding leadership in conducting regular meetings.

Although the total figures on accomplishments made for the year are not as outstanding as in 1948, they do show that important improvements have been made toward making rural life more satisfying and, hence, produce higher standards of living. They show practical uses have been made of information previously gained as well as timely information obtained from the Extension office and through the help of the County Agent. The women have the ability to think through their immediate problems and avail

themselves of the proper information needed to solve their problems.

Thirteen homes have installed heat this year. Twenty-six homes have installed water; 32 changes have been made to improve their kitchens; 39 have done remodeling and building. In many cases these accomplishments have been used as result demonstrations in their own communities. The women have proudly displayed their finished work to their neighbors. New Agent has found evidences in three communities in which changes in non-members' homes have resulted from improvements made by members.

Even though these people often lack the technical knowledge we feel is necessary in order to make our long time goals, they do possess an appreciation for the finer things in life which can be drawn upon in presentation of needed educational facts.

#### IV. ADULT

##### A. Project Work

##### 1. Foods and Nutrition

##### a. New Uses of Cornmeal

The method demonstrations as planned by agent emphasized uses of cornmeal in diet, meal planning and food values. Agent gave eight demonstrations to 145 club members and 25 visitors. Cornmeal yeast rolls and muffins were made with eight varieties shown. Tips were given on 15 other uses of cornmeal. The women attending club meetings were intensely interested and 102 mimeographed sheets were given out for absent members and other women. Information was obtained from Miss Janet Cameron, Foods Specialist, and Home Agent. Eighty-three members who attended club method demonstrations have reported satisfactory uses made of the cornmeal recipes given them.

b. Christmas Decorations for the Table

Former Agent gave nine method demonstrations to 175 members and visitors on making Christmas decorations for table and home made of native naturals. Satisfactory inexpensive ideas were displayed. One hundred and thirty women reported making use of them in their homes.

c. Food Preservation

Fifteen home freezers have been added to the home equipment list this year. Ninety-three members have done some preparation of foods for freezing. This is an increase of 72 over 1948.

Two hundred and seven women reported have done canning for their families. This is a decrease from 1948. This reveals the fact that more women are gaining an appreciation of the value of freezing as a method of food preservation. Satisfactory results have been reported on use of potato preservation to keep stored potatoes from sprouting. This powder was made available to the people by the County Agent.

2. Clothing Construction

a. Sewing Tips

One hundred and eighty-two members were given method demonstrations by former agent on sewing tips. These included putting in zippers, making button holes and short cuts in sewing and ~~tailoring~~ features. Information was obtained from Miss Iva Byrd Johnson, Clothing Specialist. Two hundred and eighty-nine ~~women~~ reported garments made and one hundred and twelve ~~reported~~ ~~garments~~ remodeled.

3. Landscaping

The County Agent gave to club members eight method demonstrations on how to improve yards and planting shrubbery. Drawings of house and yard were given each to make a plan for landscaping. The basic rules for landscaping were applied in this way. They were shown native trees and shrubs which can be used effectively in yards, also how to trim and care for them. Thirty-two members made improvements in their home grounds. One hundred and thirty club members attended this demonstration.

4. Vegetable Gardening

The County Agent gave seven method demonstrations to one hundred club members on how to plan a vegetable garden for their families which will provide sufficient fresh foods and those to be preserved. New varieties of vegetables which are adapted to this area were stressed. Seventy-five members reported making use of this information.

5. The House

a. Furnishings

Sixty members bought new furniture this year. Forty-five made repairs on furniture. Twenty made slip covers for living room furniture. Eighty bought equipment including electric. These improvements are a result of previous training given by past Home Agent's. They show participation toward better standards. There is still much study needed on selection of furniture as new agent has observed "Borax" furniture being used in many homes.

b. Kitchens

Six kitchens have been made over entirely with 32 changes reported throughout county. Home Agent has had two meetings in two of them for result demonstration purpose. These model kitchens are so placed that many non-members are being reached. Mrs. M. H. Woodworth lives in Grundy, Mrs. Carrie Ratliff, on Little Prater, Mrs. Joe Yates on Big Prater, Mrs. Ireson Hale on Leemaster, Mrs. D. A. Justus on Hurley and Mrs. Sherman Matney on Slate Creek. These are lined up for result demonstrations.

c. Housing

The improvements made in housing are among the most outstanding. Remodeling and rebuilding showed an increase of 20 over 1948. New steps, walks, porches, and out buildings were included in total building figures of 39. Five members have new houses and seven are now building.

Other Activities

1. Federation Goal

The Federation Goal chosen was "Art in Daily Living". Emphasis was placed on handicrafts which included aluminum tray making. Roseann HDC made 27 trays. Some work was done on rural arts, and poetry. No specific goals were carried out.

2. County Picnic

Fifty club members from the nine clubs and three community groups with their families and friends attended their annual picnic in August. Local leaders and County Agent gave talks.

Mr. Joe Yates was one of the speakers. A report on club activities was given by the County Secretary. This activity serves as Achievement Day for the county. Plans were made at the picnic for participation in Buchanan County Fair.

3. Fairs

A. County

1. The Buchanan Chamber of Commerce, H. D. Clubs and community groups sponsored the fair, September 1st, 2nd and 3rd.

Twenty-five hundred people attended. The club women made up exhibits on sewing, handicrafts, canning and served as hostesses and chairmen of exhibits.

2. Council Community Fair - Five clubs participated in this activity September 24th with baking, canning and handicraft displays.

4. Year Book Committee Meeting

Mrs. Young, County Chairman, Mrs. Parish, Mrs. Matney and Mrs. Thornton met with Home Agent and planned 1950 year books. Since the county has never had one, the clubs are looking forward to having the year books as a guide to meetings and accomplishments.

5. Welfare Work

Clubs have assisted Welfare Department in meeting needs in communities with clothing, food and medicine.

6. Garden Club

Fifteen club members from over the county belong to the Garden Club. Mrs. Breeding is a leader in the Garden Club and an outstanding H. D. Club member. This club offers intensive study on topics of interest to HD Clubs. It serves as a medium for getting information throughout the county.

V. 4-H CLUB

A. Project Work

1. Rural Electrification

Boys and girls took this project for their winter work. One hundred and sixty-three girls took active part, with 133 reports complete.

Lamps made ..... 163

Cords repaired ..... 310

Improvements in Lighting made . 118

No summer projects were planned.

B. Other Activities

1. Camp

Twenty-one attended camp July 1st - 9th at Camp Summers.

Girls from five 4-H clubs attended.

2. Fairs

(a) Big Rock 4-H showed work done at Chamber of Commerce fair at Grundy.

(b) Council Community Fair - Members of Council 4-H made a display on canned foods.

3. Rural Life Sunday

The Grundy Methodist Church honored 4-H work at an evening service. Representatives of clubs were present and explained 4-H work. Ministers in county paid tribute to 4-H members and work done.

VI. OLDER YOUTH

Do not have organization of older youth.

VII. SCOPE of WORK

	1948	1949
Number Home Demonstration Clubs or Groups	11	12
Membership	275	284
No. 4-H Clubs	16	8
Membership	207	163
No. Older Youth Groups	0	0
Membership	0	0
No. of other families reached	250	1250
Total number families reached	2050	2213

VIII. ORGANIZATIONS FUNCTIONING in 1949 PROGRAM

A. County Board of Agriculture

This group is made up of representative leaders from each of the eleven communities in the county. They meet once or twice a year and discuss needs of their respective communities. They assist in working out program planning suggestions, also in making evaluations of work done. It serves in helping the people see their own problems and in creating a desire to solve them by having them help plan the over-all county Extension Program.

B. County Home Demonstration Committee

On October 25th, seven of the nine H. D. Clubs attended County Planning Meeting. The seven clubs represented were: Garden Creek, Slate Creek, Pearly, Roseann, Big Prater, Little Prater and Davenport. Five visitors were present in addition to Miss Vaughn, District Agent, County Agent and Home Agent. (Program attached)

An interesting program calendar for 1950 was set up. The Federation

Goal chosen was "Home and Community Beautification". Demonstrations on 1949 program which were not given were included. Program planned:

- December - Setting Table and Serving Meals Attractively
- January - Packed Lunches
- February - Color in Home
- March - Furniture Selection - Fabrics in Home
- April - Landscaping Home
- May - Necessary Accessories for Home
- June - Federation Goal
- July - Preparing Sunday Dinner on Saturday
- August - Club Picnic
- September - Meat Cookery
- October - Club Choice
- November - Using Pattern Guide Effectively

Three county-wide meetings will be held on:

- Cleaning Sewing Machines
- Preparing Foods for Freezing
- Making Slip Covers

Club goals were planned to improve club organizations:

1. Start and close meetings on time.
2. Each club do a community project.
3. Each club attend Institute Rural Affairs and District Federation Meeting.
4. Each club be represented at all training meetings.
5. Each club hold 4 demonstrations given by leaders.
6. Each club member bring new member.

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PLANNING DAY PROGRAM - OCT. 25

10:00 A. M. ----- 2:30 P. M. - Presbyterian Church

Morning Session

Mrs. Henry Young, Presiding

1. Call to order ----- Purpose of Meeting ----- Mrs. Young
2. Devotion ----- Mrs. Wesley Vandyke
3. Introduction Home Agent ----- Miss Edith Vaughn  
District Agent
4. Growth and Development Home Demonstration  
Club work in Buchanan County ----- Mr. S. D. Woods  
County Agent
5. Requests for 1950 Program ----- Representatives from  
different Clubs
6. Discussion and Program planning: Goals ----- Miss Vaughn

12:30 - 1:30 ---- Lunch

Afternoon Session

Mrs. Carrie Ratliff, Chairman, Presiding

1. Call to order
2. Announcements
3. Reading minutes last meeting.
4. Election County Officers (Chairman, Secretary, Reporter  
Federation Goal Chairman)
5. Report Institute Rural Affairs ----- Mrs. Watney, Mrs. Yates  
and delegates.
6. Appoint Yearbook committee
7. 1950 Program and Goals ----- Leaders
8. HDC schedule meetings ----- Leota Sullenger
9. Parliamentary Procedures - Vice - Chairman.

Adjournment

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IX. LEADERS' ACTIVITIES

<u>Growth of Home Demonstration Club Project Leadership</u>		1948	1949
No. project leaders and goal chairmen		46	48
No. training meetings held	By Specialist	2	1
	By Agent	1	0
Attendance at all training meetings		111	15
No. Club meetings held by leaders without agent present		48	5
No. Club meetings at which leaders assisted		76	72

<u>Growth of A-H Club Project Leadership</u>		1948	1949
No. adult project leaders		10	14
No. junior project leaders		4	0
No. training meetings held	By Specialist	0	0
	By Agent	8	0
Attendance at leader training meetings		8	0
No. Club meetings held by leaders without agent present		20	6
No. Club meetings at which leaders assisted		48	72
No. demonstrations given	By leaders	10	0
	By adult	8	6
	By junior	0	0

X. SIGNIFICANCE of YEAR'S WORK

The strength of leadership is outstanding. The figures show higher in many accomplishments in 1949 than in 1948. Although in many cases, the leadership was unconsciously done, the effects are wide spreading. The groundwork, previously lain, has been fruitful. The people have been using knowledge gained, for themselves and others.

Five of the nine HD Clubs met regularly during absence of Home Agent. This fact shows interest and strong leadership. Two ex-Home Agents and County Agent did much to keep the interest alive. Three other clubs met at least once during the time there was no Home Agent.

The interest and desire to learn ways to improve home living are significant among people. Much demand has been made of materials which are available in the Extension Office. Seven hundred and thirty bulletins have been given out. This is an average of over three to a club member. New Agent has had an average of five office calls per week for information. She has made an average of two home visits per week to give individual assistance with home problems. Over a hundred comments have been made on weekly newspaper articles written by Home Agent.