Handicapped 4-H'ers learn food preparation

By JOYCE BUPP Staff Correspondent

YORK - The national 4-H program has matured from the small rural organization founded many years ago to a modern voluntary system of education that offers training in an almost unlimited variety of project areas.

In keeping with the policies of broadening 4-H horizons to all who need and want to learn, York Extension 4-H specialist, Roxanne Price, laid the groundwork this Spring for the county's first handicapped 4-H club.

She had seen the handicapped 4-H program working in other counties, and Mrs. Price felt there was a need to make it available in the York area. Several active 4-H teens and adults offered to serve as leaders for the new club and invitations to join went out among the surrounding communities.

The response was enthusiastic, and early in May the first meeting was held in the kitchens of the 4-H

"Tasty Snacks" was the initial project selected for the eleven handicapped members, who represent areas of the county and city.

Quick, nutritious food items are prepared and served at each weekly meeting. Members all take part in the mixing and cooking of the snack-type foods, with the program

Landscapers...

designed to teach each one how to provide himself with a fast, easy-to-fix lunch.

During this past week's meeting, toasted cheese sandwiches and a tossed green salad were on the menu. Other favorites from the project recipes include cookies and brownies, homemade ice cream, and a variety of other sandwich combinations.

Table setting and nutrition information are also taught within the course and a period of recreation is a regular part of the meetings. The success of this first project and the interest shown by the members and their families already have leaders looking ahead to the next project.

"We're trying to avoid strictly a 'crafts' type project," Roxanne relates, "because so many other groups work with the handicapped in that field. Parents of the members say that this is the first real opportunity they've had to learn useful, self-help skills in an organized setting."

Age of the members ranges from nine to 32. Very affectionate and friendly with one another and with their leaders, they joke with and tease each other as they work. Older members help the younger ones, reinforcing their sense of accomplishment. Some have had previous experience

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Ready to taste test the final results are, from left: Beverly Jamison, Rodney Wire, teen leader Charla Janney, Ernest Jamison, Jr., Linda Zerbe,

Ernestine Jamison, Melissa Ferree, and Jeff Ausherman.

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