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**HOW TO ORGANIZE AND CONDUCT
A GIRLS' CANNING CLUB**

BY
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*In Co-operation with U. S. Department of Agriculture.

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BY
DELLA STROUD

Teacher's Motto.

To interest as many girls as possible in my school and community in the Girls' Canning Club work, and get them to grow a prize plot of tomatoes.

INTRODUCTORY

The Extension Department in this institution was created and is maintained jointly by the Farmers' Co-operative Demonstration work of the United States Department of Agriculture, and the Alabama Polytechnic Institute, Auburn, Alabama.



A Successful Crop.

Objects of the Canning Club Work.

The objects of organizing the girls of school age into Canning Clubs are:

1. To learn the best methods of growing tomatoes and to increase interest in home gardening.
2. To learn the best methods of canning and to interest the girls in getting a home-canning outfit.
3. To assist the mothers in always having a supply of vegetables for the table. This makes possible better living



The Mothers Take an Interest

at a lower cost and saves the vegetables otherwise often wasted.

4. To enable girls to be self-sustaining by selling their canned goods.

5. To put the home and school into closer relationship thus increasing the interest in home life and encouraging girls to study along the line of home making.

Why the Teacher Should Be Interested.

We feel that all teachers are anxious to better their school conditions. With our combined effort in this great movement we believe these conditions may be improved.

The Canning Club work will stimulate an interest in both the home and school as no other work can. Here you have a better opportunity for correlation of all subjects than ever before. You will find that your reading, history, geography, arithmetic, grammar and writing are all combined in this new work. And you will find the burden of teaching is not heavier but really lighter. This is truly an opportunity for a teacher to prove her ability and worth to her community. The experience of teachers, who have conducted Girls' Canning Clubs, is that more interest is manifested both in school work and the home life.

Any new work or study, and this is both, which arouses new interest and gives a broader field of study must prove to be of great value to the school.

How the Teacher May Organize a Club.

To organize the work the teacher should be the leader for the community. The county should be the unit and the County Superintendent of Education the leader for the county.

First get the girls interested and call a meeting of all the girls of school age in the neighborhood. Explain the value of the work and its importance. Let the girls understand there will be no cost attached to being a member of the club.

The only requirement will be that every girl shall grow one tenth of an acre of tomatoes. One tenth of an acre is 4,356 square feet. The plots may be made 33 feet wide and 132 feet long or 36 feet wide and 121 feet long or any shape just so they are one tenth of an acre in area.

Each girl should keep a record of her work and she will have the opportunity of contesting for club prizes and county prizes as well as State prizes.

Where there are several girls in a school and community

the teacher should organize a local club, adopting a simple constitution and by-laws and meeting occasionally to discuss the various phases of the work.

Where it is not possible to organize a local club, have the girls enter the county contest and forward their names at once to the County Superintendent.

Who May Become Members.

Any girl of school age who will agree to follow the instructions in the growing of one tenth of an acre of tomatoes and make reports may become a member of the Girls' Canning Club and may receive circulars of instruction upon request.

Women over 21 may become honorary members, receive literature and instructions and have all the privileges of the club except that they will not be allowed to contest for prizes.



About 300 Cans Were Gathered From This 1-10 Acre



The Girls With Their Product

SUGGESTED CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS.

Constitution.

Article 1. This organization shall be known as the
 ----- County Girls' Canning Club of Alabama.

Article 2. Any girl of school age shall be eligible to membership.

Article 3. The purposes of the Girls' Canning Club shall be to make home life more attractive and put the homes and schools in closer touch with each other, thereby increasing the interest in both.

By-Laws.

1. Each girl must plan and do most of her own work. Of course she may have some one to do the plowing and heavy work.

2. No girl in the county shall be allowed to contest for the prize unless she is a member of the County Canning Club.

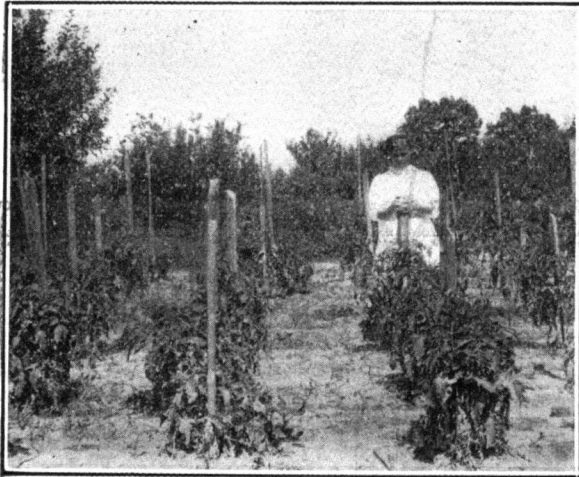
3. The members of the club must agree to read all of the instructions sent them.

4. The amount of yield by weight or measurement and the measurement of land must be certified to by each girl and attested by at least one disinterested witness.

5. No girl shall be allowed to receive more than two prizes.

6. Every member of the club must make an exhibit at the annual county contest.

7. In estimating your profits allow 50 cents for rent of your land. Estimate your work at 10 cents an hour, the



Instructions Were Followed to the Letter

work of each horse at 5 cents an hour. Allow \$1.00 for each one-horse load of manure.

8. The judges, or committee of judges, for the annual contest shall be selected by the managers of the clubs.

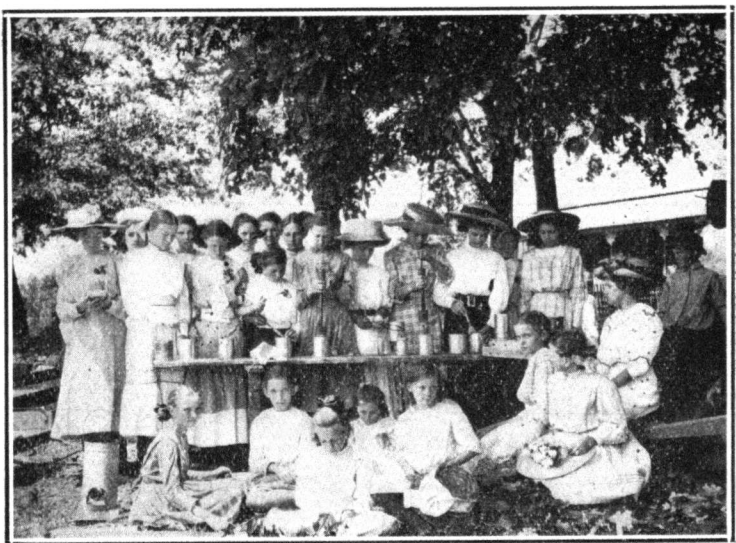
9. Prize winning tomatoes may be sent from the county to the State contest by the club manager.

10. Prizes and awards will be made upon the exhibits of products and written reports and records concerning the growing of the tomatoes. The following will be the points and credits for each:

- 1. Quantity of products20 per cent.
- 2. Quality of products20 per cent.
- 3. Variety of products20 per cent.
- 4. Profit on investment20 per cent.
- 5. History or written report.....20 per cent.

Results of the Work.

The Girls' Canning Club work was organized in 1911, in Alabama, in Pike and Walker counties with an enrollment of 140 members.



Canning the Tomatoes. Teacher on Right, Sitting Down

In Pike county the Club leader was Miss Sarah E. Luther, Troy, and in Walker county the two leaders were Miss Fannie Sartain, Gayoso, and Miss Esther Steadman, Saragossa.

Splendid results were accomplished in both of these counties. One girl in Pike county put up 1,023 two-pound cans of tomatoes from her one-tenth of an acre, besides a quantity of preserves, pickles and other by-products.



A Canning Picnic

Below is given a partial report from one of the 11-year-old members in Walker county:

"This Is a Report of my Tomato Work."

1. "The first thing I will describe is my soil. It is very poor gray silt up-land and has been in cultivation four years.

2. On the 8th day of March Papa broke up my plot 8 inches deep with a two-horse plow. March 31st he laid off the rows four feet apart. The plants were set two feet apart in the row.

3. I used 50 pounds of high-grade phosphate, bedding on it before plants were set out.

4. I used the Stone tomato and made some as large as tea cups

5. On April 12th I broke soil crust about my tomatoes with hand rake. April 15th Papa ran around them with a shovel and heel sweep. April 28th Papa plowed the tomatoes with a scratcher and I hoed them. May 10th Papa plowed again with a scratcher.

6. I had some trouble with Irish potato bugs, but got rid of them by picking them off early in the morning.

7. I canned 256 cans and would have canned more but could not get cans. I put up quite a lot of jellies, pickles, preserves and catsup.

8. I received second prize at our county fair. This prize was a nice dining room set, which I think was nice for any one to receive.

9. I am a little girl, only 11 years old, and I wish to say to the other girls, let us all do our dead level best next year with our tomatoes and also can other things besides tomatoes. I made 19 different varieties of canned goods. If any of the other girls will come to see me I will give them something good to eat.

This is my first letter to write."