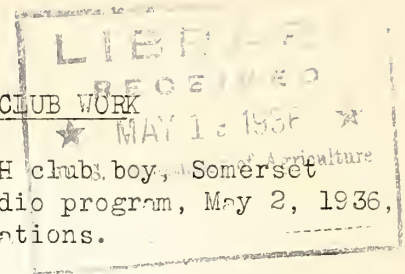


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BOYS FIND PROFIT AND ENJOYMENT IN 4-H CLUB WORK



A radio talk by Lester William Pollitt, negro 4-H club boy, Somerset County, Maryland, delivered in the National 4-H club radio program, May 2, 1936, and broadcast by a network of 58 associate NBC radio stations.

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During the four years I've been a club member, I have found 4-H club work profitable and enjoyable. Gardening is my major work and I have cut down the buying of our family's vegetable supply as a result of the essential things learned in gardening through 4-H club work.

In our county, an annual 4-H Short Course is held at Princess Anne Academy in order to teach boys and girls how to lessen their home problems which in turn helps their parents.

The following examples are but a few of the things learned and applied by the 4-H club boys: George Wright was taught how to trim a hedge. Mr. Black, who had been trimming Mrs. Wright's hedge for years, was killed in an accident. George having been taught how to trim a hedge was able to trim his own and return the courtesy to the Blacks by trimming their hedge. Billy Handy was taught how to cull chickens and thus saved his parents \$25.00 in one culling. Bain Maddox was taught how to make a simple rat trap, He cleared his home of rats and also the homes of some of his neighbors. Robert Gale and Garvin King learned how to cull and grade cucumbers and sweet potatoes. They in turn gave a very profitable demonstration at the State Short Course.

By these illustrations you can easily see how 4-H club work has helped the local boys. In addition to the things I've mentioned, practical demonstrations were given on making inexpensive hog-houses and chicken coops, the judging of dairy cows and hogs, the identification of plants and the controlling of harmful pests. It is necessary for us to learn how to build inexpensive houses and coops around the farm because "A Penny Saved Is A Penny Earned."

At the Short Course I was taught a great deal on my major project, gardening. I learned how to prepare and improve the soil of my garden, the planting and care of the vegetables, their cultivation, watering and many other helpful things. We also tackled the problem of home beautification. Whether we have a stately mansion or a simple hut we may find ways of beautifying the surroundings and keeping them wholesome and clean.

In 1931, the boys of my town organized a community garden club. The members raised fresh, crisp vegetables for their families. We also formed a pure-bred pig club. The boys raised not only their home supply, but furnished pigs for other boys and even adults. We saved over \$100.00.

Weekly 4-H meetings are held at our high school where our club agent, L. H. Martin, gives us timely information about our projects. For example, we talk over and learn about testing seeds, making garden charts, vegetable rotation, feeding poultry and hogs for profit, and inoculating hogs to prevent cholera. We also have demonstrations on killing, cutting and

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curing pork, testing of soils for acidity and many other good farm practices. Under Mr. Martin's instructions our corn yield has been raised from 15 to 40 bushels per acre.

In our 4-H club we have an enrollment of 63 members. I am its secretary and our club represents the upper half of Somerset County. Our district project is the yearly white-wash for clean, attractive homes and surroundings. We, as a group, cooperate with the National Negro Health Week in trying to help people make their homes healthful as well as beautiful. We use the Maryland State Highway whitewash formula which gives splendid results for our demonstration.

After hard work comes the time for enjoyment. Every boy and girl likes to swim, boat-ride, or something of that sort. Therefore, in order to obtain recreation we make a trip each year to Harmon's Beach in Delaware.

The annual Short Course brings worthwhile fun and pleasure to all that attend. A program is given every night by the 4-H clubs in order to further impress the things learned during the day. The candlelighting and camp-fire services are enjoyable, and it is interesting to meet clubbers from other counties. We received recreational instructions which contributed to our health. By applying the things learned in the 4-H club we have developed our head and hands, and by remaining loyal to our club we have developed our heart.

Boys should get the real significance of the 4-H's because all club members need to know the significance of the 4-H's to succeed. We find profit and enjoyment in 4-H club work because jobs have been attacked wholeheartedly and with interest, and while working we have been striving to keep as our motto, "Making the Best Better."

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