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Students Enlist in Victory Program

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Gearing the Iowa high school program to wartime activity means building a revised curriculum around conservation of food and materials. As revealed in the answers to questionnaires sent to Iowa home economics instructors, all of the home economics departments are participating in some form of wartime work.

In home economics classes high school girls are gaining practical experience with the point rationing system through actual menu planning, purchasing and preparation of meals. Some menus include only non-rationed foods; others give experience in keeping within the food ration.

Many of the home economics classes are stressing the nutritive requirements of the individual by analyzing daily food habits, choosing the most nutritious foods among those rationed and planning healthful, hot lunches.

The high school classes have discovered that wartime planning and buying increases the importance of soybeans as a protein alternate and of whole grain cereals in the diet.

The work of many of the homemaking groups is coordinated with the high school victory corps program. Iowa high school girls have made seersucker bed jackets, slippers, utility bags and have done knitting. One group of sophomore girls worked as a factory unit, cutting and sewing hospital slippers for the Junior Red Cross. Home nursing units teach the girls how to care for patients in the home before and after the doctor arrives.

A victory garden project is one division of a high school victory corps. The girls learn what, when and how to plan vegetables to meet the family’s nutritional needs. In one school the girls took a 3-week vocational agriculture course to learn more about gardening and poultry raising as a preparation for their work this summer.

Special units on child care and training have been introduced. Conservation and repair of household equipment is stressed. The girls have received actual experience in repair of irons, cords and other electrical appliances which are not easily replaced. Remodeling of old furniture also has been done in some of the schools.

Clothing conservation is being stressed in the high schools where girls are making over wool garments and converting men’s suits into garments for themselves.