

Recreational Conference

The Recreational conference for Negro Agents was conducted in October at Shaw University, Raleigh, North Carolina, under the supervision of Dr. John W. Bradford of the National Recreational Association for three days - which from my observation in the different counties, program of work from the counties and their weekly reports have served to quite an advantage. Each county I have visited since the ending of the conference at Raleigh, I have found that a definite part on each program for club meetings is being taken up with a wholesome recreation and entertainment.

The boys and girls are becoming more interested in their club work, because the entire period is not being taken up with dry project instructions, but they are being given an opportunity to play and direct and supervise plays among their fellow club members. This also is serving to bring out good leadership in the clubs. The boys and girls are becoming less bashful and really entering into the spirit of the work.

In our 4-H Club plans for the year 1937 we are asking that each county put on one program entirely of recreation including games, songs, short plays, stunts, etc.

The counties are also asked to put on at least one community or county Hobby Show, thus encouraging the boys and girls to use well their

spare time on the farm - we look forward to results in club work this year.

We shall not attempt to use material from all of the County Agents reports of their comments on this phase of the work but only a few shall be drawn on. Mr. J. C. Hubbard, Negro County Agent of Bertie County has the following to say about the Recreational Institutes:

"For the past two years a Recreational Institute held for the training of Negro Extension workers has been attended each year by both the Farm and Home Agents in order that a program of recreation might be carried out in this county.

In all meetings some time is taken out for recreation of some kind such as games, stunts, singing, etc., and it has had quite an influence and held up the attendance.

Back years ago the Agent became interested in this phase of work and a course was taken at the Cornell University Summer School in Recreational Leadership in 1938. Since then recreation has been one of the high lights in our 4-H club work. Not only has recreation been taught in our 4-H club meetings, but at our fairs and camps.

It has been the duty and pleasure of the writer to conduct recreation at our State 4-H Short Course for each year for the past seven years. This year our Short Course program included a course in how to lead plays, games and stunts.

Music appreciation has been encouraged at club round-ups, Achievement days and at our district Fairs, also singing contests have been given.

A kit of play equipment, songs, etc. is carried daily by the Agent."