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**A CAREER
FOR YOU**



MN 2000 EP 161

IN HOME

Demonstration

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UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
Agricultural Extension Service
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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HOME AGENT ON THE JOB

AS A HOME DEMONSTRATION AGENT, YOU are a teacher. Your "pupils" are not only the youngsters of your county, but their older brothers and sisters, and their parents, as well. As a teacher in Home Demonstration work, you won't be confined to a classroom, either. An entire county in Minnesota will be your classroom. Your workshop will be in the school, the home, the community, the farm, or the garden.

In Home Demonstration work, your satisfactions will be many. Personally, you will have the chance to exercise your initiative, originality, and leadership. In this job, there are unsurpassed opportunities for self-development and for continuous professional improvement. Your work is anything but monotonous, what with meeting different groups each day, visiting many different farm people, working out a variety of projects, and driving over pleasant countryside. You will find that the farm families will confide in you as you work with them, helping them to improve their homes, add to their income, and create facilities for enrichment of their lives.

VIA RADIO programs you will contact many farm families not otherwise reached by Extension Service. Your voice will become familiar in many households as you discuss on the air such programs as home furnishings, frozen foods, landscaping, or hospitality.

THROUGH HOME visits you will become acquainted with the everyday problems of the farm family. You may assist the homemaker and 4-H Club girls in such matters as planning a convenient cupboard, gardens, and the family wardrobe.

YOUR HEADQUARTERS will be at the county seat, where, in most cases, you'll share an office with the Agricultural Agent and the secretary. Frequent conferences of this county staff results in more effective Extension programs.

NEWSPAPERS are one of the best ways to keep the public informed — hence, a talk with the printer. You will write stories on activities of the Extension Service to notify the public of your plans and meetings, and to tell them of progress on the various programs.

YOUR OFFICE is really a branch of the University of Minnesota. Often homemakers and 4-H members will call on you here, to ask your advice or assistance, for instance in planning draperies for their living room. In addition to your personal help, you can give them informational bulletins and pamphlets furnished by the University.



DAYS ENLIVENED BY INTERESTING WORK



WORKING WITH YOUTH

AS A HOME AGENT, you share responsibility with the Agricultural Agent for 4-H Club organization, membership, and training. At the regular club meetings, you will discuss topics of interest and hold special project training meetings for the girls.



YOUR 4-H CLUB activities will include training boys and girls to give demonstrations on recommended practices they have learned in 4-H work. After this training in home pasteurization of milk, for instance, these members may demonstrate the practice to others.



HEALTH is another important item on the 4-H Club agenda. You will want to confer with the county nurse on a program to popularize and spread scientific findings in physical needs, home sanitation, and home safety to the people of your county.



YOUR ASSISTANTS in 4-H work are the adult leaders in each group. You will work with these leaders, planning the projects and giving them special training for more effective leadership. More often than not, these special sessions go on in a friendly kitchen, over a sociable cup of coffee.



WORKING WITH the older youth of the county is really fun. The rural youth groups will want your help with such projects as home planning, vegetable gardening, and good grooming. And they will also want to have you along for a festive party or an old-time dance.

FREQUENTLY your advice will be asked in the planning and carrying out of school lunch programs. Because you are interested in community activities, you will work closely with school officials on this project.

WORKING WITH HOMEMAKERS



AFTER their training, the leaders conduct demonstration meetings in their own clubs. By utilizing all these human resources, the Home Agents can carry the University into most homes in the county.



CHOOSING programs that will make for more satisfying home living is one of the jobs of the home and community leaders, with your guidance. You will help put these plans into action in your home program for the year.



OFTEN NEW leaders will welcome extra training, to give them confidence in teaching their project to others. Through this special help, the Home Agent develops local leaders to carry on the work, also becomes better acquainted with the women in her county.



WORKING WITH MERCHANTS



IF ONE of your lessons happens to be on frozen foods, you would want to consult the local storage plant operator and discuss the problems. Your combined suggestions and recommendations will result in a more satisfactory program.

COOPERATIVE CONTACT with local business improves public relations for the County Extension Service. As a Home Agent, you will want to acquaint the local merchants with the county program on selection of home equipment, furnishings, and clothing. He, in turn, will try to keep his stock in tune with the needs and problems of the homemaker. Occasionally, you'll accompany a homemaker on a shopping tour, to give her tips on buying and to learn what she really wants in equipment.



For Your Career . . .

Qualifications . . . To be a Home Demonstration Agent, you should have first of all, a college education, specifically a Bachelor of Science degree in home economics. You should also have a rural background—an interest in country people and an appreciation of farm life. You should be able to drive a car for your trips through the county. Your health should be good, reflected in a well-groomed appearance. Too, your job will demand imagination, resourcefulness, a sense of humor, and considerable executive ability. Add a lot of sound judgement, a generous portion of sincere enthusiasm and sympathetic understanding, plus plenty of common sense—and you will be a successful Home Agent.

Training for the job . . . When you are accepted for home demonstration work, you are not sent out into your territory without training. Instead, you are "apprenticed" to an experienced agent who will help you to understand your job and to get started in your new career. You will have the aid of a home demonstration supervisor who will counsel you and assist you in methods of organizing and carrying on your work with rural and urban people. Subject matter specialists from the University will help you in planning and developing your teaching program in the county.

On the job you will have opportunity to keep up to date in the field of home economics through frequent conferences, workshops, and refresher courses at the University. There will also be subject matter training meetings conducted by specialists, and individual conferences with specialists and supervisors. You will attend district and annual conferences to hear about and discuss current problems and situations and to exchange ideas with other agents on the job.

Further information . . . To learn more about this satisfying career for you, talk to your County Extension Agents, your home economics teacher in high school or your advisor in college, or to the State Home Demonstration leader at the University of Minnesota, University Farm, St. Paul.



UNIVERSITY FARM, ST. PAUL 1, MINNESOTA

Cooperative Extension Work in Agriculture and Home Economics, University of Minnesota, Agricultural Extension Division and United States Department of Agriculture Cooperating, Paul E. Miller, Director. Published in furtherance of Agricultural Extension Acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914. 10M-6-48

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