

PROJECT NUMBER: SW-467

PROJECT STATUS:

DATE: JAN. 1, 1969 REVISION

TITLE OF PROJECT: EXPANDING 4-H HOME FURNISHING PROGRAMS

PRIMARY SUBJECT: H 25

SECONDARY SUBJECT: F 17

STATEMENT OF PROBLEMS:

Adolescence is the period when most young people first become aware of the appearance of their homes. It is also a time when many families make major changes in their houses and furnishings, in spite of other big pressures on the family budget. The 4-H Home Furnishing Project provides special opportunities for youngsters and parents to work together in making their homes comfortable and attractive.

Many young people marry and establish homes before they acquire the minimum of knowledge and skills that would help them use their money, time and energy to good advantage. Through this project area young people can acquire knowledge and skills that not only give immediate satisfactions, but also will help them approach the planning and furnishing of their first homes creatively and intelligently.

The home furnishing industry is pinpointing the teenage and under-25 market as major targets for present and future sales, and a large amount of advertising and promotion is aimed at the "youth market." This project provides learning experiences that help young people evaluate these pressures and develop independent judgment.

Enrollments in this project have increased about 60% in the past five years. However, special effort is needed if we are to reach a larger number of young people. Leaders and members as well as professional staff should be involved in evaluating the present program and in trying out new methods and approaches.

LONG-RANGE OBJECTIVES:

1. To increase the number of 4-H members who participate in this project area, with special emphasis on older members.
2. To upgrade the quality of assistance to leaders in this project area.

To help 4-H members--

3. Expand their creative abilities.
4. Learn to be competent consumers.
5. Understand the decision-making process and gain experience in using the process.
6. Understand the principles of color and design and gain experience in applying them.
7. Develop some manual skills that are immediately useful and that help build self-confidence.

TWELVE-MONTH GOALS:

1. Increase by at least 10% the enrollment in this project area.
2. Increase by at least 4 the number of counties holding special home furnishing events, as means of publicizing and enriching the project.
3. Try out in at least 3 counties some new approaches for reaching older members (14- to 18-year olds).
4. Try out in at least 3 counties new ways of assisting project leaders.
5. Carry on the basic, on-going activities that are part of this project area.

METHODS AND PROCEDURES:

1. At Regional 4-H Home Economics Conferences, determine which counties will take part in goals 2, 3, and 4, under Twelve-Month Goals.
2. Home advisors and specialist develop plans for special county and/or regional events.
3. Involve selected members and leaders in developing and trying out different approaches for reaching older members and assisting leaders.
4. Disseminate items of home furnishing subject matter and suggestions for teaching in county 4-H newsletters.
5. Prepare lists of tour possibilities and resource persons available in counties, to supplement and enrich all units of this project area.
6. Members of the Home Furnishing Project Development Committee will make recommendations and suggestions relating to new approaches and materials developed by individual home advisors and the specialist, for statewide use.

PROJECT LEADERS:

At the state level, responsibility for this project program is carried by Jane Schoppe, Extension Home Furnishing Specialist, with 4-H Specialist Dorothy Duncan serving as a consultant on organization, methods, and procedures.