Home Demonstration Proves Its Worth

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Recommended Citation
Available at: http://lib.dr.iastate.edu/homemaker/vol21/iss7/4

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Home Demonstration

Proves Its Worth

Ingenuity is a prerequisite for home demonstration work, says Marghetta Jebson, '32, agent for Greene County.

HOME demonstration agents are expected to be authorities on every conceivable homemaking subject along with many economic problems. Each works long and odd hours with and for everybody and anybody who wants help. Such is the nature of my work in Greene County.

Better homes, better health, better farm family life and better communities are the goals of home demonstration work. To attain these, rural women and girls participated in a voluntary educational program during the year. The home demonstration agent drives her car through ice and snow, rain and mud to attend meetings. For example, during the last year I visited 225 farm homes, received 1410 office callers, attended 262 meetings, wrote 197 news articles, prepared 142 circular letters and distributed 9079 bulletins.

To add to this picture of my activities, such additional phases as the installation of rural electrification and water systems, promotion of the school lunch program and the extension of health and library service to rural districts and beautification of farm grounds may be mentioned.

Recently I supervised the construction of mattresses from surplus commodity cotton and ticking issued by the local AAA to low income families.

Home furnishing, the major project in Greene County last year, included the study of window treatment, pictures, consumer information on home furnishing and repair, renovation and remodeling for improvement of furnishings. Ideas from the project were used by 285 homes to solve home furnishing problems. One woman went home from a training school and removed all the selvage from ten voile curtains to do away with the "puckery" edge. Another bleached old, dark oak dining room furniture and slip covered the chair seats.

For community affairs, the home agent lends a guiding hand. To encourage enjoyment of good music, I organized a series of musical teas at which local talent presented selections from a specially planned year's study of music. Color schemes or special themes for the teas were carefully chosen with emphasis placed on attractiveness and simplicity. Everything from patterns to politics, and books to babies was discussed over the teacups.

In tune with emergency preparations, I presented material on the storage of fruits and vegetables and gardening information at a series of meetings this fall. The training of local leaders included information on food needs and the effect of long continued poor diets, methods of food preparation and canning.