

HOUSEHOLD MANAGEMENT

No. Clubs doing Household Management Work 131 No. Enrolled 3118
No. following systematized plan of home work for first time 322
No. homes obtaining additional labor saving equipment this year 1735
No. kitchens planned and rearranged for convenience this year 721
No. keeping accounts and making budgets for first time 186
Total no. homes adopting improved practices in home management 2122

In thirty-six counties household management formed a part of the program of work for the home demonstration clubs. This instruction was given as a major project in seven counties; as a minor project or by work with individuals in twenty-eight. Minor projects were the result of better kitchen campaigns put on in previous years, as one agent says, "A good thing once started is hard to stop!"

Five clubs in Columbus County began work in Household Management in 1927 to be completed in the spring of 1928. Seven meetings were conducted in each club by the agent, who gave lectures and demonstrations on the management of the home, a definite plan of work in the home, how each member of the family may help, and arrangement of the kitchen to save steps, labor saving devices, etc.

In Duplin County two years ago, ten kitchens were improved in a better kitchen campaign; this year the agent was called on to help with the improvement in fifteen, and results of this work reflected in brighter and more convenient kitchens and in the establishment of more home conveniences.

In Beaufort County, through the leadership of Mrs. Heywood Wilson, member of the Highland Home Demonstration Club, a very successful ice route was established in her community. The home agent in Beaufort

County says: "Mrs. Wilson asked me for help in this project. She said that while she and several of the other club women sent to town regularly for ice there were women in the neighborhood who never had it. She said that she was especially interested in the little children, for, not having ice, their mothers did not keep milk for them during the summer. I went with her to the ice plant to see what terms could be made there. We found that a man who was delivering ice three times a week in Chocowinity three miles away would take the Highland route twice a week provided that the patrons would guarantee to take 2,000 pounds each trip and that each customer would take at least one hundred pounds.

"We took the dimension of a one hundred pound block, finding it to be 11'x 13'x 22', and then we went to all the furniture stores in town and got their best prices on refrigerators and ice boxes of this capacity.

"Mrs. Wilson christened her new Ford by driving it around the entire thirty-mile route securing enough customers to justify the delivery of ice. She gave the information which we had gained relative to the price of refrigerators and four new refrigerators and three new ice boxes were bought, while one ice box was made from a blue print secured from the Department of Extension Engineering. Fifteen individuals and two country stores had city delivery of ice twice a week from May first to the middle of October at a cost slightly above that paid by people in town. The demand was so great during July and August that two trips a day were necessary. This enabled one of our club members to sell quantities of butter, sweet cream, and buttermilk on the curb market all through the summer, to say nothing of the economy and labor saved by having a regular supply

of ice in the home."

Better kitchen campaigns were put on in Alamance, Caldwell, Carteret, Catawba, Chowan, Franklin, Henderson, Rowan, Wayne, and on Knott's Island, Currituck County, in which nine entries were made with eight completing.

Thirty out of forty entries were carried to completion in Alamance County. In Carteret County thirty out of thirty-six women entering the contest completed the project. At the close of the contest one man said, "This is a good thing. It should go on all the time."

The contest in Rowan County was followed by a tour of county people to the most worthwhile kitchens. A longer stop was made at the home of Mrs. Roy Johnson's first prize kitchen. After all the modern kitchen equipment, which Mr. Johnson made himself, had been examined, the group gathered in the yard for a talk by the farm agent, Mr. W. G. Yeager, on "Simple Water Conveniences." Mr. Yeager had an excellent example of a simple water system to demonstrate his points, one made by Mr. Johnson at a cost of only \$3.00.

In Henderson County fifteen out of thirty entries in the kitchen contest were carried to completion. The men of the county were interested. Mr. M. R. Anderson, husband of the woman who won first prize, worked until two o'clock one night on cupboards and other conveniences. Several other men said they didn't know why they had never noticed how inconvenient their kitchens were. In this county two hundred and forty-eight conveniences were added to the rooms which were improved.

The following is the account of the home management work as told by the Caldwell County Agent:

"Home Management in Caldwell County means the county-wide kitchen improvement contest. Every club in the county, nine, had at least one woman to enter the contest. Though our enrollment was small twenty, practically every section of the county was represented. Of the twenty kitchens entered fourteen completed. The kitchens were scored by the District Home Agent and suggestions were given for improvements. The contest lasted five months. The clubs as a whole studied the kitchens and the score cards used were sent out by the State office of Home Demonstration Work. General suggestions for improvements were given at club meetings. From time to time during the summer the agent visited the kitchens to help and to advise with women regarding the improvements. The last week in October the District Home Agent returned to score kitchens.

"The kitchen making the greatest improvement is owned by Mrs. P. E. Sears of Dudley Shoals community. This room is now the most attractive in the house. Before improvements were made walls and ceiling were smoked and black, floor unfinished, furniture consisted of cabinet, table, stove, and one chair. The furniture was arranged in a most inconvenient manner. The dining room was considered somewhat small and the partition between the two rooms was moved back two or three feet, making the kitchen smaller and enlarging the dining room. Equipment was regrouped and more added, walls and the ceiling were painted a very light gray, the floor oiled, a sink installed, furniture painted gray and blue, blue and white gingham cushions were used in chairs and on a stool, a rest corner was added, as well as a garbage pail, containers for meals, flour, etc. A potted plant brightened the room and curtains were hung at the windows. The room is completely transformed. After improvements were completed the

furniture was grouped that a meal might be prepared with the fewest number of steps.

"Mrs. McKimmon was with us Saturday, October 22, for the rally, which was held at Dudley Shoals, and talked on 'Training Boys and Girls for Family Life.' The prizes for the contest were given by Lenoir merchants and manufacturers. Following dinner on the grounds the people visited the prize winning kitchens and studied the improvements made. As a result thirty-five other women were encouraged to begin improvements in kitchens, and of this number twenty-two have been completed, the other thirteen women hope to have improvements completed by spring.

"The improvements consisted of regrouping equipment to save time and steps, raising height of working surfaces, putting wood boxes on rollers, and raising the height of stools and sinks, building cabinets, establishing rest corners in the kitchen, painting walls, refinishing the floors, and providing more sanitary means of disposing of waste.

"One woman was heard to remark, 'Yes it cost \$15.00 to improve my kitchen but I would not have it as it was if some one handed me \$50.00.'

"Mrs. H. F. Jones, of the Sherrills Ford Club, Catawba County, says of her demonstration kitchen: 'I had wanted my kitchen made into a pleasant and convenient workshop for some time but always felt I didn't have time or money. Last spring our agent decided to devote three months to kitchen improvement and I offered my kitchen for the demonstration. At the first meeting the club studied the floor plan and discussed all changes which should be made, such as better lighting, built-in cabinets, etc. We moved the stove back

against the wall, giving more room and making work much more convenient. The walls had been painted but all the paint had worn off and the room was smoky and dark. We decided upon cream and blue as our color scheme, walls, woodwork, and all furniture to be painted a very light cream. At the next meeting the Home Demonstration Agent started us on the painting and with the help of the family I finished the job. After giving the kitchen two coats, one could hardly realize that it was once the dark, dingy kitchen seen at the first meeting. The floors were then refinished. Our agent gave us some individual help before all this was completed. The second month we took an inventory of the small things on hand and other conveniences that might be added to make the kitchen more convenient. We do not have running water in our home but we decided a sink, if used for nothing else but a drain, would be worth the cost and labor to put it in as it would save many a step. Also a waste drain could be placed with very little cost and this would save the weary trips for emptying the buckets. The drain was a large funnel welded to a piece of pipe running through the floor, into a tub on the outside. My husband and sons were able to put in the sink and drain, thereby reducing the cost. A dish drain board and towel rack were installed. A linoleum of blue and cream blocked pattern was used on the floor. We had two tables, a small one which could be moved about and a large one against the wall. Curtains of unbleached muslin bound with blue gingham were hung and when the work was finished and all the equipment in its place, I could hardly believe it was my kitchen and that so much difference could be brought about with such little work and the expenditure of only twenty-five dollars."

The following plan for a kitchen was sent in by a Home Demonstration Club member of Wayne County: "I had been wanting a sink for ever so

long as I had become tired of opening doors with a pan or pail of water in my hand, so one day I said to my husband, 'Are you busy?' And he answered, 'Not so very. Why?' 'Well, then, will you empty this pan of slop?' My husband took the pan but when he reached the first door he began to experience some difficulty. He managed to open the door after much worry, but his trouble wasn't over. Another door was just beyond and of course by this time things were not taken very calmly. Words expressing his feelings ought not to be repeated but several days later when my husband returned from town he had all the things necessary for installing a sink."

NEGRO WORK

Four Negro Agents reported work in Home Management. The Wayne Agent reported the most outstanding work, as follows: "In January 1926 we put on a kitchen improvement drive to close in January 1927. Thirty-two kitchens were improved. Two installed running water and three put water on the porch at the kitchen door. Two were painted with light colored paint, grey for one and the others buff and cream. All walls were cleaned, most floors were covered, new doors and windows were put in for light and convenience, and porches were screened.

"Stoves were rearranged so that light might fall directly on the cooking surface. Three kitchen cabinets were built in, others were painted the color of the walls, tables were raised to the proper height and shelves were put over them. Old cooking utensils were scrubbed and rubbed, new ones were added, and all grouped for convenience. Useless articles were discarded and garbage pails were put outside in the yard and covered. Each kitchen has its high stool. The top of a cheese box with legs makes a convenient stool. In one kitchen all furniture which may have to be moved for cleaning or other purposes has casters, wood boxes have been raised to the height of the