

HOME POULTRY

Number of counties giving instructions.....		32
Number of clubs or groups receiving instruction.....	Women	141
	Juniors	51
Number members enrolled.....	Women	2,551
	Girls	1,099
Number completing.....	Women	1,532
	Girls	403
Number method demonstrations given.....		319
Number result demonstrations started or under way...	Women...	1,193
	Girls..	374
Number result demonstration completed or carried through the year.....	Women	1,084
	Girls	342
Number birds in result demonstration.....	Women	81,441
	Girls	4,238
Number individuals culling flocks first time.....	Women	622
	Girls	35
Number homes feeding better-balanced poultry rations.....		713
Number individuals assisted in obtaining standard bred eggs.....	Women	283
	Girls	154
Number homes assisted in obtaining standard bred cockerels.....		194
Number individuals adopting improved practices in early hatching and chick rearing this year.....	Women	693
	Girls	199
Number homes directly assisted in increasing the family income.....		1,847
Number homes controlling poultry insects for first time.....		594
Total number different homes adopting improved practices relative to the home poultry work.....		1,572

Poultry work was done by the home demonstration agents in thirty-two counties in North Carolina in 1927. In some counties the home agent takes charge of the poultry work in cooperation with the poultry specialist or his assistant. In others it is a cooperative project between the home and farm agents.

The method of presentation has been through organized women's clubs, girls' clubs, intensive county-wide meetings and short courses of from one day to two weeks duration, poultry associations, poultry show, fairs, bulletins, circulars and newspapers.

The Craven County agent says, "Home poultry is one of Craven's best investments or will be when people get a perspective of this successful marketing. An increase in production and an outlet for surplus poultry has brought incalculable good to farm families. The money came as a blessing." Poultry production increased the family income in 1847 homes and it has increased in quantity and improved in quality. The importance of emphasizing this project from both a nutritive standpoint and as an incoming earning project has been well illustrated in all communities doing poultry work.

The county federations of clubs have sponsored the poultry work in Cumberland and Beaufort counties. In Cumberland the first county federation meeting of the year was for the promotion of the poultry industry. The federation in Beaufort County pledged itself to furnish a car of spring broilers for shipment. One meeting was held in each of the fourteen women's clubs in January as a part of the live-at-home program planned for the year. Some of the features stressed were; preparation for the new poultry year, better housing, cleanliness and sanitation, early hatching, using January and February chicks for the market, saving March and April hatched pullets for

winter layers and for breeding purposes and the proper feeding and growing of feed-stuff.

The Johnston County home agent says, "Fourteen attended the poultry short course held at Goldsboro and enthusiasm was running high after their return. More attention was paid to the care of poultry than ever before. During the snowy month of March seventy-three barred rocks belonging to Mrs. T. W. Ives, Smithfield, N. F. D. produced one thousand and forty-eight eggs, an average of twenty-five and one-third eggs. The flock of Rhode Island Reds belonging to Mrs. W. T. Wilson of Wilson Mills averaged twenty-four and three-fourths eggs. The Kiwanis Club of Smithfield gave one hundred dollars to be used as a revolving fund to buy pure bred eggs for junior club members." And civic organizations in ten other counties cooperated with the agents in securing eggs or baby chicks for club members.

The National Bank of Elizabeth City offered to furnish all junior club members with twenty-five pure bred baby chicks. At the end of the year the four dollars which was the cost of the chicks could be paid in or two six months' old chickens could be returned. Twenty-five birds in the demonstration flocks managed by these girls in which a profit of three hundred and ninety-one dollars and fourteen cents was made.

The flocks kept by sixty women poultry club members of Pasquotank was typical of the home flocks of the State. A profit of two thousand and seven hundred and thirty-eight dollars and two cents was realized from four thousand, seven hundred and ninety-eight birds, besides the large quantity of eggs and chickens consumed by the owners at home.

Mrs. S. A. Savage of Bladen Springs, Bladen County, says, "At the

beginning of the year we had one hundred and six hens. We sold eggs in the fall and winter, then we took the laying mash away from them to promote broodiness and they soon began to sit. From February to April 10th we set every available hen. The care the setting hen receives has much to do with the hatch. I make a round in the morning to see if they are o.k. and one in the afternoon to feed and water them. I shall not go into the care of the baby chicks in detail. I keep them in floored pens and off of the cold damp ground. On sunny days they stay out in the sun where sprouted oats and rye are plentiful. If we have made a success I feel that 50 per cent is due to our marketing method. We sell all our poultry dressed. For ten days before poultry is to be sold fowls are put in the fattening pen and fed a fattening ration and all the sour milk they will drink. We dress them and if weather is warm they are packed in ice. We are very careful to deliver them in good shape. It is not enough that we be satisfied--we must please our customers, thereby holding and enlarging our trade.

"On hand at beginning of year.....	106 hens
Culled out and sold--84 hens--Val.....	\$129.82
Home consumption.....	12 hens
Kept.....	10 hens
Friers raised--413--Val.....	230.20
"    sold--228.....	
Pullets kept.....	100
Home consumption.....	85 friers
Eggs sold--150 doz.--Val.....	57.11
Home consumption--91 doz.--Val.....	
Turkeys sold--8--Val.....	<u>30.60</u>

\$447.73

We raise practically all food required to feed flock on farm. Home consumption more than balances cash spent for feed. We consider figures listed as net profit."

The first poultry show held in Richmond County was reported by Mrs. Anna Lea Harris, home agent, as follows:

"One hundred eighty-nine birds were exhibited and as this was the first show of its kind in the county we were very much pleased. The pullets which the boys and girls returned to the Hamlet Kiwanis Club for the eggs given in the spring before were auctioned off at this time averaging \$1.79 each. The Kiwanis Club sponsored this show and the merchants of the town gave the prizes. One boy who was supposed to have returned three pullets only raised two, so he returned them and offered one of his nine cockerals for the other pullet; but the Kiwanians would not take it. He exhibited his cockerals and won three prizes--a drinking fountain, a mash feeder, and a cap. Then the auctioneer sold five of his cockerals for him reserving the best for the boy's use. With this money he was able to buy four pullets from another flock and still have some money left to help buy wire for a pen. With the chickens he has raised this year he has a good start for a standard bred flock."

The marketing end is through curb market, parcel post shipments and car lot shipments. This is reported in detail under marketing. Car lot shipments of poultry, a cooperative project, has given impetus to poultry production more than has any other method of marketing. The Robeson County agent reports 6153 pounds of poultry shipped out of the county, bringing in a return of \$15,961.18. The Sampson County agent says that \$16,879.40 was added to the income of her people by the car lot shipment of poultry. These are typical examples

of the work of the home and farm agents in shipping poultry. While the acquiring of money is not the ultimate goal, it has made it possible for the rural woman to supply herself with many comforts and luxuries that she could never have hoped to attain without it, and each improvement made in a home makes farm life more satisfactory and tends to raise the standard of living in our State. The Anson County agent sums up the result of poultry work in a most convincing way:

"Poultry has become one of Anson County's best paying crops from a food and a financial standpoint. We now have around one hundred and seventy-five improved poultry houses and over two hundred brooders. In early spring about fifty thousand baby chicks were purchased and hatched at home.

"We have found that it is wise for several families in the same community to grow the same variety of chickens that the eggs may be set cooperatively. The home hatched chicks proved to be stronger than those shipped a long distance.

"We have made nine car lot shipments which has enabled the women to dispose of their early broilers and also their culls. We supplied our regular customers all winter with dressed fowls. The growing of turkeys has become a valuable industry in the county; since we have established outside markets paying good prices the turkeys are proving to be a fine source of income.

"The income from poultry products supplies a need that no other crop can do. School books, the greater part of the children's clothes, the most of the furniture, and all of the extra comforts around the house in the country are purchased with 'chicken money'.

At the Curb Market in Wadesboro we make a specialty of fresh

eggs, broilers and dressed hens. Coming for these items, the town people often see and buy other articles they had not intended at first to buy."

Probably one of the most satisfactory results of growing more poultry has been the increase in the consumption of poultry products among the rural people. They now have enough eggs and chickens both to sell and to eat and we find them using more and more on their tables.

Growing poultry adds to the charm of the farm home, the girls and boys like the work, the visitor finds it most interesting to go out into a flock of pure bred poultry and the whole farm takes on a different atmosphere of life and prosperity.