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I'm a Homemaking

Jill-of-all-

Anna Keppy, '41, declares that the job of county home economists is bigger than ever in wartime

TO CALL a home economist in an Iowa county a “jill-of-all-trades” is no exaggeration. For the county home economist is on the job to help farm homemakers and their 4-H daughters to do their jobs as thoroughly and as easily as possible. At no time is this an easy assignment, but in wartime the job becomes even bigger.

Farm homemakers, like everyone else these days, must meet many new problems brought on by the war emergency. They must learn to adjust to shortages and rationing; they must take over some tasks formerly done by a hired hand, a son or a husband now in the armed forces. They must contribute their services to such community projects as salvage drives, savings campaigns, civilian defense activities.

And 4-H girls are not exempt from these wartime responsibilities on the farm. By learning to do common home tasks 4-H girls can relieve their mothers for heavier work out-of-doors. They can play a major role in the home production and conservation of food and help in hundreds of ways to solve labor shortages and other farm problems that must be solved if production goals are to be reached in 1943.

The home economist is in the county to help these farm women and 4-H girls with their problems and tasks. She gives them timely information, inspiration and the organization they need if they are to make the adjustment to wartime demands. She gives them the newest and best information available on gardening and on canning and other methods of food preservation. She serves as a go-between for Iowa State’s Extension Service, which provides the information and material, and the homemaker who provides her family as the laboratory. Discussions, explanations and actual demonstrations are planned by the home economist to help the homemaker with her problems.

But food production and preservation are only two of the rural woman’s many responsibilities in the war emergency that call the home economist to duty. Farm women are interested in more than just the method of producing and preserving food. They want to know

trades



Anna Keppy, home economist in Wayne County, gives farm women assistance in solving their problems and helps 4-H girls with new responsibilities

what is meant by an adequate diet, how to obtain it and how to plan a year's food supply to make the best use of foods they have on hand. "Meal Planning and Wartime Cookery," "School Lunches," "Breadmaking" and "Share the Meat" information were requested by women in various counties in Iowa and prepared and presented by the home economists with the assistance of the state extension nutritionist.

Farm homemakers in Wayne, like many other counties, have studied facts about business which women should know if they are to give the most possible help to their husbands and even be prepared to take over farm management should their husbands be called to service. Here again, the county home economist is responsible for disseminating the information.

"Home Care of the Sick" and "First Aid in the Home" are popular subjects selected by farm women for the educational program this year. Since many doctors and nurses have gone into military service, medical and nursing service available for some rural people is limited. Home economists in the counties studying these subjects took refresher courses to enable them to present the newest material.

The farm homemakers have their own township and county organization but it is the responsibility of the home economist to assist them in planning and perfecting their organization.

Similarly, home economists have fortified themselves with information on a variety of other subjects selected by farm women in their counties. These topics, designed to help the homemaker in her wartime job on the home front, include "Children and Older Youth in Wartime," "Care and Repair of Equipment," "Conservation and Remodeling of Clothing," and "Homemade House Dresses."

"Share the Meat" was the first emergency campaign fitted into the county programs throughout the state this fall. As other sharing and rationing programs are launched, the home economist will be on hand to help homemakers make necessary adjustments and still maintain family morale.

The county home economist is able to give farm families the latest information through the help of home economics specialists in the Agricultural and Home Economics Extension Service at Iowa State.



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