The Home Demonstration agents who represent the Agricultural Extension service in Lafayette parish are members of the staff of the Louisiana State University and have been able to cooperate with extension service employees in other Extension programs. But the Agricultural Extension service is a cooperative organization supported by federal, state, and local funds for the good of the cooperating Extension and homemaking and thereby for the good of the people as well. The extension work is in the Smith-Lever act of 1914.

Home demonstration work began in Lafayette parish in 1914. Miss Caroline Boudreaux (Mrs. Luke LeBlanc) was appointed agent in that parish. She served until 1924. During that time the work was conducted with individual groups. In 1924 Miss Jessie M. Chambers was appointed and served until December, 1924, Mrs. Eva M. Pender was appointed in September 1925 and served until September, 1926. From that time until 1934 there was no home agent in the parish.

In 1934 Miss Lula Belle May (Mrs. R. A. Slocum) was appointed agent and it was during her leadership that the Lafayette Parish Demonstration council was organized in 1937 with Mrs. Lawrence Houpt of Ridge as its first president.

Object of Council

The object of the council is to promote, foster and strengthen all interests-material educational, social and economic interests-which bear on the welfare and the betterment of the rural homes and community. It is a cooperative and coordinating agency for parish-wide activities of the home demonstration clubs. The council cooperates with the Extension Service of the Louisiana State University, the United States Department of Agriculture in its plans for extension work with rural families.

As an advisory committee on home demonstration work this body may vote on any question concerning home demonstration work in a parish-wide way, preferably after those matters have been discussed in the individual clubs.

The parish council is composed of two members of each local club, preferably the president and secretary. The council meets at least yearly with the home demonstration agent in attendance.

Other presidents who have served have been Miss Marie Mouton, Scott; Mrs. T. L. Bourque, Milton; Mrs. L. B. Broussard; Mrs. Paul David, Youngsville; Mrs. Clements, Youngsville; Miss Lorraine Arsenault, Duson.

Other agents in the parish have included Miss Mabel Martin, Mrs. Fritz LeCoux (1930-42); Mrs. Ray Turpin 1942-45, Assistant Agent, and Iglande Mmes. Lena Trapham (Mrs. R. A. Smith) 1942-46; Miss Maude Puselier, Scott; Mrs. Eugene Grant (1945-47); Mrs. Dorothy S. Granier 1947-49.

Some of the activities sponsored by the council have been Adult Achievement days, mattress and comforter program, 4-H club work, scrap drives, clothing drive, cleaning surplus food for European children, national health week programs, farm and home labor saving show, Pressure cooker repair clinics, tours, contribution to Christmas Boxes. Development of leadership, health program, housing, nutrition, sanitation, consumer education and international relations. The council also sponsors delegates to the state and national meetings.

1939 Program of Work

The 1939 program of work for the parish is as follows:

Continuation of emphasis on improvement in health in cooperation with the Louisiana Farm Bureau federation, the Louisiana Rural Health Council and the 4-H health program.

Continuation of its work on world citizenship, studying national and international relations.

Continuation of its work in encouraging higher phases of homemaking; community music, worthwhile reading; use of the parish library and bookmobile; earning of reading certificates, writing of news articles and essays and the making of parish council scrapbooks.

Each club elect a leader for 4-H club work.

Assist in financing a rural girl in the study of home economics in college.