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The Prairie View Standard



Cooperative Saw Mill owned by farmers of Fayette County sawing lumber at the 31st. Annual Farmers Short Course at Prairie View, Texas. With the aid of this saw mill a community house, with offices for a Farm and Home agent, has been built at LaGrange, Texas, with the assistance of the Negro Agricultural Agent.

SUMMARY OF EXTENSION WORK, NEGRO DIVISION, 1939

Two hundred and four thousand, four hundred and sixty-eight men, women and children, more than the combined seating capacity of America's two largest stadiums, attended the ten thousand, eight hundred and ninety-seven meetings held by the forty-five County Agricultural Extension Agents who worked with eight thousand, one hundred and ninety-nine farm families during 1939.

Agricultural Extension Work is designed to aid farm families in obtaining things that make for better living in the fullest sense. Negro agents have not only found out what

was the matter, but are doing something about it. To enable these men to reach and assist the greatest number of people, four hundred and ninety-seven clubs with a total enrollment of nine thousand, eight hundred and seventy-six, and three hundred and ninety-one 4-H Clubs, with an enrollment of five thousand, five hundred and three boys were organized to carry out the Extension program. Not only the numbers are startling, but the results obtained were mere dreams ten years ago.

The greatest portion of the activity of this group of men is around the Live-at-Home program, and in the conservation of our natural resources to make the land we work produce the things we need and produce them more abundantly. As an

example, the production of syrup for the home was almost a lost art; however, with the assistance of Mr. M. K. Thornton, syrup specialist, more than eleven thousand additional acres were planted to cane, causing it to be put back to use. Forty-eight idle mills and steaming vats all over the state produced ninety-one thousand, two hundred and thirteen gallons of improved syrup with a value of sixty-eight thousand, seven hundred and forty-six dollars and ninety cents to the farmers who participated in this work. The production of field crops, especially those necessary to an increased livestock program, has engaged our attention more than ever before. This is probably the combined re-

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SUMMARY OF EXTENSION WORK, NEGRO DIVISION, 1939

(Continued From Page 1)

sults of shifts; because of adjustment programs, the collapse of the cotton market, an intensification of our activities in getting more animals on the farm; five thousand, four hundred and thirty-eight demonstrations involving one hundred and one thousand four hundred and forty-nine acres were conducted in teaching the new methods of handling old crops and the introduction of new strains and varieties. We believe these demonstrations are responsible for the farmers having large stocks of feed on hand, which will mean earlier and better preparation of land. The stocks of feed, especially rough feeds, offer very grave difficulties in marketing and as a result there is a definite increase in the number of livestock and poultry, many items of which will be slaughtered and consumed by the farmer.

One hundred and twenty-eight demonstrations were conducted in beef cattle work; most of them were in feeding. Ten were in herd improvement in which pure bred bulls were used. The demonstration involved five thousand, six hundred head of cattle valued at \$19,799.00. The outstanding factors in this program are that thirty-nine of these demonstrations were conducted by farmers in diary cattle. These demonstrations were designed to meet market requirement but mostly to increase and maintain the family milk supply. Twenty-two of these demonstrations were conducted by farmers who, for the first time, were milking pure bred or high grade dairy cattle on their farms. Two hundred and forty-one demonstrations were conducted in poultry. This work covered a wide range and included sanitation, feeding, breeding and marketing. Seventy-seven farmers conducted demonstrations in selling number-one eggs and thirty home-made coolers were constructed. Forty-one removed roosters from the yards and twenty-six cooperated in grading and marketing. A total of fifteen thousand, seven hundred and twenty-one birds were involved in these demonstrations.

More and better cured meat was the slogan of many communities and they did something about their slo-



4-H Club girls and boys at the Texas 4-H Encampment August 9-13, 1939, Prairie View College, emphasizing the Health "H". The girls and boys entered heartily into the physical exercises each morning. The recreational program included in addition to the camp, talent programs, music appreciation periods, story telling, community singing and stunts.

gan. Two thousand, one hundred and seventeen demonstrations were conducted in swine, and ninety-five percent of these demonstrations were in an effort to carry out the aforementioned slogan. Two thousand and one families were assisted in butchering, cutting and curing pork, which will be used for home use and for sale. The fact that one million, nine hundred and eighty-seven thousand, six hundred and two pounds of this meat was cured the A. & M. way means there will be more cured meat on exhibit this spring and that farm families will have meat to eat later in the year.

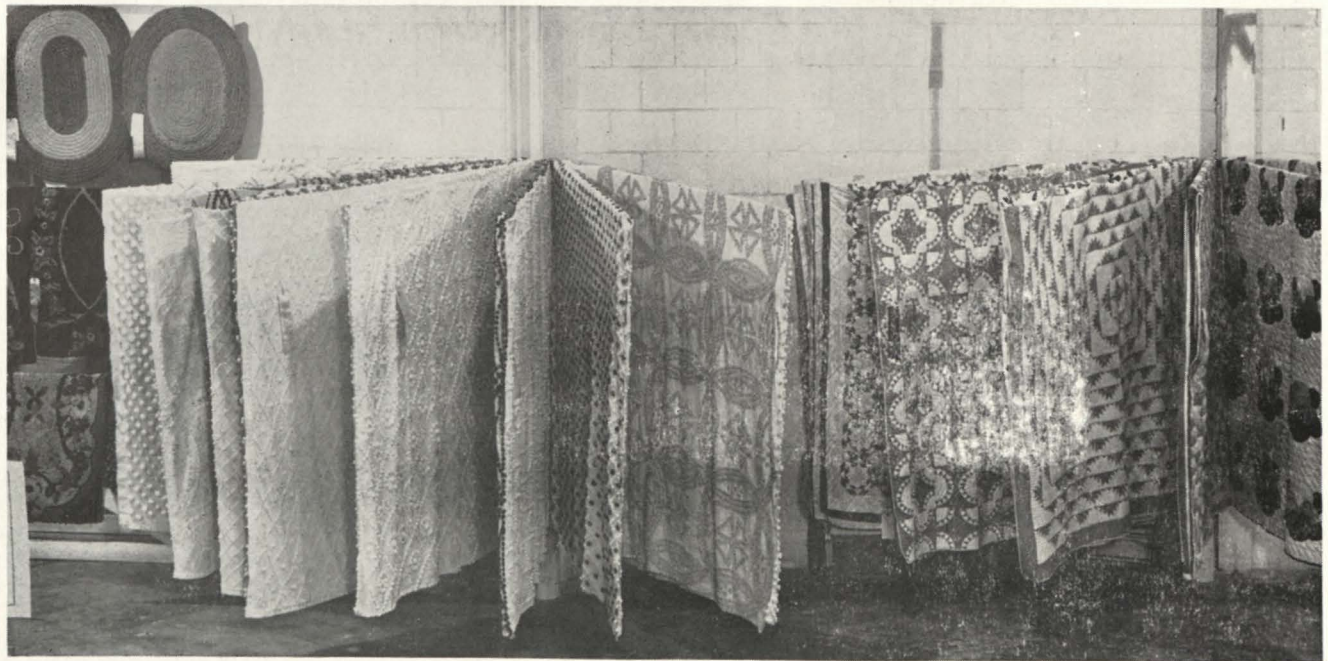
Livestock production cannot make much headway without additional pastures, or improvement of pastures already in use. Work was done on eight thousand, seven hundred and seventy-eight acres of pastures and this was divided between seeding on two thousand and eleven acres, underbrushing and mowing, contouring and other practices; some agents report the carrying capacity of pastures doubled due to sowing of seed, moving, etc. Much of the feed produced was late in the season when curing was difficult and this stimulated the interest in storing and curing devices. As a result of this need, one hundred and twenty-three trench or pit silos were constructed and filled with three thousand, two hundred and thirty-six tons of feed. This feed makes a very substantial addition to that cured otherwise and it is extremely useful in dairy work.

No farm program can be better

than the soil upon which this program is founded. Most of the land now occupied by Negro farmers is either in need of terracing or drainage, or both. This constituted one of our major activities. Work of this nature was conducted on five hundred and ninety-six farms; terracing, complete with outlets was constructed on twenty-two thousand and seven acres of land, and one hundred and forty-one farmers carried out definite gully control which involved three thousand five hundred and fifty-three acres, using wire, stone, shrubs, and other means to effect this control. The improvement on land terraced and gullies controlled was valued at \$83,279.00, and in some cases was valued at \$13.00 per acre. We realize this has only scratched the surface and it will be necessary for us to work unabated to control erosion so that fertility may be maintained to the point that profitable farming may again be conducted. Stumps were cleared.

The farm fruit plot has presented a serious problem for many years and the expression "trees don't live long" has been one of our stumbling blocks. This expression is true but we have succeeded in many cases to "make them live longer" and these orchards that have lived have stimulated new planting and during the past year three hundred and ninety-six new home orchards, with twenty-eight thousand five hundred and

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(Upper left); A scene from the 4-H Club girls' garden. There were 2,925 of these girls who succeeded in growing 59,501 bushels of vegetables. (Upper right); A scene showing the second step in mattress making, Jefferson County, Texas, 1939. Three-hundred or more mattresses were made during this year. (Center left); A scene from the 4-H Club girls' dressmaking display. 3,692 girls completed their goals. The clothing program caused \$85,782.97 to be saved. (Center right); A poultry production scene. Poultry production is conducted as a major demonstration in nine counties. (Bottom); This scene, which is a graphic demonstration in an Extension Service exhibit at the State Fair of Texas, shows how gradual improvement is being made in home making.

The Prairie View Standard

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W. R. Banks, Managing Editor
Napoleon B. Edward, Editor

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COUNTY AGRICULTURAL WORK SUMMARY

1940

1. Number of agents	45
2. Number of Adult Clubs	497
3. Number of members	9,876
4. Number 4-H Clubs	391
5. Number of members	5,503
6. Number of gallons of syrup made improved way	91,213
7. Value of syrup made	\$68,746
8. Number farms terraced	59
9. Number acres terraced	22,007
10. Value of terraced land	\$168,908
11. Farms practicing gully control	142
12. Acres in gully control work	3,553
13. Value of gully control work	\$23,127
14. Number farm doing drainage work	291
15. Number acres	7,577
16. Value of drainage work	\$60,616
17. Farms doing irrigation work	48
18. Number acres irrigated	178
19. Value of irrigation work	2,314
20. Acres cleared of stumps or rocks	206
21. Value of this work	\$21,240
22. Buildings constructed	835
23. Value of buildings	\$66,424
24. Trench silos constructed (new)	123
25. Silage stored (tons)	3,266
26. Field crops (demonstrations)	5,438
27. Total acreage involved	

28. Beef cattle demonstrations	101,449
29. Number beef cattle fed	128
30. Value of these demonstrations	5,600
31. Number dairy cattle demonstrations	\$19,799
32. Number cattle involved	156
33. Value of dairy demonstrations	1,376
34. Number poultry demonstrations	\$22,797
35. Number birds involved	241
36. Number swine demonstrations	15,721
37. Number animals involved	2,117
38. Meat cured, Beef and pork (pounds)	14,126
39. Number new orchards	1,987,602
40. Number bushes, trees and vines added	396
41. Number farms and homes visited	28,595
42. Number method demonstrations conducted	8,199
43. Meetings at method demonstrations	4,892
44. Number result demonstrations conducted	65,198
45. Meetings conducted by County Agricultural Agents in all work	8,392
46. Attendance	10,897
47. Meetings by men supervisors	204,468
48. Attendance	401
49. Total meetings conducted	11,298
50. Total attendance	290,692

LOANS SECURED

Eleven 4-H boys of Shelby County secured loans from a local bank for the purchase of Irish potato seed and fertilizers during the year. They grew one-half acre each of Irish and Sweet potatoes, using practises as recommended by the Extension Service. Eight hundred bushels were sold and two hundred bushels were saved for seed. Prairie View College purchased one hundred sacks.

To live is not merely to breathe; it is to act: to make use of our organs, senses, faculties—of all those parts of ourselves which give us the feeling of existence.

—Rousseau

HOME DEMONSTRATION WORK, TEXAS, 1939

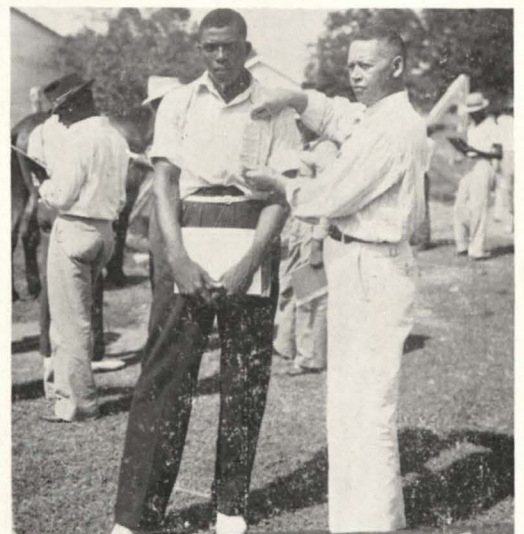
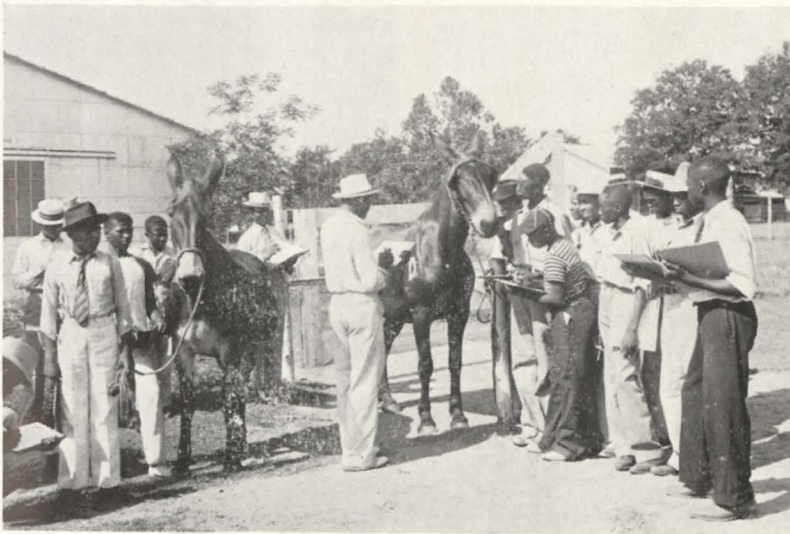
Demonstrator—Cooperator Stories

Colorado County Mrs. A. C. Spann, home food supply demonstrator, Altair community, relates this story of her club work: "Our club was organized in 1935 and I was selected as garden and pantry demonstrator. Since that time, I have enlarged my garden plot to one and one-half acres and it supplies my family all the vegetables we need. After I learned to can, I purchased a pressure cooker and can sealer for my home. I canned 617 containers the first year and s'ored 355 pounds of food. I do a great deal of canning for the women in my community. Some women give me every fourth can for my service, others pay me \$1.00 per day. I have purchased some old lumber to construct an 18'X18' poultry house and purchased 200 baby chicks. In my orchard demonstration I planted 140 peach trees, 100 of these were grown from seed. As a kitchen demonstrator, I bought a wood stove, and 27 new cooking utensils, put in floor and finished my walls and ceiling."

Mrs. M. E. Bledsoe, County Home Demonstration Agent

Cherokee County Erline Simmons, third year bedroom demonstrator says: "My first year I cleaned the walls, woodwork and floors. My father screened my windows and doors. Next, I made two sheets and two pairs of pillow cases, one set from sack material, the other was made from material I bought. These were finished with hemstitching and embroidery. The second year I painted my bed to match the other furniture in my bedroom, made three scarfs, a pair of curtains, a hat and shoe rack. These completed my goals for 1937 as a bedroom demonstrator. In addition I assisted 10 cooperators with their goals. In 1938, I enlarged my club work by becoming a home food supply cooperator. I made and followed a daily meal plan for three days, and provided vegetables necessary to meet my family needs. The vegetables I planted were beans, English peas, okra, carrots, corn, greens and tomatoes. I canned 217 containers of vegetables from my garden and made \$7.50 from the sale of tomatoes, okra and carrots. I made 10

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Left to right. Club boys judging sorghum at the Thirty-Second Annual Farmers Short Course held at Prairie View, Texas. Right. Waller County agents giving a demonstration in poultry in Home Food Supply Rally at Thirty-Second Annual Short Course. Center. Club boys judging mules at Thirty-Second Annual Farmers Short Course. Right. District Agent J. H. Williams making award to outstanding club of the year. Below. 4-H Club Boy exhibit at Dallas State Fair, 1939, showing 391 entries of farm crops. Right. Club boys judging poultry at the Thirty-Second Annual Farmers Short Course.

PERSONNEL

The Texas Negro Extension work is directly under the supervision of Texas Extension Work at A. & M. College, College Station, Texas.

Dr. T. O. Walton, President, A. & M. College
 Mr. H. H. Williamson, Director, Extension Service
 Mr. Jack Shelton, Vice Director and State Agent
 Miss Mildred Horton, Vice Director and State Agent
 Mr. George Adams, Assistant State Agent
 Miss Bess Edwards, Assistant State Home Demonstration Agent

Negro Extension organization with headquarters at Prairie View College, Prairie View, Texas:

Mr. W. R. Banks, Principal
 Mr. C. W. Waller, State Leader
 Mrs. I. W. Rowan, Supervising Home Demonstration Agent
 Mr. H. S. Estelle, District Agent

HOME DEMONSTRATION WORK, TEXAS, 1939

(Continued from page 4)

pints of plum jelly and preserved 75 quarts of peaches. I also made and filled a canning budget. The method demonstrations given me in food preservation and preparation have been very helpful and now I can do the canning and preserving as well as food preparation without my mother's assistance. This year I reached the status of home food supply demonstrator. During my 4 years in club work, I have canned 777 containers of vegetables and preserved 61 cantainers of jellies, preserves and marmalades. I provided poultry and eggs for home use and raised a garden for three years. My family and I have eaten 198 pounds of fresh vegetables from my garden, and I sold \$15.75 worth on the mar-

Mrs. J. O. A. Coner, District Home Demonstration Agent
 Mr. J. H. Williams, District Agent

ket. I have held the office of president and secretary of my club and won the following honors: premiums on History of Club Work at the Texas State Fair, trip to the State 4-H Encampment at Prairie View College, Prairie View, Texas, and premiums from county events."

Mrs. Lulu W. Ragsdale, County Home Demonstration Agent, Matagorda County From Mrs. A. L. Pettway, home food supply demonstrators, comes this story: "I have been a home food supply demonstrator for three years. I was a tenant farm woman when I first enrolled in club work, but now we own our home in the Cedar Lake community. This year I developed the fruit phase of the Home Food Supply demonstration. I made my plan for our family of six, and selected a one acre plot near the house. I started my tree section first by planting 30 peach trees, 20 fig, 4 plum, 4 pear, 5 apple, 2 lemon, 2 grapefruit, and 3 orange trees and 4 grape vines. I have three acres in my truck garden. I grew 29 varieties of vegetables in my spring garden and 13 varieties of vegetables in my fall and winter garden. I have fresh vegetables to serve the family each day in the year and have conserved 500 containers of fruit and vegetables."

Mrs. C. P. Washington, County Home Demonstration Agent.

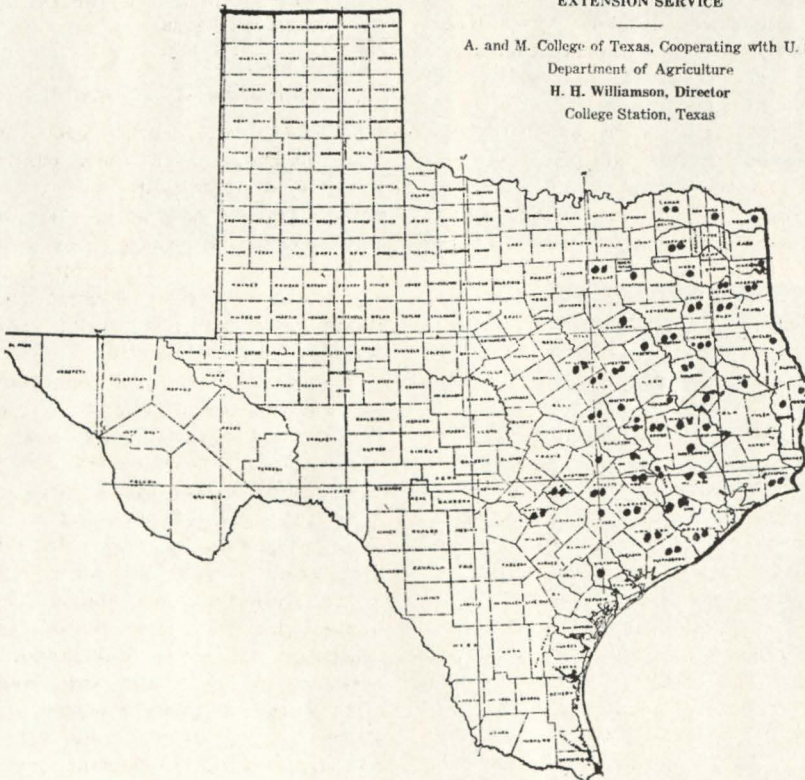
Gregg County Mrs. Pazetta Taylor, home food supply demonstrator, Pleasant Green Home Demonstration Club, says: "I made a frame garden and provided 1,050 containers of food for my family of five. I have also had adequate milk, butter and poultry. We are now ready to butcher two hogs that will add 500 pounds of meat to our food supply. This year I cooperated with all the county and state activities and received \$12.35 in prizes. My other accomplishments are: January—I canned for self and others 100 containers of meat, February—planted garden and put out shrubbery; March—cultivated garden, made two quilts and renovated one; April—began canning English peas; May through September—I canned steadily fruits and vegetables; October—made two quilts and renovated one; November—my garden was prepared and I planted fall onions for spring use; December—I started a rose cutting bed."

Mrs. Pauline R. Brown, County Home Demonstration Agent

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EXTENSION SERVICE

A. and M. College of Texas, Cooperating with U. S. Department of Agriculture
 H. H. Williamson, Director
 College Station, Texas



The map shows where Negro Extension work is located in Texas. The Extension work is now in forty-nine counties and employs forty-six farm agents and thirty-six home agents. One dot represents where one agent is in a county and two dots represents where two agents are in a county. The size of Texas does not have anything to do with the number of Negro agents employed, as Negroes are located in Northeast and South Texas.

**HOME DEMONSTRATION WORK,
WORK, NEGRO DIVISION,**

(Continued from page 6)

Kaufman County Mrs Mary J. Wilcott, home food supply demonstrator, Post Oak Bend community, says: "I became a home food supply demonstrator in 1938. My garden space was too small for my family of six, so my husband enlarged it. We fenced the garden later with new fencing at a cost of \$5.00 of the \$13.50 received from the sale of a yearling. Later, my husband built a cold frame in which I grew tomatoes, peppers and cabbage. I canned 187 quarts of fruits and vegetables, 3 quarts of poultry, preserved 14 quarts of jams and jellies stored 850 pounds of fresh vegetables and 100 pounds of dried vegetables. I attended the State Short Course at Prairie View College, Prairie View, Texas, and won three prizes on canned products exhibited at the Short Course. Early in 1939 we enlarged our cold frame. In July I sold \$6.90 worth of chickens and bought a cold pack canner, jars and other things that I needed for canning. I canned 350 containers of vegetables, fruits, meat and poultry for home use this year. In the summer my husband built a portable, four door, 4-H pantry. Our pantry cost \$9.50 and was paid for by a yearling which we sold for \$10.00. I made eight entries of canned products in our county exhibit and won three prizes.

Alma O. Huff, County Home Demonstration Agent

SYRUP COOPERATIVE

One power syrup mill, worth \$450.00 was bought by syrup cane demonstrators of Burleigh Community in Austin county during 1939. A committee of fifteen cooperative leaders put the mill on Richmond Thompson's farm. One thousand nine hundred and forty gallons of syrup were made by the farmers.

MEAT SHOWS

District Meat Shows will be held under the auspices of the Extension Service in Houston, Texas, at the City Auditorium, March 20-21, 1940, and Longview, Texas, in the Old Post Office Building, April 5-6-7, 1940. Exhibits will consist of two thousand pieces of home cured meat, two thousand four hundred exhibits of sausage, lard and eggs. Forty counties will participate.

**STATISTICAL SUMMARY OF
HOME DEMONSTRATION
WORK, TEXAS, 1939**

MAJOR PROBLEMS WORKED ON

Results Accomplished

Home Food Supply

5,866 families served better balanced meals, 5,061 produced and preserved food according to annual home food supply budget.

1,306,935 quarts of canned vegetables, fruits and meats; 405,648 containers of jelly, jams and other products; 1,193,026 pounds of dried fruits and vegetables; 1,579,685 pounds of cured meats; 161,708 pounds of nuts; 667,831 pounds of vegetables stored fresh and 166,831 pounds of brined fruit and vegetables were placed in pantries and other storage space 6,254 families improved their food preservation practices, table setting, service and etiquette.

3,307 families purchased pure bred chicks and 98,545 pullets were added to the poultry flocks. Each of the 33 counties served by a Negro county home demonstration agent has an average of 39 home food supply demonstrators.

Home Improvement

15,169 native shrubs and trees planted and living.

17,336 of the roses and nursery shrubs were rooted from cuttings and seeds.

1,706 homes were made more comfortable and attractive by addition of a chimney, roof repaired or replaced, house painted or foundation made secure.

1,074 steps and porches were repaired, 391 bedrooms, 236 kitchens and 204 living rooms were added.

1,337 mattresses were added 681 of which were made at home.

464 families added facilities for recreation and entertainment.

Clothing

13,365 individuals cooperated with the 185 clothing demonstrators in selection and construction of clothing.

38,762 garments were made.

3,692 girls completed the requirements for club girls

1,255 of this number kept clothing accounts.

\$85,782.95 is the total estimated savings due to the clothing program.

Extension Organizations

There are 477 adult home dem-

onstrator clubs and 373 girls 4-H club with a combined membership of 16,710. There has been an increase of 35 clubs and 365 members since 1938.

33 active county home demonstration councils promoted home demonstration work in 1939. 7,252 families, outside of clubs, were helped and all phases of the home demonstration program were encouraged.

\$1,716.50 was expended by the councils.

18 Tours were conducted.

122 Achievement Days and 11 Encampments were held.

13,173 persons attended and took part in these special events.

Home Industries

Product	Value of Sales
Dressed and live poultry	\$ 8,449.52
Eggs	22,839.90
Fresh meats	2,221.92
Butter and milk	13,737.55
Fresh vegetables and fruit	18,500.61
Canned veg. and fruits	1,039.48
Rugs, quilts and spreads	1,366.00
Total	\$68,154.98

**SUMMARY OF EXTENSION
WORK, NEGRO DIVISION,
1939**

(Continued from page 2)

ninety-five trees, bushes and vines were planted. This work has received a stimulus with a plan of getting farmers to produce their own fruit trees and bushes. As a result of this work one hundred and eight thousand, five hundred and twenty-two thousand peach seeds were saved and planted.

Recreation is of major importance in breaking the monotony of the meeting and it is no longer used because it is recommended, but the agents have learned that a little play helps with a lot of work and its use is growing year by year. It is indispensable in 4-H Club work. The nine father-and-son picnics conducted this year have proven that recreation has value that cannot be measured in dollars and cents. Negro County Agents render whatever service they can, not only to rural schools and farmers but to various organizations such as the AAA, Soil Conservation, FSA, REA, TVA, and NFA. The agents do what they can to coordinate their efforts with those of these agencies in order that our people might share in the benefits to be derived from working with these agencies.



Left to right. Butchering and cleaning hogs on the farm. Right. Dressing hogs. Center. Cutting and salting hogs. Below. Meat show in one of the forty-three counties where meat shows were held. Hams, bacon, shoulders, lard, soap, sausage and eggs were on display.

TURKEYS

One hundred and seven turkeys were sold cooperatively by three Negro farmers of Austin County.

The turkeys were fed and culled under the supervision of their County Agent. As a result of this cooperation they received the premium

price on the Hempstead market of 5½cents per pound. They received a total of \$307.50 from their turkeys.