

III. Evaluation of Accomplishments as A Supervisor

Outlook and Recommendations

In evaluating the accomplishments of home demonstration and girls' 4-H club work in 1948, we find that farm families have been more concerned with better rural living. And better rural living is so important because approximately 39% of the people in the state live on farms. Rural people are realizing that better home living, more educational opportunities, better recreation and better health help to develop better citizens. Farm families have had a higher income and have some savings, but they have also had economic difficulties. We have a better balance between supplies and demand, but clothing, house furnishings and equipment are still high in price and beyond the reach of many families. In their efforts to improve rural living, more requests for assistance have been made for improving facilities for education, recreation and health. Extension's early emphasis was on immediate problems of the farm and home, but today we recognize that rural people are faced with economic problems and want information about them and about happier family living. The home demonstration and girls' 4-H club program has attempted to meet this situation in working towards the goal of better rural living.

We have continued to train and use local leaders in the overall Extension program. During the year they have assisted in the program by holding four meetings at intervals during the year. This made it possible for the home demonstration agent to work with families in unorganized communities, thereby extending her services to areas which otherwise would not have been reached.

We are continuing to expand our effectiveness by working with organized groups and other agencies with whom we have had excellent relations. Through the good reading program, sponsored jointly by the State Library Commission and Extension, club women have widened their horizon and vision by reading and

discussing before their clubs, hundreds of books, fiction and non-fiction. The State Recreation Committee has cooperated with Extension in providing recreation materials for home demonstration and 4-H club groups and in holding recreation training schools for agents and leaders.

In working with the State and County Public Health Departments, there has developed a better understanding of the rural health situation and methods for improvement through group action. The health program sponsored jointly by the Public Health Department and Extension Service was begun in 1946. It was carried throughout the state and was concerned with problems of food, sanitation and housing. Results accomplished showed marked improvement and much interest on the part of rural people. During 1948 each county has continued in its program the work already begun and also worked more intensely on certain aspects of health most needed. Some of these were control of rodents, household pests and insects; water supply and drainage and more use of vitamin C in the diet.

The primary function of home demonstration and 4-H club work is education. If we are to have a well-balanced educational program in the future we need to make some adjustments in the distribution of our efforts. We must recognize that people are agriculture's most valuable resource and we want to work with people as such, rather than individual problems. With the ever changing conditions and new scientific information, there will be continuous changes in the home with new opportunities and new problems for the homemaker. There will be a need for more knowledge of the use of equipment for efficient rural living.

Some of the trends with which we will be concerned in the future are the need for educational assistance in wise spending, emphasis on farm and home planning, the continued need for better rural health and rural educational services, leadership development and community organization.

We have a growing responsibility and if we are to serve all the farm people of the state, we need to expand our state and county staffs to improve ourselves professionally and to develop more efficient methods of doing the job.

SUPPLEMENT ATTACHED

Subject matter trends prepared by specialists for Program Planning Conferences.

Agents tour to Washington.

Application for position as Home Demonstration Agent.

Advanced Farm and Home Leaflets.