

Teaching Field

Broadens In Scope

Iowa schools have a greater need for homemaking teachers due to the war, says Norma Shellito

PROVING that the need for homemaking teachers has increased with the progress of the war, a survey by the Iowa State Education Department reveals that there are 50 less home economics teachers in Iowa than last year.

The home economics program has been dropped for the year in a few schools because of the lack of teachers.

Because of the decreased enrollment of home economics students in some colleges, a smaller number

Homemaking teachers promote better diets among students by supervising school lunches and teaching the value of nutrition



of new homemaking teachers will be available after graduation this year.

In addition to their regular classes, homemaking teachers in Iowa schools are making important contributions to the winning of the war. They arrange clothing clinics, help in community canning centers, conduct victory gardening programs and cooperate in child care centers for children whose parents are engaged in war work.

Supervising a nutritious school lunch program is often one of the teacher's jobs. Many home economics instructors direct the food panel of their local ration boards, and help homemakers interpret the rationing program.

Community canning centers have been stimulated by the interest of homemaking instructors. Large canning equipment was made available to Iowa schools through the state Vocational Agriculture Office in cooperation with the Federal Food Production War Training Program last year. In these community canning centers, the home economics instructors have an excellent opportunity to teach nutrition and proper canning methods to adults.

Class work at the canning centers includes the planning of food production for a well-balanced diet. Prior to the actual canning work instruction is given in the selection and preparation of garden sites, proper methods of weed control, and appropriate methods of harvesting and conservation of the food.

Homemaking teachers in one Iowa high school supervised work on toy kits as a part of their course in child care and training. The kits which were filled with toys made or reconditioned by the girls, provided a lesson in overcoming wartime shortages. Made of shoe or hat boxes, the kits were covered attractively with pictures or cloth and filled with such toys as stuffed animals and dolls.

Planning and establishing clothing clinics is another important phase of the home economics teacher's war work. The clinics give women an opportunity to receive help on clothing construction and the proper methods of caring for clothes. At a clothing clinic in Eldora a style show of remodeled clothing emphasized methods of achieving a new wardrobe on a wartime budget.

A local businesswoman, familiar with the retail clothing situation, spoke to the clinic at one meeting on the availability of various ready-to-wear items. Problems of remodeling were discussed at other meetings where changes in old clothing resulted in new wardrobe items. A corduroy bathrobe became a small pair of overalls and men's shirts were transformed into little girls' blouses.