

HOME DEMONSTRATION WORK IN NORTH CAROLINA 1921

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There were 49 counties organized in home demonstration work in 1921 and detailed reports of work done in each have been received and compiled in the office of the state home demonstration agent. The reports are in full from all counties except Alamance, Pender, Person, Bladen, and Transylvania where agents were changed during the year and data was hard to obtain.

In spite of the financial condition of many county treasuries home demonstration work has had but ten counties to suspend operations and all but two asked to be reinstated in 1922.

With 59 counties reporting in 1920 there were 462 women's and 460 girls' clubs with a total enrollment of 18,498. Forty-nine counties reported in 1921 recording 539 girls' clubs with an enrollment of 8,452 and 544 women's clubs with an enrollment of 10,821. Add to this 108 community clubs with an enrollment of 6,097 members and there is a total of 1,191 clubs with a total enrollment of 25,370. These clubs furnished a total attendance at club meetings during the year of 146,646. The attendance at general and county-wide meetings is reported as 179,784. With this well organized piece of machinery the gospel of good homes and vitalized communities is carried to the rural districts of North Carolina. That the clubs are well scattered over the country is shown by the county maps sent in by each home demonstration agent.

Women's and girls' clubs are under the direct supervision of the home agent but community clubs, which embrace men, women and children, are organized through the joint effort of the farm and home agents.

The programs for community clubs include discussions and demonstrations in home and farm conveniences, and questions of marketing.

Community Betterment

- Beautification of school grounds
- Beautification of church grounds
- Equipment of school
- Recreation (Plays and games)
- Amusements (Music dramatics)
- Sanitation
- Community fairs
- Promoting club work for girls and boys

It is through the community club that much of the co-operation of the extension division and the other state and county organizations can be effected. The clubs furnish the machinery and the county superintendent of education, the county health officer, the county nurse, the county welfare officer, and other supervisors of county work arrange with the county agents and club presidents to have a time and place on the program. The meetings are usually held at night and for the most part are held in the schoolhouse but here and there a community club has had the ambition to build a community house or to convert some building into a suitable meeting place. Ten community houses were built in 1921.

The Cabarrus county agent says: "Anything which is to be carried to the rural communities is done through the community clubs. There are five in this county with an average attendance at meetings of 125."

In Rowan one of the club presidents brings the community together twice a month for song and play evenings. The attendance averages 100 men, women and children, practically all of whom take part. "The leader has developed from a timid little farm woman to a real live wire."

The Guilford home agent says: "There are six community clubs in Guilford County with a membership of 750 men, boys, women, and girls. Some of these clubs meet twice a month while others meet only once. In these clubs funds have been raised for needed purposes and entertainments have been provided for both young and old. Four community clubs got behind the community fairs this fall. Pleasant Union Club raised several hundred dollars for 1921 and bought a number of chairs for the community auditorium, installed lights, and built a stage. This stage has been used a number of times for community plays, etc."

WOMEN'S HOME DEMONSTRATION CLUBS

Programs for the 544 women's clubs include: health, food, gardening, beautifying premises, poultry work, dairy work, clothing, household furnishings and conveniences, household management, and income earning features.

Programs for the 539 girls' clubs include: cookery (care, selection and preparation of food), sewing (plain, dress design, home millinery), poultry, household furnishing, basketry, club encampment of boys and girls, and income earning features.

Enthusiastic interest has been shown in all of these programs as will be attested by the attendance. Not every club can compass all the subjects outlined in one year but each makes its selection and does its part in carrying out plans.

The health work was carried on through co-operation with the county health officer and the county nurse. The New Hanover agent reports:

"The county nurse and I planned county-wide visits to the rural schools where we weighed and measured the children. Undernourished children were given special attention by us through personal visits to the mother. We suggested remedial diets and gave a list of foods to the parents showing amounts needed by the child during the day. We also placed food charts in every rural school explaining food and its uses in the body."

NUTRITION

Work in nutrition was carried on in practically every woman's club.

In Davidson county where a new woman's club had just been formed, the members asked to have instructions in how to plan well-balanced meals and how to know the symptoms of malnutrition. They gladly bought copies of Rose's "Feeding the Family" and made it possible for the nutrition specialist from the State College for Women to come to them for a lecture on malnutrition. The result of this work is plainly to be seen in the health of the families and also in the efficient way in which these club members assisted the county agent in putting on a child feeding booth at the county fair. They weighed and measured children and talked with understanding of the proper diets to be given.

In 1921, 2341 demonstrations in the care, selection, and preparation of food with special emphasis on nutrition were given by the home agents. Nutrition booths, a detailed account of which will be given under fairs, were established at community, county, and state fairs. Better bread campaigns blessed North Carolina in 16 counties in 1921 and in 10 counties in 1920.