

Annual Report - 1914

GIRLS' CANNING CLUBS, NORTH CAROLINA

Jane S. McKimmon

State Agent in Home Demonstration Work

REPORT OF GIRLS' CANNING CLUBS, NORTH CAROLINA

DECEMBER 1913 to DECEMBER 1914

Jane S. McKimmon, State Agent in Home Demonstration Work

There were organized in North Carolina for Canning Club work from December 1913, to December 1914, 32 counties with an enrollment of 1,500 members, an increase of 18 counties and 1,100 members over the previous year. These members are divided into 144 clubs with 78 supervisors. Each county has its chief agent, and where there are many clubs in a county this agent has subagents to assist in supervising members and getting standards during the canning season. In two widely organized counties we have as many as eight agents each. In others, five or less.

Thirty of the counties have sent in to me their reports for the year which state that 209,686 No. 3 tin cans, and 49,405 glass jars of tomatoes, string beans, peaches, berries, and all other edible products of the farm have been produced.

Total value	\$35,361.50
Cost	9,425.76
Profit	25,935.74
Average cost per member	11.44
Average profit per member	31.82

One club of fifteen members, supervised by Mrs. Ross of Alamance County put up 10,682 No. 3 tin cans, 1,640 glass jars, and 100 gallons of vinegar, and sold \$55 worth of fresh vegetables. These things represent \$1,563 in cash values, cost, \$360, profits, \$1,196, or \$86.40 profit per girl. One hundred per cent of the members enrolled in this club reported the work done.

Mrs. Lamb, of Sampson County—a county just started in the work last spring, reports a club of nine members filling 5,975 No. 3 tin cans, and 102 glass jars with vegetables, fruits, and juices, and selling \$2 worth of fresh vegetables.

Total money value	\$625.00
Cost	162.00
Profit	463.00
Profit per member	51.45

Eighty-two per cent of the members enrolled reported. We have many other clubs making almost as good records.

Alamance County, which has been in the work three years, reports the greatest number of cans and jars filled.

Number filled	55,165	
Sold fresh		\$ 226.25
Money value		7,039.65
Cost		1,771.25
Profits		5,268.45

Seventy-five per cent of the members enrolled in this county reported. Miss Edna Reinhardt, who has seven sub-agents as assistants is the chief agent in the county.

Anson County with Mrs. Redfearn as chief agent, assisted by three supervisors, has produced in

Tin and glass jars	38,540
Sold fresh	\$162.16
Money value	5,016.20
Cost	1,531.80
Profits	3,884.40

This county had an enrollment of 63 girls, and of these 60, or 96%, reported. They have done remarkable work in glass, sending several hundred dollars worth of shipments North. Austin Nichols, one of the largest wholesale fancy grocers in the United States, has ordered a carload of preserves from picked girls under Mrs. Redfearn's supervision after seeing a display of their beautiful packs.

Mrs. Capehart of Granville, and Mrs. Bayne of Cumberland County have also had their selected girls do beautiful glass packs for the northern markets.

We have bent every effort this year toward teaching commercial packing, and out of the twenty-five counties exhibiting at the State Fair, only one failed to show its training in that particular. We were very proud of the uniformly good packs that these counties sent in, and felt much complimented that the Washington office should have selected one dozen glass jars to be photographed for a bulletin as examples of fine standard commercial packs. At the State Fair there were displayed 1,104 glass jars of fruits and vegetables, and two large pyramids of tins.

While in New York I examined the pack of goods sold by Park & Tilford, and found our girls' packs to compare most favorably.

Our markets are good, and most of the counties are selling at home.

Each county supervisor has been growing gradually into a consultant house-keeper for the county; promoting home economics in the country schools by her small cooking clubs, giving instruction in butter-making, marketing farm produce, grading and packing eggs, impressing the gospel of sanitation, and promoting "get-together-clubs."

If we had funds to employ these agents for the whole year, in my opinion there could be found no more efficient means of organizing the country women for better living.

It is almost impossible to say how many miles have been covered by our different county agents in their trips to and fro, but those of us who have gone from county to county, and in my case, sometimes from state to state, have covered in the aggregate 21,528 miles. Miss Scott, my assistant has traveled 9,176 miles while visiting counties to instruct the agents and give demonstrations of canning in every organized county. Eight months of time have been spent by her in almost constant travel, and she has achieved most satisfactory results. Miss Evans, second field agent, employed two months in summer to assist in instructing, traveled 2,700 miles.

I have to record 9,652 miles traveled partly in North Carolina and partly in other states, being sent out either to instruct, be instructed, or to make talks in New York, Washington, Pittsburgh, Cleveland, Louisville, Frankfort and Lexington. Columbia University financed my trip to Teachers' College, and asked for a talk on the plan of organization and our methods of work. The Home Economics Department of Cornell University has asked that such a talk be given there

also. We feel proud that these universities, which are foremost in extension work, should be interested in our girls and the results they have achieved.

In our office, we have in the last six months written and numbered 3,230 personal letters, making 6,460 per year, and have sent out 46,800 circular letters.

We have added eleven new counties to our organization for 1915, and have twenty-seven counties which have applied, on our Waiting list, which we will admit into the organization as soon as we can finance the work.

To carry on the testing of recipes,--which by the way is done with each recipe before it is given to the girls--and for the the tests in canning it is necessary that we have a small laboratory simply equipped for the purpose. This will cost very little and I hope wittl be given us.

This work has brought in such fine financial returns that in these times of depression it would seem the part of wisdom to put as much into it as possible. Our people are beginning to see that at all times whole-some food is a marketable commodity, and that the surplus on their farms may be turned into a substantial income.

Last year our appropriation from State, Federal, and County sources amounted to about \$15,000. We have to record in actual profits \$25,935.74.

COUNTIES	GIRLS REPORTING	TINS AND GLASS	SOLD FRESH	MONEY VALUE	COST	PROFIT
Alamance	90	55,165	\$226.25	\$7,039.65	\$1,771.20	\$5,268.45
Anson	60	38,540	162.16	5,016.20	1,531.80	3,484.40
Buncombe	24	3,407	56.00	320.70	224.96	95.04
Chatham	2	500	-----	110.10	33.00	77.10
Catawba	20	8,007	60.76	1,215.70	275.00	940.70
Cherokee	14	980	-----	200.00	128.80	71.20
Cleveland	38	9,294	19.90	1,399.50	349.60	1,049.90
Craven	5	1,000	-----	105.00	46.00	59.00
Cumberland	7	2,490	-----	448.14	64.40	383.74
Durham	15	4,000	198.00	475.00	138.00	337.00
Edgecombe	27	8,225	215.40	1,147.60	248.40	899.20
Forsyth	23	3,644	-----	610.00	257.60	352.40
Franklin	20	5,500	25.00	650.00	184.00	466.00
Granville	15	1,894	-----	340.00	138.00	202.00
Iredell	69	15,215	137.25	2,147.00	634.80	1,512.20
Johnston	29	5,010	75.00	802.50	225.00	577.50
Madison	43	8,289	10.00	1,382.00	395.60	986.40
McDowell	6	1,858	-----	215.80	52.20	160.60
Mecklenburg	74	6,859	1,105.50	2,230.50	680.80	1,549.70
Moore	28	9,568	25.00	1,077.30	257.60	819.70
New Hanover	8	4,500	122.00	572.00	161.00	411.00
Northampton	11	3,100	20.00	345.00	101.00	244.00
Randolph	20	4,061	36.34	578.34	184.00	394.34
Rowan	12	1,144	219.67	347.87	100.40	247.47
Richmond	17	9,461	91.92	1,351.50	156.40	1,195.10
Sampson	42	20,587	56.50	2,248.80	386.40	1,862.40
Vance	9	2,900	25.00	312.40	82.80	229.60
Wake	20	7,120	30.00	841.80	184.00	557.80
Warren	24	7,475	52.00	808.10	220.80	587.30
Wilkes	53	13,000	50.00	1,350.00	487.60	862.40
TOTALS	830	259,091	\$3,019.65	\$35,688.50	\$9,704.16	\$25,983.64

A belated report from Pender County records 6,005 containers filled.

Guilford County failed to send in report.

The cost stated is exclusive of girls' labor. It was almost impossible to get anything like a correct estimate of the time consumed in canning and gardening. We are working on a plan to try and accomplish this next year.