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* ANNUAL NARRATIVE REPORT *
* of *
* GREENSVILLE COUNTY *
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* for *
* March 1, 1948 to November 30, 1948 *
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* Local Home Demonstration Agent *
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SCOPE OF WORK

The home demonstration work was begun for the first time in Greensville County on March 1, 1948 by the present local home demonstration Agent. Prior to this time a farm agent worked alone in the county.

After a period of six weeks making home and school visits, leader contacts, league and farmers' meetings, 5 home demonstration clubs were organized with a membership of 43 women. Two months later two more home demonstration clubs with a membership of 20 women were added. Up to date 29 additional members have joined through club members, bringing the total membership to 92 women and 1 man. The 7 home demonstration clubs have met 48 times and have had 41 demonstrations. Through other groups, the home agent has reached approximately 642 persons, and 158 families.

When home demonstration work started in March, 13 4-H clubs with a membership of 1,243 children were found already organized and working under the leadership of the local farm agent. Of the 1,243 club members 647 were boys and 596 girls. The girls until then were only enrolled in agricultural projects; hence in May 6 boys and 93 girls (from 5 of the already organized 13 clubs) enrolled in home economics projects. Along with this organization, the local home agent supervised through the help of leaders 175 yard beautification projects, and helped with all general meetings of the 13 4-H clubs.

Through 31 office calls, 21 newspaper articles, 100 different home visits, the home agent has reached approximately 642 persons and 158 families.

ADULT WORK

Beginning home demonstration work so late in the year members voted to work on projects best suited for their needs according to the season; hence dry cleaning, yard beautification, and food preservation were chosen.

Dry Cleaning.--Each of the 5 clubs was given 1 dry cleaning demonstration during which time 24 garments were dry-cleaned.

Results.--Members learned how to use a standard cleaning fluid and learned of different cleaning fluids.

24 garments were cleaned during the 5 demonstrations.

More clothes could be cleaned for less money.

Mothers taught daughters to do their own cleaning.

Clothes made more attractive through dry cleaning.

From the dry cleaning demonstrations, approximately 43 families became interested in clothing and textiles, care, renovation and remodeling of clothing. By learning the best kind of material for dry cleaning, members were then in a position to know what materials were suited for washing and what materials were suited for dry cleaning.

Yard Beautification - A Result Demonstration

This project was selected because in May, 10 of the 14 club members in this community had allowed their front and side lawns to grow up in weeds, scattered rose bushes, lily beds, or jonquils or vegetable gardens were planted in front of flowers. The expressed desire among these 14 club members was to improve the home lawns. The home agent visited 5 of these homes and talked with the owners; hence it was voted that our next meeting of the

the home demonstration club would be held at a member's house located in the center of the community. Club members were given the following assignment--study pictures of lawns and flower gardens found in magazines given out by home agent, collect pictures and information from other agricultural magazines you might have at home, select the picture of lawn that would look best in front of their house, draw a plan of their lawns and drives to present at the next meeting.

The demonstrator's yard has rambling roses, lilies, plum trees, and jonquils growing in it, but planted just for the sake of having flowers without previous plans. The drive was full of washes and mud holes. At the next meeting, club members along with the home agent gathered on the front lawn and made criticisms according to information gained from old issues of magazines and the study of bulletins. It was decided after discussion that

1. The lawn should be related to the home.
2. The lawn is one of the most important features of the home.
3. The home-grounds are attractive if an open well-cared for space is left around the house with flower beds and shrubbery located along the boundaries.

Three result demonstrations were established for home grounds improvement. The results of the above demonstration show the following. Up to Sept. 20, 3 meetings had been held at the above demonstrator's home with an attendance of 90 persons; 6 visits had been made by home agent. The grounds have been cleared off, flowers have been rearranged and a new lawn has been started. To this improvement, holes were filled in along the drive with gravel, and one cement walk from drive to front steps has been constructed.

Four other club members in this community have started yard beautification and there is an expressed desire to have home improvement as their next project. Yard beautification is only a part of home improvement.

Food Preservation.--According to previous records and observations, housewives of Greenville County have done very good work in food preservation; therefore stress was placed on improving the quality by improved techniques. The appearance of food has a great effect on the appetite; hence home-makers were warned to pack all foods as attractively as possible. "Can for Safety and Beauty as Well as Economy," they were urged.

Housewives were taught to

Make a family canning budget "Plan before you Can."
Canning to be done this year should be planned weeks in advance.

Plant gardens to meet family needs for adequate year-round food supply.

Plan so that family may serve fresh and stored foods as long as possible.

Prepare for canning season by checking all canning equipment and materials well in advance of the time needed.

7 home demonstration clubs with a total membership of 93 were given 18 food preservation demonstrations. Results reported show that 6,812 qts. vegetables, 6916 qts. fruit (including jams, jellies, and marmalades) 641 qts. meat and chicken; 192 lbs. frozen vegetables, 597 lbs. dried fruits and vegetables, and 58 lbs. frozen chicken and meat were canned and preserved this year.

County Advisory Board

The County Advisory Board consisting of 35 members met twice with an attendance of 38 persons. In the March meeting the

Advisory Board made the following plans: As many as 100 farmers would attend the State Farmers' Conference to be held at the Virginia State College on April 15th; The County Farmers' Conference was scheduled to be held in the Belfield District and would cover the communities Orion, Shiloah, Purdy, Pleasant Shade, and Royal; The home improvement was to be made one unit (the home improved as well as the farm); New methods of farming were to be introduced.

The County Advisory Board met again in July with the 4-H Club Council Committee to plan for the 4-H Club picnic, trip to Holland Experiment Station, to elect delegates to the State Advisory Board, and to complete plans for County Farmers' conference and tour. A joint committee was chosen to canvas prizes for winning farmers.

The County Planning Committee

For the first 4 months after clubs were organized, individual clubs decided and planned what they would do until the end of the year, basing their decisions on their needs, interests, and abilities. At our August meetings members from each club (2 each from 5 clubs and 3 each from 2 clubs) were elected to form the County Planning Committee.

This committee along with the district agent met in the office of the local home agent, Sat., Sept. 4th for the purpose of planning a county-wide Home Demonstration Program.

Work With Youth

4-H Clubs - Organization

County Council.--The county 4-H club council is made up of 4-H club officers and 4-H club leaders which number 85. This council has held two meetings alone and one joint with Advisory Board. At the April meeting, the big group was divided into small groups according to their office in local clubs and training given for their duties. The purpose and result of this meeting was to introduce new officers to their duties and each other, to help train new officers by holding departmental groups provided with a leader each, to elect officers for county 4-H Club Council. Also they met to plan county-wide 4-H Club activities for 1948, to plan out-of-county 4-H Club activities for 1948 and to help train 4-H club leaders.

The dates for the 4-H club picnic (held in August), Achievement Day (held in October), were decided upon at this meeting. Clubs were reminded of the Short Course and Wildlife Conference and were expected to send members.

The Council met again in October for the purpose of checking on Achievement Day plans, to learn new methods of advertising, and to plan county-wide winter activities.

Project Work

When home demonstration work began in Greenville County in March, 1948, the 13, 4-H clubs with which the local agent works were already organized, but both girls and boys carried only agricultural projects. Therefore, as a beginning 99 of these 4-H club youth were enrolled in home economics projects. As a beginning 99 4-H club members enrolled in Food Preservation, Home Improvement, Personal Laundry or Small Laundry Equipment.

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Food Preservation.--Of the 99 4-H club youth 39 enrolled in food preservation and 32 completed. Six canning demonstrations and 1 trip through frozen locker plant were held for the group. The canning demonstrations for girls were planned and conducted just as for the adults. While only 32 of the 39 girls completed two girls did outstanding work in food preservation. They are Evoria Adams, whose record will be given later, and Audrey Person, whose record will also be given later. Audrey is 12 and in 7th grade.

As a result of this project 789 qts. fruit, 1024 qts. vegetables were canned, 48 lbs. vegetables dried, 36 lbs. vegetables were frozen.

Audrey Person carried small laundry equipment in addition to Food Preservation, canned 43 qts. alone, helped with 306 qts., gave two demonstrations, showed 3 people how to can, helped to make a family canning budget and exhibited 7 qts. of food. The best work in Food Preservation among the 4-H club members was, however, done by Evoria Adams.

Evoria Adams, age 15 and a member of the Ryland 4-H Club, was also a delegate to Wildlife conference. She comes from a family of eleven in number and for two years has carried canning as her project. By August 15th, Evoria had preserved 155 qts. of vegetables and pickles and helped with approximately 375 qts. Until the middle of July this club member had absolutely no fruit in her collection because peaches had been killed, apples were none too good and were being blown from trees before they ripened fully, most berries had dried on the vines before maturity. In the meantime these partially ripe-wind-blown apples were being fed

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to cows. In a meeting a demonstration was given by the home agent on making apple sauce from partially ripe wind-blown apples. One month later, Evoria had not only preserved 25 qts. of apple sauce and 7 qts. jelly, but no more apples were being fed to cows and hogs. Evoria's record shows that she has canned alone 122½ qts. vegetables, froze 36 lbs. vegetables, canned 68 qts. fruit, dried 15 lbs. vegetables, showed 5 persons how to can, gave 2 demonstrations and helped with 375 qts. food.

Home Improvement.--There were 22 enrolled in home improvement with only 18 members completing. These members improved 18 rooms by restraining baseboards, touching up wall, repairing book shelves, framing mirrors, constructing dressing tables and stools from orange crates, fixing lamps, making dressing table skirts, and varnishing wash stands. A total of 54 articles were made.

Personal Laundry.--In this project the group of 11 enrolled was the only group in which all members completed. These members came from two clubs, and had 2 demonstrations each by agent, and each of the 5 girls laundered one woolen sweater at the last meeting. Boys did their socks, shorts and handkerchiefs for 2 months. Girls did their sweaters 3 times each, their socks for two months, their slips and panties for two months and ironed slips, handkerchiefs and dresses for two months.

Laundry projects were chosen because it was felt that it would be a great help to mothers if members take over the responsibility of taking care of their own garments. This meant mending,

removing stains, and washing and ironing, and preparing equipment for easier work.

Small Laundry Project.--Of the 27 members carrying this project only 19 completed. They had 6 demonstrations, made 19 sleeve rolls, 10 laundry baskets were lined, 19 clothespin bags made, 2 sleeve boards made, 18 ironing board covers made, 18 ironing boards padded and 20 records kept. 20 press cloths were also made.

Leadership

While attending 4-H State Short Course from June 8 to 11 to which 8 girls and 2 women leaders were sent from Greenville County, and the Agents Short Course at Hampton Institute from June 13 to 25, 4-H Club leaders kept the work in tact. Since little had been done toward their organization and training in home demonstration work, too much could not be expected. 4 canning demonstrations with adults and 3 with the 4-H clubbers were given. In every community where there's 4-H Clubs doing home economics projects, we also have a home demonstration club. Our plan was to secure leaders from home demonstration membership. To date, we have 21 leaders taken from those 7 home demonstration clubs.

Cooperating with Other Agencies

In order to meet, learn, and carry the extension program to as many people as possible in Greenville County, the home agent has taken active part in the Emporia Garden Club, School programs, the County Tuberculosis Association, and in September began assisting organized classes of Veterans' wives.

When the Tuberculosis Association planned its Mass Meeting last Spring, the agent served as a member of the Program Committee, and again this fall when the same association started its ground work for the county-wide chest x-rays, the agent served as a messenger in getting the information to all the persons contacted through clubs, church talks, farmers' conference and tours, and home visits. With the help of leaders and captains who contacted farmers and non-farmers throughout the county 2,464 adults had chest x-rays. The job of the leaders was to contact the family, tell them of the clinic, take name of each adult in family from 15 yrs. up, urge them to come to the clinic and bring them if necessary. Such written reports from each captain was to be mailed to the Executive Secretary of the County Tuberculosis Association.

WORK EVALUATION

The 4-H Clubs of Greensville County are doing splendid work. 1,243 boys and girls are 4-H club members. Of the 647 boys carrying 653 projects, 378 boys completed. Of the 596 girls carrying 705 projects, 578 were completed. The number wanting to carry Home Economics Projects is most encouraging, therefore, the agent predicts 5 times 99 for the next year. Through the 4-H Clubs 8 girl delegates, 5 boy delegates, and 2 women-leaders were sent to the 4-H State Short Course in June. In August 3 girl delegates, 3 boy delegates, and 1 woman delegate were sent to the State Wildlife Conference by 4-H Clubs. This is the first year for a number of years that girls from Greensville County attended these conferences.

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Why? There was no home agent in Greenville County. The home agent also predicts that it will be far less trouble to get girl delegates for these conferences next year. The Greenville County 4-H Clubs donated \$50.00 toward Greenville County delegate to Louisiana Regional Camp. Through the efforts of these clubs, school yards have been improved, 1 4-H picnic held, and 1 4-H club Achievement Day held.

Home Demonstration work in Greenville County is very young. While 7 clubs with 93 members have been organized, their first County Planning meeting was just held Sept 4th, 1948. If the kind of program made by the planning committee can be used as an index of the work to be done the following year, the Home demonstration work will be quite effective and far-reaching.