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HOW 4-H CLUB WORK MAY CONTRIBUTE TO FARM LIVING

A radio talk by Miss Elaine Knowles, County Home Demonstration Agent, Prince Frederick, Maryland, delivered in the National 4-H Club Radio Program, March 2, 1935, and broadcast by a network of 59 associate NBC radio stations.

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In these days of "Back to the Farm", when every one is really appreciating the farm, you may be especially interested in hearing how the 4-H clubs aid in making the farm home one of the happiest institutions in America.

The aim of the program is to put rural homemaking on the level with the highest professions for girls and women. This is being done by creating a desire in our young people to share with their parents, the responsibilities in the home and help to improve the routine. In their club work they learn new standards of living. Most parents are as interested as the children and eagerly accept and ask for suggestions and material.

Projects include all types of homemaking activities. Home and room improvement is a very important one. Our girls are taught to repair and do over old pieces of furniture and to know how to select new ones. They learn to group furniture more pleasingly, how to treat walls and windows. Special meetings are held for re-upholstering and for making well-fitted slip covers. The revived art of hooked rug making aids in replacing worn rugs and covering bare floors. The study of floors with their various economical finishes is improving the appearance as well as lightening their care.

Pleasing color combinations are observed, pictures are given better positions on the walls, accessories are found suitable places. Designs are studied that may be used for the hooked rugs and needle work. This also aids in the selection of wall paper and household fabrics.

The study of foods involves many activities. Knowledge of food composition enables the club girl to plan well balanced meals. This in turn creates a desire for a greater variety of foods. New vegetables are added to the garden. The raising of gardens has become one of the most important 4-H activities. Soils and fertilization have to be studied as well as seasonal planting, varieties, and care for good returns. In order follows food preservation. The girls improve their canning methods and give to the family that larger variety throughout the year. Reports show many dollars earned, yearly by members through the sales of both fresh and canned products.

Standardization is a word that 4-H folk are trying to uphold. They believe that if everyone demands good quality that producers will see that they get it. They learn that there is a standard in home made products and when their baking does not reach that standard they can diagnose the causes and improve their products. When it comes to clothing quality instead of quantity is constantly stressed. Selection of materials that may be suitable for more than one season and styles that are conservative enough to be remodeled easily are encouraged. Type and color are carefully studied that the girl may enjoy the satisfaction known in having becoming clothes, suitable for the occasion

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and economically made. Repair and care of clothing holds an important place. Care of clothing often leads to closet improvement or improvising one when there is none.

Older 4-H people believe that, to make homemaking a profession, accounts should be kept as in any other profession.

Recreation and worthy use of leisure have such an important place in happy home life. Music books and hobbies enrich that leisure. The joy of singing and knowing good music is stimulated through club work. Appreciation of good books and more reading has been stimulated through club libraries, often started with contributed books.

Cooperation and participation in all worth while community activities are urged. Summer 4-H camps are held in many places in the United States. They give girls a chance for an interesting and instructive vacation and a chance to live and play with other girls.

Not long ago, a city chap on coming to one of our very rural sections, commented "This is certainly the country that God forgot." A little ten year old girl chirped to the rescue with "Oh, no, he didn't because we have a 4-H club."

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