

Negro Youths Extend 4-H Work in County By Organizing Groups Known as 5-H Clubs

Sun 2/19/40

Development One Of Most Significant In Rural Program

One of the most significant developments among the young Negro men in rural Durham county is the creation and growth of the 5-H clubs, in which young men between the ages of 18 and 20 continue the activities practiced in the popular 4-H clubs.

A realization that the work of the 4-H clubs might well be carried further by those who had outgrown those clubs, led T. A. Hamme, Negro county farm agent, to think of organizing the older boys.

With the assistance of the men teachers in several of the schools, Hamme gathered a group of 4-H club graduates and explained the service they might be to their communities by being an active member of an organization whose aim would be to uplift the community.

Response was eager and there are now two active clubs with members from eight different communities. It is not necessary that a 5-H club member have belonged to a 4-H club, but about 80 percent have been members. About the same percentage are high school graduates.

From these clubs three young men have entered college, and one is now in his junior year, taking agriculture. Eight of them have been recommended for good jobs at Duke university and in the local hospitals, and their superiors report that their work is unusually satisfactory.

The majority of the 5-H club boys work in the city, but most of them live in the country with their

parents. Practically all of them take an active part in making the family life happy and in doing what they can to help their parents, the farm agent states.

Those who live on the farm last year carried farm projects such as poultry, tobacco, corn and potatoes. Five of them carried poultry projects and sold 2,015 chickens for a total of \$985.50.

One member, Charlie Day of Durham route 5, planted an acre in tobacco and made \$182.65, sold 72 fryers for \$39.85, stored 12 bushels of sweet potatoes for sale during the winter, and on one acre grew 44.1 bushels of corn which will be used to raise a hog this year.

The 5-H club members are active in community life. Three are junior deacons, and they have organized a glee club which sings at church services and for other programs.

The two clubs had a joint baseball team which played here and in other counties last summer.

They took the lead in improving three church yards and in buying lights for one church. They were responsible for building three potato houses, beautifying one school yard and the yards of eight homes.

At their meetings they discuss how they might improve standards of living and other problems. Preachers, teachers, and businessmen are invited to attend these meetings and to address the clubs. Adults, white as well as Negro, have responded to their efforts and have been very co-operative in helping these young men with their problems.

In the older boys' clubs lies a great hope for the betterment of rural life among the Negro farmers of Durham county.