

NEGRO WORK

No. counties organized in home demonstration work  
for Negroes..... 12

Enrollment for women: (1935 - 5,112  
(1936 - 6,331  
(Increase - 1,219

Enrollment for girls: (1935 - 3,890  
(1936 - 4,162  
(Increase - 272

No. project leaders, women..... 763

No. 4-H project leaders:

Women.....310)  
)..... 580  
Older girls.220)

Negro home demonstration work in North Carolina is part of the home demonstration program and is under the direction of the state home demonstration agent.

There is a district home demonstration agent for Negroes who serves as assistant to the state home demonstration agent and she is in charge of organized work for Negro women and girls in the state.

The passage of the Jones Bill enabled the Division of Home Demonstration Work to add five new counties to the organized Negro work in September 1935, making a total of 12 counties organized in 1936.

With the exception of Johnston, counties selected were from areas having a large Negro population as follows:

Bertie	Negroes furnish	47.47%	of population		
Craven	"	24.30%	"	"	"
Edgecombe	"	58.43%	"	"	"
Northampton	"	55.02%	"	"	"
Johnston	"	16.26%	"	"	"

Counties Applying for Home Agent in 1936

Warren, having the largest Negro population of any in North Carolina, 65 per cent of the whole, sent a delegation to the State Home Demonstration Office with promise of a definite appropriation for a home agent by July 1936.

Rockingham County, where Negroes furnish 28 per cent of the population, appropriated but there were no state and federal funds with which to cooperate.

Negro Farms

There are 16,741 farms operated by Negroes in the 12 organized counties, 3,933 of which they own wholly or in part. The other 12,808 are operated by tenants.

Negro home agents work with nearly 9,000 of these farm families and desirable changes in practices have resulted in 4,205 homes.

Program of Work

The program of work is carried out very much as the program for white people, and is built around the problems of the farm family. With the low farm incomes many families were doing with bare necessities and some were suffering from malnutrition, inadequate clothing and poor housing. The following projects brought results:

1. Production of the family food supply.
  - a. Year round garden.
  - b. Meat animals - a sow in each family.
  - c. Thirty to fifty hens.
  - d. A milk cow.
  - e. Conservation of food for winter use.

2. Planning and preparing meals.
3. Construction of clothing.
4. Renovation and remodeling of garments.
5. Home improvement.
6. Sanitation of premises.
7. Recreation.

Projects for Negroes are carried on by the same methods as those used for white people, white home economics specialists have always given as much time as possible to Negro home demonstration women but they have been so heavily loaded with already established work with white people that it has been difficult to give Negroes sufficient attention.

Negro Subject Matter Specialist

In September 1935, therefore, a Negro subject matter specialist, was appointed to work with Negro home agents and with leader groups of women and girls in farm communities. This specialist was for six years home agent in Mecklenburg County and was promoted because of her good work there.

She is under the supervision of the Negro district agent and serves as assistant to white specialists in nutrition, home management, clothing and food conservation and consults with them as to methods used and adapts their prepared subject matter material in bulletins and lesson sheets to the needs of her people.

Helping the Farm Agent

The Negro specialist works not only with 12 Negro home demonstration agents but in the 16 months of her service has helped the Negro farm agents in 7 unorganized counties by demonstrations and talks to groups of women.

There are many calls for such assistance from Negro farm agents and help is given systematically by both the Negro specialist and the Negro district agent.

In 1936 the Negro specialist worked with:

6 counties in foods and nutrition

4 " " home improvement

2 " " clothing

Each county was given seasonal instruction in addition, such as spring and fall clothing or meat curing and canning.

School Lunches

School lunches were stressed everywhere and 640 home demonstration club members have improved in selection and preparation of school lunches.