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Rural Homemaking Keys to War

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Rural Homemaking

Keys to War

Rural homemakers in Iowa are doing their part toward winning the war, states Virginia Carter

To help every rural homemaker in Iowa do her part in winning the war and to maintain farm family morale is the aim of the Iowa State College Extension Service home economics program. Through a flexible war emergency program altered to fit the times, the 1943 home project work is being spread to all farm women.

Before the United States entered the present world war, the farm women of the state selected "Nutrition for Defense" as the subject for their home project program. After this nation's declaration of war, the need for increased production and curbing of inflation became apparent. Gardening, canning and anti-inflation training schools in addition to those for regular home projects phases demanded added cooperation of patriotic homemakers. They attended training schools and put the information to use in producing the largest gardens in history, canning and storing every possible product and buying only what they needed.

When the program planning time came this year, the women in each county selected subjects they felt would help them most in their job on the home front. The War Emergency Program was designed for ready adaptation to changing conditions. One adaptation already has been necessary. The "Share-the-Meat" program, set up to alleviate a possible serious drain on meat supplies needed for the armed forces of the United Nations, last month was launched by home project groups throughout the state. "Share-the-Meat" information was given to every farm woman in the state and to all residents of rural towns through cooperation of the Extension Service and the women's committee of the Farm Bureau.

Among the phases selected by the women for their training schools this year were home care of the sick, first aid in the home, facts about business that women should know if they are to operate farms when their husbands go into the service, conservation and remodeling of clothing, breadmaking and wartime cookery, children and older youth in wartime and care and repair of household equipment.

The "educational co-operator," or neighborhood leader, system through which wartime information is carried to all the homemakers was used in the last war and revised to meet last spring's emergency demands. It has now been improved to get information into every farm home.

Directing the women's program is Mrs. Sarah Porter Ellis, assistant extension director for home economics. Mrs. Ellis is in charge of the Home Economics Extension Department, working closely with the women's committee of the Iowa Farm Bureau Federation, of which Mrs. Raymond Sayre of Ackworth is chairman. Mrs. Ellis' assistants, Mrs. N. May Larson, Miss Marian Edwards and Miss Mabel Phipps, who are district home economics supervisors, help county home economists carry out the program. Also on the main staff are home economics specialists in child development, foods and nutrition, home furnishings, home management and textiles and clothing. They formulate plans for training schools for educational co-operators, help county home economists outline training school programs and conduct training schools in the 29 counties that do not now employ a home economist.

Production is not the only consideration on the home front. Supplementary to each phase of the home project program is training designed to help maintain the morale at home. This rural sociology phase of the women's program includes music and recreation adaptable to home and community groups of all sizes.