

CURRENT ACTIVITIES OF HERTFORD COUNTY FARM WOMEN

HOME DEMONSTRATION WORK IN HERTFORD COUNTY 1935-39

By FLORENCE COX

On January 1st, 1935, as I came to Hertford County to take up the duties of Home Demonstration Work, I found a well formed and functioning organization with an active County Council. At that time there were 14 organized Home Demonstration Clubs and 5 4-H Clubs.

Since that time 3 new Home Demonstration Clubs have been added and the membership of many of the other clubs increased. We now have a total membership of 375 in these adult clubs. The 4-H Clubs have been increased to 9 and the membership to 330.

Our goal being better homes and a more happy and contented people in Hertford County, we have made a study of House Furnishing and Home Beautification for a two year period each and are now concentrating on the most important subject of Home Management. These studies have been made with the idea of practical application in the average home ever kept in mind. Those who have been fortunate enough to pass in and out through the county may see the results of these studies in more comfortable homes, and in the improvement of the appearance of many home grounds. The local community churches, schools and club houses have also received the attention of Home Demonstration Clubs by having their grounds planted and otherwise improved.

Throughout this period the clubs have also been active in many other lines such as Clothing, Foods and Nutrition, Gardening, Poultry, Dairy products for the home, Marketing home products, Handicrafts, Health problems, etc.

One of the most valuable pieces of work recently accomplished is the improvement of kitchens in the homes of club members. Much has already been done in 38 homes while other kitchens are in the process of being improved or are to be at an early date. This work is of primary importance because the average housewife spends so much time and energy with the kitchen duties.

The importance of the Home Demonstration Club to the community cannot be estimated. Since the small local school has been removed from the rural communities there is no community center to hold the people together and working for the betterment of their community. The Home Demonstration Clubs in many instances are fulfilling this need. It draws from all walks of life and gives a medium through which community work may be accomplished.

This is especially true of the clubs that own their club buildings as Christian Harbor, Coffield, Woodrow and Meherrin. The Menola Club is now building a Community center which will be ready for use in a very short time and the Winton club is cooperating with the Federated Womens Club and the town with a building that will also soon be ready for use. The Clubs are justly proud of these buildings and are using them more and more as time goes by which their real worth to the community.

In 1938 three honors came to Hertford County. First, the county received an Award of Merit from the National Better Homes Association for the quality of work done in the Better Homes Campaign. Second—Hertford County placed first at the North Carolina State Fair with an Educational Booth. Third—Mrs. A. G. Otwell, first President of Menola, the oldest club in the County, organized April 2nd, 1918, spoke over the radio giving a brief history of 21 years of Home Demonstration Work in this County.

4-H Club work in the county is gradually improving. The girls have held a small fair each year exhibiting products of their own making. Representatives have been sent each year to the Older Youth Conference and the State 4-H Club Short Course at Raleigh. Three 4-H Club camps have been held in cooperation with Gates and Bertie counties. Each year the health side of the 4-H Club work is emphasized and climaxed with health talks for the younger girls and

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Why It Is Necessary to Reforest the Lands of the Roanoke-Chowan



This is one of the many reasons why the forests are being depleted faster than new growth can take the place of the trees felled and cut into timber. There are many such sawmills operating in this area; and since Ahoskie was first established 50 years ago, it is the sawmill and timber industry that has held first place in its development.

YOUR FORESTS AND YOUR PART

By BRANTLEY HENDERSON, JR.

Forests throughout this section of the nation have for many years been taken as a matter of course. Not a day has passed when we have not benefited directly or indirectly through our forests and yet we understand so little about them—give them so little concern.

Our forests, and we include the farm wood lot, have for over two hundred years furnished us with protection and materials which have made our existence along the Atlantic Coastal Plain possible and enjoyable. Until recent times, with few exceptions, the yield from our forests has been the only human concern; the effect has been like the results of any system where there are all outputs and no return to the output source. Yet we are blessed with a kind of tree which is seemingly hard to get rid of. Our loblolly pine is a tree that, with even half a chance, will repeatedly come back.

Although our pine has taken advantage time and again of that "half a chance" condition, the result has been, in many instances, partially stocked land. With continued poor cutting the pine, which is our best all-around tree, is gradually being replaced by inferior trees or brush.

With the increased demand for the many products of our forests the acreage of mistreated forest land has increased. Yet today we look back and see how the men who made those mistakes were possibly not so much to blame. Those men were probably no wiser than we are and who can say that we are able to see very far into the future. Surely not unless we know by experience or by the teaching of others, what is likely to be the result of our actions.

How many of us today as we ride along our highways and see pine forests of all ages and conditions realize the present and future value of those stands of trees? Thanks to our various educational agencies most of us are capable of the realization. Yet every spring and fall many of those valuable stands of timber are laid waste by a careless match or cigarette—an act of destruction that is often uncon-

sciously done.

In being blessed with trees of commercial value we are very fortunate in having a crop that serves, or is capable of serving, not only the present landowner and community but also future landowners and the future community. There are many kinds of trees in our forests that are of no commercial value because of quality or quantity and yet are capable of being used on the farm; thereby making way for additional growing space for the marketable trees.

Our part, therefore, consists in becoming forest conscious and extending cooperation for the solution of the forest problem. Forest owners must put into practice wise cutting methods and practice common sense forestry. Because in the past forest theory has been advanced as the only forestry, forestry itself has suffered. Much of the theory recommended was impossible for a man concerned with making a living to practice. Until all agencies dealing with private forestry put aside untried schemes and use tested practices, forestry is likely to come into its own slowly. In fact, unless private forestry is put upon a business basis, we fail to utilize our natural resources to the fullest extent.

How can forestry in our section be put upon a business basis? Surely we must develop first of all a moving spirit of cooperation among all people using directly and indirectly a forest area. Community opinion against forest destruction is the most powerful course of action. A developed community opinion will drive home the desire to prevent destructive forest fires and unwise cutting methods.

Every forest fire is a destructive fire and we must guard against them at all times. The only effective defense against forest fires is the cooperative defense and respect for all forest land. The heaviest toll, although by far not the only toll, taken by forest fires throughout this area is the killing of the young trees and the reduction in soil values of the burned area. It is easy to see that any fire damage to the forest area reduces the many forest benefits. Game and game areas are destroyed. Mature timber is reduced in quantity and quality, and thus the revenue capacity is diminished. Fires also seriously weaken all sizes of timber, making them liable to insects and disease.

We should all use every possible care when using fire around the forest margin or within the forest, and make certain that we are able to control the fire to prevent its escape. Since it is true that all our fires are caused by man, we can reduce the forest acreage burned to only a small fraction of what it is today. All that is needed is just an honest effort.

Cutting practices or rules are set forth to encourage conservative methods of reaping the forest wealth. The idea behind any improved cutting practice is to make provision so that the land will remain productive of timber and other forest values. Measures necessary to keep all but the poorest of our pinelands productive after cutting are few indeed. Fire protection, seed trees or their equivalent, and a common sense viewpoint will be found sufficient. Already in parts of the southern pine belt, cut-over land having an abundance of young growth not yet merchantable commands a good price. Where this pine will compensate any particular landowner for whatever expense is involved in leaving his property in a productive condition has but one answer. In answering this question for himself, the farmer bears in mind that barren land is a certain liability to its owner, and a staggering burden to the community at large. The South as a whole is gradually awakening to these facts concerning cut-over pineland. Within fifteen years, public sentiment toward timber growing has changed from a state of indifference, often bordering on actual hostility, to one of friendly interest and support. Encouraged by this public action, an increasing number of individuals and corporations are buying forest lands for the definite purpose of growing trees on them. They are not buying barren land, but land already productive. Few permanent owners of forest land are likely to remain content with a third of a crop, or even with two-thirds.

The pulp mills have made it possible to permit a reaping of part of the timber crop at rather early intervals. Instead of finding timber a long time turnover, as is the case with saw timber alone, we are able to grow high quality saw logs and receive revenue during their growth from the sale of pulpwood grown in the same area. There are many areas having no saw timber markets where the farmers are able to grow two crops of pulpwood during the same time it would take to raise a saw timber crop. Through the gradual removal of the pulpwood crop by tested forestry methods, the rapid addition of taxes on forest land is offset.

The pulp mills have made timber growing attractive and widespread common sense forestry possible by providing a market for material which all forest owners, no matter how small the holding, are able to handle and market, thereby affording the owners a double benefit. Forest improvement has come into its own through actual possibilities offered by the pulp mill.

For the many benefits to this whole area, let us all cooperate—we are all concerned.

Experiences of a Home Demonstration Agent

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studying train schedules, I found that I could return south over the Atlantic Coast Line route rather than the Southern route, and by taking an earlier train. This would give an opportunity for a visit with the Roses. The beautiful drives over Hertford County were enjoyed. The spots of historical interest were visited and a glimpse into the quaint court house at Winton was most interesting. But the nicest part of all was meeting the cordial, charming people who make Eastern Carolina the place superb.

We called on Miss Myrtle Swindell, the home agent, in her office and, having the same interest in our work, we enjoyed a pleasant visit together. She invited me to the Home Demonstration Club Flower

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