

AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICE

ANNUAL REPORT

HOME DEMONSTRATION WORK

DECEMBER 1, 1951 TO JULY 31, 1952

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### County Situation

Prince Edward County is located in Southside Piedmont Virginia. Climatic conditions in this section are such that a variety of crops can be grown profitably. This section is also ideally suited to livestock production and fruit growing. The main cash crop has been tobacco with a few farmer's specializing in livestock, grain and truck crop.

Each year the needs of the people, chief sources of income and amount of income are considered in making out the program for the year. Since the income is mainly from tobacco the program was set up with the idea of centering around this point. This was done by the home demonstration planning committee to try to meet the needs of the people in the county.

Most of the families in Prince Edward County are located quite a distance from town. Their main social activities are carried on in the church with some participating in other clubs and Parent-Teacher Associations. The county situation was studied by the home demonstration clubs and these findings were given to the home demonstration committee so that a workable program could be planned. This was to try to meet the needs of the people in the county and to encourage participation in Extension Work. The program this year included: Clothing with emphasis on home made mixes, Oven meals and meals in the pressure cooker; House Furnishings with emphasis on selection of wall paper, paints, color of rug, bedspreads and curtains, selection of furniture and linens for the bedroom and arrangement of furniture in the bedroom; Laundry with emphasis on small equipment and saving time and energy in doing the family wash.

Special interest groups included tufted bedspreads, simple refreshments and restyling of clothing.

### Contributions to the 1952 Program to Better Family Living

The 1952 program as set up contributed to better health through better nutrition and also saving time and energy in food preparation and better appearance of club women through the clothing project. A fashion show was held during National Home Demonstration Week to increase participation in the Extension Program.

There are twelve home demonstration clubs in Prince Edward County actively engaged in Extension Work. They have completed work to date on two main topics namely: Clothing with emphasis on cotton dresses for all occasions; Foods with emphasis on oven meals and home made mixes.

Clothing and Foods were the main topics worked on to date this year. Fifty cotton dresses for different occasions have been made. Two woolen suits were made by one home demonstration member this year. Demonstrations were given on home made mixes and products made from the mix. All members reported having made the mixes and products from the same. Demonstrations were given on oven meals and all members reported using these meals often during the spring and to date this summer. Bulletins on home made mixes were given to members and also memo-graph sheets on oven meals so that members might have them to use at all times.

#### Adult Work

The home demonstration program is planned each year through the home demonstration committee which is made up of two members from each club in the county. This committee met with the Agent this month to help plan the program of work for 1953. During the year the committee studies the needs of the families, their communities and their surroundings with these facts as a basis to work a program calendar for the year was formulated. Projects for this year were: Clothing with emphasis on cotton dresses for all occasions; and foods with emphasis on home made mixes and oven meals. These were two of the projects thought to be most needed according to the survey that had been made of the communities.

Clothing with emphasis on cotton dresses for all occasions was one of the main topics worked on this year. Nine leaders assisted the Agent in carrying out this project. Demonstrations were given to members and leaders. The main features brought out in this project were: Selection of pattern and fabric; cutting, fitting and plackets; sewing, pressing and finishes. The objectives of this project were:

1. To help club women select the correct patterns and fabric for cotton dresses.
2. To teach the correct way to cut and fit a dress.
3. To teach correct methods of making buttonholes.
4. To teach correct way to make plackets.

Method demonstrations were given by Agent and leaders. Fifty dresses have been made to date. Members of six clubs modeled twenty five dresses in a fashion show during National Home Demonstration Week. Two woolen suits were also modeled at this time.

#### Foods and Nutrition

Two main topics were discussed and demonstrated in foods. They were: Homemade Mixes and oven meals. The objectives set up for the project were:

1. To teach correct measurements in preparing home made mixes.
2. To teach the advantages of preparing homemade mixes.
3. To teach how to save time and energy in preparing oven meals.

Twelve home demonstration clubs worked on this project. Demonstrations were given by the Agent and leaders. Twelve leaders assisted the Agent in this project. Recipes were given to members on homemade mixes and oven meals. All of the club members reported having used both the mixes and oven meals during the spring and to date this summer. Mrs. D. A. Jones of the Pamplin Club gave a demonstration on home made mixes during National Home Demonstration Week at a program. Members brought products made from the mixes so that the audience might have a sample.

Special Interest Group

One home demonstration is making tufted bedspreads. Five members of the club have purchased backgrounds for the spreads and thread to make them. The spreads are all natural white with the same color thread to make them. These members have done almost half of the spreads and hope to have them finished for the fair in September. Colors of spreads were discussed and members decided to make natural white spreads as the color would go with any color the room might be painted. The club taking this project is the darlington Heights. There are seven members in this club.

4- H Club Work

There are fourteen 4-H clubs in Prince Edward County with a membership of two hundred and forty one. These clubs meet monthly for the purpose of carrying out the Extension Program. Adult and junior leaders assisted the Agent in carrying the planned program for the year. Projects were discussed in each club and then members of the clubs brought their needs to a 4-H planning meeting. On the basis of the needs of members the following projects were selected: Garden; poultry; pigs; rabbits; food preparation; food preservation; clothing; home improvement and laundry.

Garden

Nine clubs carried garden along with other projects. Members feel that they can get a better selection of food and a well balanced diet if more people would plan gardens. Discussions were given by leaders, members and Agent and certified seed, good fertilizer, proper tillage and planting dates were recommended. The Objectives of the project were:

1. To plant new vegetables and learn to eat them.
2. To raise a garden to help to have a well balanced diet.
3. To increase family food supply.

There are forty seven members enrolled in this project.

## Poultry

Nine of the fourteen 4-H clubs carried poultry as one of their projects. These members thought it necessary to carry this project since many of the families do not raise a family supply of poultry. It was also hoped by the Agent and leaders that this project would inspire families to raise more poultry and increase better leadership of 4-H members. The Objectives were:

1. To increase family supply of poultry.
2. To get improved methods on raising poultry to members.
3. To encourage the raising of poultry.

Thirty one members are carrying this project. It is hoped that these members will have encouraged the people to raise more poultry as well as keeping good records and raising good birds.

Two members from one 4-H club are carrying pigs as a project and one member from one club carrying rabbits. This is the first year that girls have gone into swine and it is hoped that they will complete and will have done a good job.

## Food Preparation

A well balanced diet is the main factor in healthy and happy living. This point was brought out when this project was selected. It was felt that this project would encourage adults as well as 4-H members to fix and eat well balanced diets. The objectives of this project were:

1. To measure and prepare food correctly.
2. To eat a well balanced diet
3. To teach how to serve meals.

Seventeen members from five 4-H clubs are carrying food preparation. Members have been given demonstrations on planning meals, making cakes and other foods. It is hoped these members will eat well balanced diets as well measure ingredients correctly.

## Food Preservation

Members in 4-H clubs were urged to try to get their parents to make a canning budget and follow it. Members carrying this project wanted to help preserve food for the winter months. The objectives of the project were:

1. To teach members to make a canning budget.
2. To teach to can by a budget.
3. To teach correct canning methods.
4. To instill the need of canning food for the winter months.

Fifty one members from ten 4-H clubs are carrying this project. Demonstrations and discussions have been given members and it is hoped that they will have carried out the requirements of the project.

## Clothing

Members carrying clothing as a project were anxious to learn to laundry their sweaters as well as make simple garments. So far these members have worked very well to carry out their projects. The objectives of this project were:

1. To teach members to have a sewing box.
2. To teach members to wash woolen sweaters correctly.
3. To teach members to cut and make simple garments.

Eighty six members from eleven of the fourteen clubs are carrying clothing as a project. Demonstrations were given by Agent and leaders. Members of clubs attending the Short Course made their uniforms.

## Home Improvement

Five members from three clubs are carrying home improvement as a project. These members were urged to keep correct records in their projects and everything required in the project as well extra work should be done. The objectives of the project are:

1. To teach correct arrangement of furniture in rooms.
2. To teach use of color in rooms.
3. To help members have more comfortable rooms.

It is hoped that these members will have improved their rooms in some way before the end of the year.

## Laundry

One member from one 4-H club in the county is carrying laundry as a project. This project was carried because the member felt she needed to know how to save time and energy in doing the family wash. The objectives of this project were:

1. To teach the value of having small laundry equipment.
2. To teach ways of saving time and energy in doing the family wash.
3. To teach advantages in using improved methods in laundry.

It is hoped that this member will have used all information obtained in this project.

## District Home Demonstration Committee

Three members from home demonstration clubs in the county attended the District Home Demonstration Committee Meeting in Charlotte County in May. A report of this meeting was given in home demonstration committee meeting in the county on June 12, 1952. The county goal chairman gave a report at the district meeting.

## National Home Demonstration Week

Six of the twelve home demonstration clubs in the county participated in a dress revue in celebration of National Home Demonstration Week on May 8, 1952. Twenty five dresses and two suits were modeled. A skit was written and members modeled in the skit according to the type of dress they had on. A food demonstration was given by Mrs. D. A. Jones of the pumpkin home demonstration club on homemade mixes. Home demonstration members brought to the meeting cookies, cakes and biscuits in order that the audience might taste products from the mix. One hundred and thirty one people attended this meeting.

## Community Projects

Four of the twelve home demonstration clubs in the county selected community projects. The triumph club will give labor and money toward the improvement of an old school house for a community center. They will improve the lawn and the building. The New Hope club will help this club to improve the house since they will use it too. The Darlington Heights Club will buy a bible marker for the church in their community. The Pumpkin Club will improve the church yard in their community. These projects have been started and it is hoped that a great improvement will have been made by the end of the year.

## Scope of Work

There are twelve home demonstration clubs in Prince Edward County that meet monthly to carry out the Extension practices. There are one hundred and twenty five members in these clubs. Demonstrations and discussions are given by Agent or leader. Last year there were twelve clubs with a membership of one hundred and twenty five.

There are fourteen 4-H clubs with a membership of two hundred and forty one. There are two hundred and forty on projects being carried. Last year there were sixteen 4-H clubs with a membership of two hundred and ninety members. Four hundred and thirty two projects were carried and three hundred and seven projects were completed.

To date this year two hundred and seven families have been contacted through home visits and one hundred eighty two office calls. Seventy eight families have been contacted by telephone calls. Last year three hundred and four families were reached through home visits and two hundred fifteen were contacted through office calls.

|                               |      |      |      |      |
|-------------------------------|------|------|------|------|
| No. H. D. Clubs               | 1949 | 1950 | 1951 | 1952 |
| Membership                    | 9    | 11   | 12   | 12   |
| No. 4-H Clubs                 | 87   | 109  | 125  | 125  |
| Membership                    | 18   | 16   | 16   | 14   |
| No. of other families reached | 349  | 276  | 290  | 241  |
| Total no. families reached    | 356  | 472  | 100  | 91   |
|                               | 477  | 597  | 350  | 207  |

#### County Agricultural Board

The county agricultural advisory board is composed of thirty three members. One from each of the twelve home demonstration clubs and two men from each of the community clubs in the county. So far the board has met twice this year. The board planned for transportation to the State Farmer's conference, unit exhibit for the fair, field meeting and delegates to the State Advisory Board Meeting.

#### County Home Demonstration Committee

The county home demonstration committee is composed of twenty four members. Two members from each home demonstration club in the county are selected to serve on this committee. The committee met this year and planned the 1953 program. The committee also selected delegates to the district committee meeting. This committee also works in connection with the advisory board in making overall plans for the county.

#### Leadership

There are thirty eight adult project leaders actively engaged in carrying out the Extension program. There are sixty nine leaders in the neighborhood leader system. The leaders held twenty three meetings without the Agent present. Leaders assisted in fourteen meetings. Last year there were forty four project leaders. Leaders held fifty eight meetings alone and assisted in eighteen.

There are sixteen junior Project leaders actively engaged in the program. Sixteen adult leaders also aid in carrying out the 4-H program. There were seven leaders trained individually. Thirty one meetings were held by leaders alone and assisted in ten meetings. Leaders gave sixty three demonstrations.

|                               |   |      |      |      |      |
|-------------------------------|---|------|------|------|------|
| Growth of 4-H Club Leadership | 1 | 1949 | 1950 | 1951 | 1952 |
| No. Adult project leaders     |   | 35   | 35   | 29   | 16   |

|  | 1949 | 1950 | 1951 | 1952 |
|--|------|------|------|------|
| No. junior project leaders                             | 26   | 28   | 29   | 16   |
| No. training meetings held by Specialist               | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    |
| by Agent   | 10   | 1    | 3    | 1    |
| Attendance at leader training meetings                 | 41   | 18   | 21   | 14   |
| No. 4-H leaders trained individually                   | 3    | 27   | 15   | 7    |
| No club meetings held by leaders without agent present | 100  | 85   | 90   | 31   |
| No. additional club meetings at which leaders assisted | 12   | 16   | 20   | 10   |
| No. demonstrations given by leaders                    | 111  | 81   | 79   | 63   |
| by adult   | 63   | 45   | 39   | 35   |
| by junior  | 48   | 36   | 40   | 28   |

#### Outstanding Leader

Mrs. Agnes Spencer of the Triumph home demonstration club is a leader in her club and a result demonstrator. Mrs. Spencer started her result demonstration in 1950. She only had a two room house and after joining a home demonstration club Mrs. Spencer saw the need for improvements. During 1950 Mrs. Spencer added two rooms to her house. The addition included a living room, bedroom, hall and bath. The bathroom was put on for future use. There is also room in her attic for a room. This addition has made it possible for her to arrange her kitchen for easier care and save time and energy. During this same year she wired three lamps that have aided her in having more efficient lighting.

This year Mrs. Spencer added a back porch and storage room to her house. The back porch is screened and has a cement floor. The storage closet is at one end of the porch. For 1953 Mrs. Spencer is a result demonstrator on yard improvement.

#### Cooperation With Other Agencies

The Agent cooperated whenever possible with all agencies in the county. Professional workers meetings were attended whenever possible. Leaders and club members were urged to work with the health agencies in the county.

#### Evaluation

Home Visits have been made to follow up project work and other demonstrations this year. Much improvement has been noted in quality of work done over previous years. Improvements made in homes and their surroundings plus the work contributed by adult and junior leaders show that the program has improved homemaking, better rural living and improved living habits of the people in the county.