

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, BUREAU OF HOME ECONOMICS, WASHINGTON, D. C.

ANNUAL NARRATIVE REPORT

OF

EDGECOMBE COUNTY

HOME DEMONSTRATION WORK

BY

HAZEL S. PARKER, AGENT

DECEMBER 1, 1945-----NOVEMBER 30, 1946

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, BUREAU OF HOME ECONOMICS, WASHINGTON, D. C.



EDGCOMBE COUNTY

- ▲ No. Home Dem. Clubs — 13
- " " " " members — 376
- ▲ .1 Home Dem. club house.

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INTRODUCTION

Edgecombe county one of the largest counties in the State, has a population that is 60% Negro. The rate of tenancy is very high. In some neighborhoods the entire population works by day. This condition is probably responsible for the constant moving from neighborhood to neighborhood. On some farms in the county tenants have lived with one landlord so long he has a feeling of ownership. There is a general feeling of friendliness among both races.

The percentage of Negro Landowners is naturally low. There are 1350 Negro operators, 97 full owners, 19 part owners.

In spite of any handicaps the Extension Program moves ahead. This is due in part to the fine relationship among Extension workers of both races.

The county commissioners have equipped the Negro Home agent's office at a cost of \$ 700.00. This includes an electric stove, sink and running water cabinets and decorating laboratory also equipment for demonstration purposes. The chairman, Mr. J. W. Forbes shows his interest by occasional visits to the office.

Cooperation local business firms continues. The Agricultural workers council, composed of all agencies in the Agricultural field, has not held its meetings as regular this year due to extra heavy programs of workers.

A step forward this year is the addition of an assistant Negro home agent. This addition was made possible because of the Farm and Home Improvement program being conducted in the county. The county gave a small increase in salary this year. The local paper gives front page publicity to articles sent in for publication on Extension Program.

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ORGANIZATION

Number of Home Demonstration Clubs-----	13
▪ Women Enrolled-----	376
Bellamy-----	32
Coakley-----	30
Dixon-----	32
Draughn-----	24
Harry Knight-----	32
Keech-----	25
Kingsboro-----	26
Pittman Grove-----	25
Providence-----	30
Sharpsburg-----	36
Wells and Lancaster-----	25
Wimberly-----	28
Willow Grove-----	31

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ORGANIZATION-COUNTY COUNCIL

Number of meetings held this year----- 3
 Number of members attending----- 210

The council has had one of its best years. The agent felt that if for no other reason than the fact that for the first time in our work the president of the council was well informed enough to come in and hold a two hour planning meeting in preparation for the January meeting. She had things to suggest. It was from her suggestions that the program was planned

The January meeting was used as a planning meeting. Goals were set for 1946. The new program was presented to the women. The home agent trained club officers so each might be able to do a better job. Good results were noted.

Some activities that were planned and sponsored by the county council are:

- (a) Member ship drive-----46 new club members
- (b) Present a pressure canner to the best club in the county for the year. (Formerly given by home agent)
- (c) Decided each club should score themselves for the year.
- (d) Sponsored-National Food Preparation Week

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ORGANIZATION-COUNTY COUNCIL

- (e) Organized the clean-up campaign
- (f) Raised its fee from \$ 2.00 to \$ 6.00 per year
- (g) Met its State obligations of \$ 2.50 federation fee and paid delegates expense to the meeting.
- (h) Decided to have a 4-H club leader in each Home Demonstration club
- (i) Planned and sponsored Achievement Day program paying of all expenses attached

In the October meeting 1946 the council group decided to broaden or enlarge its membership by bringing in county project leaders and inviting as many representatives as possible in the county to attend its meetings. It is felt that all agencies need to know what the program is and how it is being carried out.

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ORGANIZATION-FIFTH ANNUAL ACHIEVEMENT DAY

Home Demonstration clubs of Edgecombe County held their fifth annual Achievement Day program in the Pattillo High School November 11, 1946 at 8:00 o'clock.

This year marked the first attempt to have the meeting at night and also to have home demonstration clubs alone. Heretofore it has proven confusing to have more than one group participate in one achievement event. The agent feels that the women got more enjoyment out of their program this way.

The theme for the program was centered around work done on the kitchen project. Miss Alice Hines of the Sharpsburg club gave a demonstration on, "Convenient Working Heights in Kitchen". The women modeled "Correct Kitchen Attire" in the dress revue. Kitchen curtains were exhibited with the food conservation exhibits in the homeagent office.

All of the features were not only educational but were held in preparation for the annual District Federation Meeting.

Blue, Red and White ribbons were made up for awards. Each exhibit carried three placings. In each first place these winners were to represent the county at the district meeting.

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ORGANIZATION-FIFTH ANNUAL ACHIEVEMENT DAY

Winners were as follows:

Kitchen Curtains- First, Mrs. Lucy Phillips-Sharpsburg club
Second, Mrs. Margeret Taylor, Sharpsburg club
Third, Mrs. Lillie Graham, Providenc

Canning Contest-First, peaches-Mrs. Mary Tucker, Kingsboro
Second, " Mrs. Mittie Throne, Sharpsburg
Third, " Mrs. Margeret Taylor, Sharpsburg

Dress Revue-Dresses, first, Mrs. Lucy Phillips, Sharpsburg
Coveralls, first, Mrs. Mammie Hart, Kingsboro
Aprons, first, Mrs. Bessie Parker, Sharpsburg

Rev. Robert McNair of the white Episcopal church delivered the address.

Mrs. Mary Tucker, president of the county council presided and extended greetings.

About 125 attended the event.

The Sharpsburg club was recognized as the best club for 1946 and will receive the pressure canner presented by the county council.

All ten year club members were honored.

All club members making perfect attendance redords for 1946 were recognized.

Rev. U. S. Johnson, pastor of the A. M. E. Zion Church was present, offered the invocation. Rev. M. M. Weston of the Negro Episcopal church presented the speaker.

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ORGANIZATION-FIFTH ANNUAL ACHIEVEMENT DAY

Immediately following the program everyone visited the exhibits in the courthouse annex building.

15 pairs of curtains exhibited

55 jars of peaches, beans and meat

The exhibits were open to the public in the home agent's office November 11.

We were grateful to the editor of the Daily Southerner for front page publicity on the Achievement Day program.

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ORGANIZATION-DISTRICT FEDERATION MEETING

A stronger county council has resulted in more interest in the District Federation Meeting.

The District Federation Meeting for all counties of the north-eastern district was held this year in Ahsokie, N. C.

The interest in the years' meeting could probably be traced to the exhibit and program features. The women were interested in representing the county in all events, curtain contest, dress revue, and canning contest.

In Edgecombe County the Annual Achievement program events tied right in with the events of the district meeting; this really served to stimulate interest. Twenty-one attended the meeting from Edgecombe County.

The following blue ribbons were won by club women: The three pair of kitchen curtains entered won blue ribbons. Mrs. Mary Tucker, Kingsboro club won a red ribbon or second place on peaches. Mrs. Beasie Parker, Sharpsburg club won a blue ribbon on her work apron and Mrs. Lucy Phillips also of Sharpsburg won blue ribbon on her house dress.

The Federation group accepted the invitation to go to Warrenton in 1947. Over 500 club women attended the meeting this year.

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COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

(Libraries)

The county council for several years has wanted to start a reading program in the county for the people. This was realized this year when members of the Library Commission called in persons representing different departments working with rural people.

\$ 300.00 was being put in new books. \$ 100.00 being put down for a bookmobile for Negroes. We have a very nice community library in Tarboro serving the people of Tarboro but had not been used by farm families.

The home agent was asked to select a librarian in as many communities as possible to be responsible for keeping and distributing books. As soon as the librarian felt that the kit of books she had on hand had been well used she might return some and get a fresh supply. These books are being read by 4-H club members and adults in the following neighborhoods thus far: Kingsboro, Providence, Willow Grove, Leggett, Roberson, Lawrence and Acorn Hill. We hope through the reading program to prove the need for a bookmobile to serve all of Edgecombe County.

Mrs. Mary Bullock, Providence community said to the home agent when she received her books, "I think it will be a fine thing for these boys and girls to know when they finish their work on Friday they have somewhere to go for something nice to read."

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COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

(Recreation)

Planned Recreation was the project for the month of August. Though busy club women planned for special recreation days. Fishing is one of the special sports enjoyed by both young and old so in planning this year everyone wanted a fishing party.

Best of the recreation meetings held was that of the Sharpsburg home demonstration club. The club women had made sandwiches, cookies and packed bottled drinks in ice so when refreshment time came these were nice and cold.

Pictures were made of the group in action fishing and eating. Thirty-eight club members and a few friends attended. Other clubs holding a special meeting were: Kingsboro, Providence, Willow Grove.

The Dixon club entertained the husbands at a lovely plate supper. The women all met at the home of the president, Mrs. Goffan Whitaker to prepare baked ham, chicken salad, ice cream and cake. One-hundred attended this affair that was well planned and carried out. Games and songs were enjoyed by all.

Club House

The Sharpsburg Home Demonstration club has this year completed the only Negro club house in Edgecombe county. The future plan is for an additional room to be used for the kitchen. This year the young people in the community have spent many enjoyable hours as the club house afforded a place for them to meet.

Most of the meetings of the community including church suppers are held here as the club house is located on the lot next to the church.

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COOPERATION WITH OTHER AGENCIES AND ORGANIZATIONS

Red Cross

The Negro home agent enjoyed contact and requests to work with the Red Cross. This year the appointment as County Chairman to sponsor the Junior Red Cross work with Negro boys and girls was accepted. This promises to be very interesting work.

Curtains were made by Negro Agents for the Red Cross office.

State Library Commission

Working with this group has meant circulating books to rural families through our local libraries.

The Braswell Farms (Landlord Tenant Program)

Answered a request to speak to 100 families on the subject of "What We Earn and How We Spend It."

Other Counties (Extension Service)

A request from the District Agent to speak to the women on the 1947 program of work at the occasion of the Annual Achievement Day Program. *(Pitt County)*

HOME DEMONSTRATION CLUBS

ACHIEVEMENT DAY

OCTOBER 5th, 1946

Agricultural Building - Greenville, N.C.

PROGRAM

SONG....."Swing Low Sweet Chariot"

INVOCATION..... Mr. D. D. DuPree,
Negro County Farm Agent.

COLLECT OF CLUB WOMEN OF AMERICA

SONG....."Brigthen The Corner Where You Are"
State Club Song

REMARKS.....Mrs. Josephine Feaves
President of County Council -H.D.C.

POEM....."The Home Demonstration Way"
Mrs. Mattie Dixon -Grifton H.D.C.

DRESS REVUE.....Club Members

SPEAKERS.....Mrs. Hazel S.Parker -Home Agent - Tarboro, N. C.
Mr. H.B.Suggs - Supervision of Pitt County
Schools.

REMARKS & AWARDING OF PRIZES.....Miss Helen T. Wade
Negro Home Agent - Wilson, N.C.

RECOGNITION OF MERIT AND EXHIBIT...Mrs. Amelia S. Capehart,
Negro Home Dem. Agent.

INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS ---

JUDGES: Miss Helen T. Wade || Mrs. H.T.Tucker
Wilson, N.C. || Washington, N.C.

ANNOUNCEMENTS-----

ADJOURN-----

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MARKETING

Number of curb markets in county----- 2

This report includes results of the Tarboro Farm and Home Curb Market, located in Tarboro, N. C. This market was organized in May 1943. There are twenty sellers on this market. Seven of the women sellers are home demonstration club members. This fact is very much evidenced by the quality of products brought to market and the manner of displaying them.

The amount of produce sold on the Tarboro Farm and Home Curb Market for 1946---\$ 3,640.41.

Vegetables--\$	241.16	Butter----\$	326.04	Bread---\$.97
Poultry----	1056.90	Meats----	1204.89	Cake-----	0
Eggs-----	645.60	Fruits & Berries--	60.24	Flowers---	23.42

Of the total twenty sellers on the market--an average of eight sellers per selling day was maintained.

The curb market building is about 20 x 30 feet. Frame building unsealed. This building is temporary, in fact, was erected by the sellers themselves to be used for the duration of the war.

We do have a donation of \$ 2,000.00 that is to be used to erect a permanent market building with modern conveniences in the near future. Health certificates are required for all sellers and is posted on the wall in stall of seller. Women are asked to wear cotton clothes and to handle food as sanitary as possible.

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MARKETING

(CONTINUED)

The people of Tarboro have really supported the curb market as it has been a source of many items that have been scarce in the local markets. Prices have also been reasonable.

Farm people especially sellers on the market have been high in their praise of what the market means to them.

Mrs. Davis, Rt. 1, Pinetops says all of her shares in the local credit union have been purchased with her curb market money.

Mrs. Margeret Taylor and Lucy Phillips of Rt. 2, Rocky Mount are saving money to buy an electric refrigerator.

Mrs. Mattie Harrison says her market money still supplies the family with the few items they don't raise on farm or that the family uses. She is able to buy most of the clothes for the small children.

Mrs. Smith, Rt. 1, Pinetops says, "This is the only way I can make some extra spending money for myself." Mrs. Smith is a cripple.

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PROJECT ACTIVITIES AND RESULTS

(Food Conservation-Canning)

Number of women enrolled-----	337
" " " completing-----	297
" " families assisted-----	310
" " canning plans made-----	350
" " " " filled-----	105
Total number of containers filled-----	95,070
Fruits-----	65,020
Vegetables-----	23,000
Meats-----	5,050

Each year the amount of foods conserved by Home Demonstration Club women has increased. This year reports show figures that top any previous year.

The increase in amount of food conserved this year has been due to fact that more women have made use of community canners, using tin cans. This has also helped decrease spoilage among the less experienced canners.

The February club meeting is always used by the home agent to have leaders in food conservation get the women thinking about their canning needs. We make canning plans, suggest on buying equipment and a general discussion as to what our major problems are.

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FOOD CONSERVATION-CANNING (CONTINUED)

This year we decided on the following:

- (a) More training for leaders-so they might reach more people
- (b) Buy more pressure canners
- (c) Produce more vegetables for canning. (Come in to avoid peak labor season)
- (d) The women who attended the District Federation and saw the exhibits and heard Mrs. Mary L. Mc Allister, Extension Specialist in Food Conservation discuss the canned products thought, "We Needed to Can Better Quality Products."
- (e) We still needed to put more food on our shelves.
- (f) A great need for improved storage for canned foods as a result of the above planning:
 - (1) Ten new pressure canners were bought by individual families.
 - (2) More canning of vegetables was done from early gardens.
 - (3) Judging and discussing a good jar of string beans, meats and peaches was done in the June meeting. This helped with improved standards in canning.

We won second place on canned peaches at the District Federation meeting this year.

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FOOD CONSERVATION-CANNING (CONTINUED)

The canned products exhibited at the county Achievement Day were far superior this year to those of last year.

In 1945 the lesson on food spoilage revealed the fact that too many women were attempting to can the non-acid and especially the starchy vegetables without using the steam pressure canners. This lesson resulted in fewer losses in 1946 as more women made use of steam pressure canners and community canners.

An incident that happened in an urban home this summer makes one realize it is often the more simple things that cause loss of canned foods. One family had canned a bushel of peaches. Using the vacuum sealed type lids they had failed to follow the directions and had boiled the lids, losing the sealing compositions. A visit to the office of the home agent revealed this fact so the agent was able to encourage that family to can again. They were willing and did after getting some more information.

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PROJECT ACTIVITIES-RESULTS

FOOD CONSERVATION

(Improved Storage for Canned Foods)

A definite part of the food conservation plan was to provide and improve storage in the various homes of club members.

Women in Edgecombe county would do a much better job of canning if they had better storage facilities. They are weary of "making boxes that have to be put under the bed."

Home visits revealed good spaces in kitchen shelves and pantries that could be made usable with a little time and in many cases no expenses.

Our storage project began this year will be a long time project but the following families have made definite accomplishments along this line of work: Mrs. Margert Taylor, Rt. 1, Box 214, Rocky Mount-Better shelves, light, arrangement of stored foods; Mrs. Ann Wiggins, Rt. 2, Rocky Mount, pantry sealed, cleaned windows, supplies arranged; Mrs. Martha Hart, Rt. 2, Box 389, Rocky Mount, new pantry, plastered, shelves, arranged; Mrs. Mammie L. Hart, shelves put in kitchen; Mrs. Katie Horne, Rt. 2, Box 367, shelves; Mrs. Marie Bullock, pantry sealed, cleaned and arranged; Mrs. Emma Barnes, plans made for improvement to be carried out early in year; Mrs. Lillie Graham, Rt. 3, Box 155, Tarboro, improved shelves for storage; Mrs. Lucy Phillips, Rt. 1, Sharpsburg, shelves for kitchen.

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PROJECT ACTIVITIES AND RESULTS

FOOD CONSERVATION

(Work of Leaders)

Number of food conservation leaders----- 26

Food Conservation leaders are to be commended for the assistance given club and non-club members in 1946.

A statement under the heading of canning showed some definite plans made by leaders.

Seventy-two non-club members were given assistance this year. 18 by home agent-canning, drying fruits. 54 by leaders-canning fruits, vegetables and meats.

The best report coming into the office was that of Mrs. Margeret Taylor, Rt. 2, Box 214, Rocky Mount. Mrs. Taylor is from the Sharpsburg club. She assisted club and non-club women with the canning of 255 quarts of fruits and vegetables. 311 quarts were canned for her family with the greatest variety of any club member in the county. Her home was open to everyone in the club and out to come for help with the canning of their food.

She not only cans variety but quality. All of the food for the county Achievement Day was brought in by Mrs. Taylor for her club, as so many of the women are unable to bring in their products.

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PROJECT ACTIVITIES AND RESULTS

Clothing-Demonstrations

- (a) Cleaning and Adjusting Sewing Machines
- (b) Shoes-Feet

The demonstration on cleaning and adjusting the sewing machine was better attended and created more interest than any other demonstration given during the year. Eleven clubs with an attendance of 241 women saw this demonstration during the month of May.

This demonstration was given by the agent. Mrs. Emma Barnes, Rt. 2, Box 367, Rocky Mount, said, "I started not to make the meeting today and I wouldn't have missed this demonstration for anything."

At Sharpsburg, the women said, "Mrs. Parker I didn't know you could go inside the sewing machine."

In giving the demonstration the agent was careful to go over each part of the machine, letting the women name and locate the parts. As parts were removed for cleaning special care was exercised in putting them in the cleaning pan so as to be able to replace them without trouble or losing them.

It was necessary to use the entire meeting for this demonstration but it was well worth it.

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PROJECT ACTIVITIES AND RESULTS

Clothing-Demonstrations (Continued)

Reports that came in on how machines were cleaned reminded me of a previous lesson in home management on cleaning of the kitchen stove. The women just did not know how to care for these machines. At least 75% of the women have cleaned their machines. 50% of these women knew very little about keeping their stitches regulated. Regulating stitches was called to their attention again at the October 10, clothing school on "House Dresses."

Mrs. Lucy Phillips, Rt. 1, Sharpsburg said, "My machine has been running like an electric machine. You should have seen what came out of it." One club woman had a new machine that had never been oiled. She reported excellent results after a good cleaning and oiling.

(B) Shoes and Feet

From observation the agent feels that a similar demonstration to the women on shoes and feet should be given at least every year. This would serve as a constant reminder.

Every day one only has to come in contact with rural people to see them wearing improperly fitted, badly cared for or wrong type of shoe.

On making a report to the county commissioners of the lesson on Shoes and Feet, Mr. J. T. Lawrence said, "Hazel, you just can't say too much to them about buying shoes. They come in my store and refuse to let me sell them the right size."

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PROJECT ACTIVITIES AND RESULTS

Clothing-Demonstrations (Continued)

This lesson included a study of structure of the foot, fitting shoes, how to know a good shoe and a shoe wardrobe. Buying shoes for children was discussed at length because it is during early years of a child's life the feet are often ruined.

In connection with the dress revue on kitchen attire the women were reminded to wear good comfortable shoes.

Special instructions on buying shoes where there is an ex-ray machine has been used extensively now by the women. Many club women had seen these in shoe departments but did not know what they were.

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION WORK

IN

AGRICULTURE AND HOME ECONOMICS
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

EXTENSION SERVICE
HOME DEMONSTRATION WORK

NORTH CAROLINA STATE COLLEGE
OF AGRICULTURE AND ENGINEERING
NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY AND
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURE COOPERATING

Dress Revue

P. O. Box 715
Tarboro, N. C.
October 4, 1946

STYLES
CHANGE



To All Home Demonstration
Club Members

Dear Club Member:

Yes, styles do change and so do methods
and ways of doing a job. You always want
to know the latest and best methods.

So, please come to the clothing school on
house dresses Thursday October 10, at 1:00
o'clock, Home Agent's office.

This is very important if we are to do a
good job on our aprons, dresses and cover-
alls for the County Dress Revue in November.
Suggestions on kitchen curtains will also
be given at this school.

Let us be sure to have five or six women with the clothing leader attend. I
shall expect you rain or shine.

Best wishes, I am

Very truly yours,

Hazel S. Parker
Negro Home Agent

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PROJECT ACTIVITIES AND RESULTS

CLOTHING-SPECIAL INTEREST MEETING

HOUSE DRESSES

One of the most interesting and beneficial meetings of the year was the Special Interest Meeting held by Miss Willie N. Hunter, Extension Specialist in Clothing with the Negro home agents of the Northeastern District. It served as a special refresher course for us. The need for this meeting was evidenced by the dress revue held on November 15, 1945 in Rocky Mount, N. C. on the occasion of the district federation. The district agent felt that agents should be reminded of some of the fine points in construction, etc. in order to bring up the standard of the women's work.

On October 10, at 1:30 o'clock all clothing leaders and as many others as were to enter the county dress revue were asked to meet in the home agent's office for a special refresher course on house dresses, aprons and curtains. Due to the fact that this was a refresher course, plenty of well planned illustrative material was needed for the demonstration.

The following points on house dresses was demonstrated:

- (a) Selection of materials and patterns.
- (b) Patterns-measurements and pattern adjustments.

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PROJECT ACTIVITIES AND RESULTS

HOUSE DRESSES (CONTINUED)

- (c) Laying-pinning and cutting
- (d) Sleeve, seam and new finishes
- (e) Observing seam allowances for correct fitting
- (f) Buttons, belts and trimmings

The lesson was short and peppy and I believe the women gained much from the demonstration.

Suggestions were given on good work aprons. Pictures and a few made up aprons were used. 13 of the 26 Clothing Leaders attended this demonstration and from all indications did a fine job of working with the women to have them participate in the county dress revue.

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PROJECT ACTIVITIES AND RESULTS

Clothing-Dress Revues

(a) County

(b) District Federation Meeting

Because of the need to stress good grooming and correct dress one of the annual events of the home demonstration program is the holding of a dress revue.

Each year the type of outfits made and modeled by the women have been different. This year the dress revue has tied in with the home management program. Improved kitchens and correct attire for working in the kitchen were worked on together.

The women could make their choice of a coverall, house dress, work or fancy apron. Several women made aprons to match kitchen curtains, some coveralls to match curtains.

Number of women entering county dress revue-----	25
" " " making coveralls-----	5
" " " " dresses-----	5
" " " " work aprons-----	13
" " " " fancy aprons-----	2

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PROJECT ACTIVITIES AND RESULTS

Clothing-Dress Revues (Continued)

The dress revue was a feature of the annual Achievement Day held November 11, in the Pattillo High School in Tarboro.

The district dress revue was held on November 14, at Ahsokie, N. C. The winners from the county contest represented in the contest held at the District Federation meeting. Each county was represented by having a woman model, an apron, a coverall and a house dress. From Edgecombe county we had the following entries: A good work apron-modeled by Mrs. Bessie Parker-Sharpsburg club-Cost \$.57, value \$ 1.50. A house dress-modeled by Mrs. Lucy Phillips, Sharpsburg club-cost \$ 1.67, value \$ 3.98. A coverall was to have been modeled by Mrs. Mammie Hart of the Kingsboro club but due to a serious injury in an automobile accident the night prior to the meeting she was unable to attend.

The aprons, coveralls and house dresses were judged and given 1-2-3 place rating. The dress and apron from Edgecombe county were placed in the blue ribbon or first group. Last year our county won only second places in the district.

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PROJECT ACTIVITIES AND RESULT

CLOTHING

HUMAN INTEREST STORIES ON CLOTHING WORK

A home agent faces lots of disappointments in her work but I imagine there is not an agent in the field who at one time or the other comes face to face with club women who give them courage to work a little harder.

The incident related here took place in a conversation between the home agent and a clothing leader of eight years.

The clothing leader is Geneve Moseby of Rt. 1, Box 155, Tarboro. The home agent was giving her an idea of what we wanted to do in our dress revue. She said, "Mrs. Parker everyone of the club members in this club should do something. When you started working with us these women could not make an apron. Now, there is not a one who can't make a simple dress for themselves." Mrs. Moseby tailored her first suit last year. Mrs. Lillie Graham of that same club said, "I wouldn't take anything for what I have learned about sewing in my home demonstration work." Mrs. Graham takes in sewing. It affords additional income. The agent has had the opportunity of observing Mrs. Graham using new collar finishes, putting in sleeves in her work.

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PROJECT ACTIVITIES AND RESULT

HUMAN INTEREST STORIES ON CLOTHING WORK (CONTINUED)

Mrs. Margeret Taylor, Rt. 2, Box 214, Rocky Mount, made the first dress this year, that she can say she is proud of. She decided with the agent that the style was not becoming. Mrs. Taylor says she learned to put in a sleeve this year without trouble. Her sleeves had been the old gathered top sleeve. After attending the school on housedresses and seeing the difference in a sleeve pattern of 1940 and 1946 she preferred the new style.

Mrs. Goffan Whitaker gave an account of how she stresses "looking you best" in her club. Mrs. Whitaker is president of the Dixon Home Demonstration club, Rt. 1, Box 116, Whitakers. She said to the agent, "Mrs. Parker, I tell my club women to always look their best so we can represent the things we are taught."

There was a time in Edgecombe county that the home agent was always afraid of how the women would be dressed if we were going off together. Now I never worry. I am often very proud of the way they dress.

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PROJECT ACTIVITIES AND RESULTS

Home Management

- (a) What We Earn and How We Spend It
- (b) Finishing Touches for the Home

Due to the need for some special work being done on other projects the two lessons, "What We Earn and How We Spend It" and "Finishing Touches for the Home" were given in the same meeting.

The two lessons worked nicely together. The first lesson, "What We Earn and How We Spend It" was presented to the women through a short discussion and reading of a news article that appeared in the Farm Page of the Greensboro Daily News by Lonna Langley. It gave just the information needed and was concise. The women seemed especially interested in a plan for saving and hospitalization insurance.

In the various homes in which we met in November, "Finishing Touches for the Home" was presented by using the room in which the meeting was being held to apply principles discussed. Example in one home placing two comfortable chairs on each side of a table where there was a reading lamp-adding an ash tray, placing a magazine rack taken to the meeting-meant comfort and convenience.

We had fun, asking how many articles pasted on the wall of one home added to the attractiveness and comfort.

Many women discarded their vases of "blue paper roses" as dust catchers.

EDGECOMBE COUNTY

1946

PROJECT ACTIVITIES AND RESULTS

Home Management-Kitchens

In order to make the women "kitchen conscious" the home agent used a few minutes of the March meeting to explain a check sheet that was passed out to each club woman. After checking her kitchen by the sheet each woman was to fill in what she needed to do to improve her kitchen and in the last space, what I plan to do or can afford to do.

It was decided that every woman in the county could make some kind of improvement and that most of the time those things are done that cost least are most important.

Such things are re-arranging furniture, improving working heights, making bright curtains, improving sanitation would mean wonders.

We gave attention to time-saving floors. Copies of the oil treatment for floors was given each woman. Farm women have far too much scrubbing to do.

Then in May the demonstration on the "farm kitchen" included work centers, windows and doors. "A Step Saving Kitchen" was the subject of the demonstration.

In Edgecombe county we decided one of the things we need is, light. All women with small kitchen windows were asked to put curtains beyond the window panes in order to provide more light.

75 women made some type of kitchen improvement; 10 rearranged furniture; 12 worked on improving working heights; 5 made wood boxes; 15 made curtains; 10 oil treated floors; 5 bought linoleum; 1 installed sink; 5 improved storage and 2 provided better meal service facilities.

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PROJECT ACTIVITIES AND RESULTS

Home Management-Exhibits (Kitchen Curtains)

Through the kitchen curtain contest held in connection with the county-wide Achievement Day much interest was shown in the kitchen improvement project. Club women were given suggestions on kitchen curtains at the Clothing School held on October 10, in the office of the home agent.

Due to the fact the kitchen project was to be emphasized in the 1946 program the committee on planning suggested to the Northeastern group of home agents that curtains and working heights be worked on for the exhibits.

15-pairs of curtains were exhibited at the county Achievement Day. These were arranged in the home agent's office. About 125 persons visited the exhibit. Economy and attractiveness was the "keynote" for making curtains. Eleven of the thirteen clubs exhibited curtains. The winners were as follows:

1st place-----	Mrs. Lucy Phillips, Sharpsburg	cost \$.67 pr.
2nd "	Mrs. Margeret Taylor, "	"	.59 "
3rd "	Mrs. Lillie Graham, Providence	"	1.63 "

Red, white and blue ribbons were awarded in the county contest.

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PROJECT ACTIVITIES AND RESULTS

HOME MANAGEMENT-HOUSING

Story of New Homes

Last March the farm and home agents were asked to pay a special visit to the farm of Mr. J. W. Walston for the purpose of suggesting on the plans for a new home being built by Mr. Walston, himself for his son.

The agents were very pleased to receive such a request as they were working and thinking along the line of housing. This was our first request. Mr. Walston represents one of the most prosperous Negro farmers in Edgecombe county. Lives in one of the largest Negro homes also one of the worst planned. He has a nine-room house that does not have a single closet. This revealed in the conversation that day we made the visit.

The home agent took with her one of the farm home plan books. I did not really know what would be needed. Mr. Walston showed us his plan. He was building a four-room house. One of the back rooms was a bed-room and from this room, one closet, very large was to be the only closet in the house. Fortunately the home agent had just the house plan needed. It took time and plenty of debating to have him decide on a closet in each room including the living room and the one big closet was to be used for a bath room. A very nice pantry was to be built in for the kitchen.

EDGECOMBE COUNTY

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PROJECT ACTIVITIES AND RESULTS

HOME MANAGEMENT-HOUSING

Story of New Homes (Continued)

One of the daughters who had recently had some home economics in high school thanked the home agent and said, "Mrs. Parker I am so glad you came, I just can't do anything with my father. You see we have had some of these things in our classes at school."

After our plans were definitely made Mrs. Walston asked me to come over and see her house and show her where even now she might have closets in her home. We found several very good places for closet space.

EDGECOMBE COUNTY

1946

PROJECT ACTIVITIES AND RESULTS

Home Management-Story of New Home

The little story of this new home is rather interesting to me because it represents more of the kind of situation we will be working on and with down here in eastern North Carolina. This was first told me by the club woman for whom this house is being erected.

Mrs. Goffan Whitaker, President of the Dixon Home Demonstration club and though she does not have a great deal of education to my mind represents all any agent would like to see club women possess spiritually.

She has lived on the farm of Mr. Sid Lancaster for eight years. This year she had to vacate the house Mr. Lancaster had rented for them. Now Mr. Lancaster is building Goffan a home. Mrs. Whitaker was allowed to suggest some things to be included. This is certainly one sound reason for training even our day laborers. She said, "Mr. Lancaster, my home agent has been teaching us all about storage, lights, screens and conveniences and I want you to fix me up so I can represent some of the things she teaches and some of the things the other women do." Mr. Lancaster said, "Goffan you are so smart I am going to fix you , a closet in each room, lights, screens, your pump on the back porch. We have already decided on how the yard will serve as a demonstration in that community.

EDGECOMBE COUNTY

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County Goals- For Adults

Food and Nutrition

1. To have families work on special food production plans under supervision of farm and home agent. (Result dem.)
2. To have 100 club women work to improve methods of food preparation. (Women should express need) Report results of improved methods.
3. To encourage use of more milk by having:
 - (a) 50 families purchase cows
 - (b) " " use more canned and dried milk who are unable to purchase cows

Food Conservation

1. To have 300 women work on raising the standard of one canned product (Name by the council)
2. To have 130 club women fill canning plans for family
3. 200 women enter county canning contest.
4. To have 15 families make or improve storage for canned products.

Clothing

1. To have all club women who own sewing machines give them better care as result of lesson in March.
2. To have 75 women enter the county dress revue
3. To have 250 women well informed as to buying of correct footwear
 - (a) Take better care of shoes
 - (b) Realize importance of shoes repaired for health as good soles, straight heels

Home Management

1. To conduct 3 kitchen improvement projects in each Home Demonstration club. (Dixon Club every kitchen an improvement project)

EDGECOMBE COUNTY

1946

County Goals for Adults (Continued)

Tour in September

- 2. To have every club member make some type of kitchen improvement
 - (a) raising work heights
 - (b) better care of stoves and equipment

Home Management

- (a) Improving floors
- (b) Sanitation

House Furnishing

- 1. To have 100 women make some type of improvement in house furnishings as a result of the lessons, "Finishing Touches for the Home."

Crafts

- 1. To begin program in Crafts for the home with interested women from each club.

Gardening

- 1. To have every club woman start a home garden by March with special emphasis on:
 - (a) garden leader-demonstration garden
 - (b) growing of one or more uncommon vegetables

EDGECOMBE COUNTY

1946

Goals Reached-1946-Adults

Foods and Nutrition

Four families worked on special food production plans under direct supervision of home agent.

- 100 women made improvements in food preparation
- 35 families had a better milk supply
- 50 making use of more canned and dried milk

Food Conservation

- 150 women improved quality of string beans and peaches
- 150 " filled canning budget for family
- 35 " entered canning contest
- 15 families improved storage for canned products

Clothing

- 140 women took better care of sewing machines as a result of the demonstration on caring for machine
- 25 women entered the dress revue
- 250 " given information on buying correct footwear. (a) Better care of shoes (b) Importance of shoe repair for good health

Home Management

- 2 kitchen improvements in each home demonstration club
- 150 women made some kind of improvement in their kitchens-raising working heights; better care of stoves and equipment; improved floors; improved sanitation.

House Furnishings

- 50 women made improvements in the house as a result of the lesson, "Finishing Touches for the Home"

Gardening

- 300 club women had better gardens this year: (a) greater variety (b) at least one new or uncommon vegetable.

EDGECOMBE COUNTY

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OUTLOOK AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Program of Work 1947

<u>Month</u>	<u>Adults</u>	<u>4-H</u>
January	Better Health Through Better Foods	Packing the School Lunch
February	Planning and Improving Home Grounds	A Quick and Sure Method of Making a Dress
March	Sanitation-Control of Pests and Rodents	A Quick and Sure Method of Making a Dress
April	Measuring Happiness in Our Homes	Same as adults
May	Pitfalls in Canning	Canning for Better Quality
June	Use of Sewing Machine Attachments	Project Work Home Visits
July	Accessories for the Costume	Project Work Home Visits
August	Planned Recreation (Outdoor meals picnics)	Same as adults
September	Furniture Selection and Care	Reorganization Care of Furniture
October	Housing in Relation to Health. Lighting	Home Beautification (joint)
November	Use of Vitamin "C" Foods	Same as adults
December	Christmas Programs	Christmas Programs