

AN ABSTRACT OF THE THESIS OF

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Title: A FOLLOW-UP OF STATE FARMER DEGREE WINNERS
COMPARED WITH OTHER FFA MEMBERS

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The State Farmer degree is awarded to outstanding Future Farmers of America members who have excelled in leadership, scholarship and agricultural activities.

The purpose of this study was to compare the relative success of Oregon State Farmer degree holders with other Oregon FFA members. Present occupation, leadership activities, income, educational level and job satisfaction were used as criteria in comparing the subsequent success of the two groups used.

Data collected for this study was obtained by sending questionnaires to 70 boys who earned the Oregon State Farmer degree in the Future Farmers of America organization during the years 1959 through 1963. Questionnaires were also sent to 70 boys from the same period of time who had not received the State Farmer degree. Completed questionnaires were received from 54 or 77.1 percent of the

State Farmers and 31 or 44.3 percent of the non-State Farmers.

State Farmers showed only a slight preference for farming over non-State Farmers with 24.1 percent of the State Farmers and 19.4 percent of the non-State Farmers choosing farming as their present occupation. More of the State Farmers chose agriculturally related occupations as 22.2 percent were so employed compared to 12.9 percent of the non-State Farmers.

No difference was found between the two groups in regards to job satisfaction.

The State Farmers surpassed the non-State Farmers in education with 88.9 percent attending college and 46.3 percent graduating as compared to 48.4 percent of the non-State Farmers attending college and 25.8 percent graduating.

The State Farmers had an average yearly income of \$7,251 compared to \$6,105 for non-State Farmers.

The criteria used for leadership revealed little difference between the two samples. The State Farmers attended an average of 1.47 organizations regularly and 1.38 organizations occasionally. This compared with the non-State Farmers who attended 1.29 organizations regularly and 1.37 organizations occasionally. The State Farmers held an average of 2.39 different offices compared with 1.84 by non-State Farmers.

A Follow-up of State Farmer Degree Winners
Compared with Other FFA Members

by

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A FOLLOW-UP OF STATE FARMER DEGREE WINNERS COMPARED WITH OTHER FFA MEMBERS

I. INTRODUCTION

Vocational agriculture was originally established by the Smith-Hughes Act of 1917 as a program for students in our public secondary schools. These students, because of their common desires, soon formed various types of agricultural clubs. Between 1923 and 1928, several states established a state organization. In 1928, the national organization of Future Farmers of America was established and chartered in eight states. Oregon followed in 1929 with all but the State of Alaska having a charter as of 1969.

The FFA is a voluntary intra-curricular organization of boys 14 to 21 years of age. It is self-governed with adult counsel and has no outside affiliations. It is a definite and vital part of the vocational agriculture program. The FFA expands leadership opportunities for its members in such activities as speaking in public, conducting and taking part in public and organizational meetings, and participating in civic activities and responsibilities. Patriotism, citizenship, scholarship, cooperation and sportsmanship are highly encouraged among and by FFA members.

In addition to character development, a great emphasis is placed on individual farming programs and establishment of members

in agricultural occupations. Many of the chapter activities are used to promote the individual's farming program. Financial and animal loans, chapter sires, cooperative buying and selling, and tours are means of establishing members in farming. Many organizations award animals to outstanding members as encouragement to start or expand a farming program. Many employers are working with the FFA and its advisors to provide work experience for students in many agricultural occupations.

The organization attempts to recognize the success of its members. In addition to awards in individual areas of accomplishments, the FFA has four degrees of membership: the Greenhand and Chapter Farmer degree awarded by the local chapters, the State Farmer degree awarded by the State Associations, and the American Farmer degree awarded by the National FFA organization for overall outstanding achievement.

Purpose

The purpose of this study is to determine whether the State Farmer degree is being awarded to the most worthy FFA members in terms of their present status as determined by their occupation, leadership activities, income, educational level, and job satisfaction.

Assumptions

1. That a greater percentage of the State Farmers will remain in the field of agriculture than non-State Farmers.
2. That State Farmers will continue their education to a greater extent than non-State Farmers.
3. That State Farmers will participate in more leadership activities than non-State Farmers.

Criteria of Success

Success in the United States is regarded in many ways. As people and areas differ, so do the methods and terms of measuring success. The following criteria were chosen for their merits in measuring success of State Farmers:

1. That higher income is a measure of success.
2. That attending meetings and holding offices show a degree of success.
3. That the more education a person has, the more successful he is.
4. That job satisfaction is a measure of success.
5. That for State Farmers to stay in the field of agriculture measures the success of proper selection of degree winners.

Limitations

The limitations of this study are:

1. Information will be gathered from those persons who received the State Farmer degree during the years of 1959 through 1963.
2. This study is limited to the state of Oregon.
3. The instrument to be used to survey the graduates will be a mailed questionnaire rather than a personal interview. A questionnaire is limited in that sentence structure and meaning may be misinterpreted by the respondent.
4. This study will include only those chapters that had State Farmers in 1959 through 1963.
5. It is limited by the fact that some of the State Farmers and non-State Farmers could not be located or did not return the questionnaire. The people who could not be located are more likely to have moved out of the community and perhaps into occupations other than farming. Therefore, the results may have been different if all the samples had been included in this study.

Procedure

Phase I. The first phase of this study consisted of reviewing similar studies to determine the time period to use in this study.

It was decided to select State Farmers for the five-year period 1959 through 1963. This would give the most recent graduates sufficient time to have completed college or served in the armed services and become established in a vocation. The author also discussed with Gordon Galbraith, Consultant for Agricultural Education, the criteria that are used to determine State Farmer degree recipients.

Phase II. The second phase of this study consisted of selecting two samples. The first was a random sample (by use of random tables) of 70 Oregon State Farmer degree winners from 1959 through 1963. During this time 378 State Farmer degrees were awarded.

The second sample was taken to correspond with the first. An FFA member who had the same number of years of FFA and was in the same class was randomly selected from the same school as the State Farmer. These names were from the list of members sent to the state office by each FFA chapter. This list also contained the addresses of both samples. The addresses of their senior year were used.

Phase III. The next step was to develop a questionnaire to send to the 140 State Farmers and FFA members selected. A questionnaire was developed and revised. Neil Hoing, an assistant principal, and Donald Franzen, vocational agriculture instructor, tested the questionnaire. A brief letter of explanation, a self-addressed envelope and a questionnaire were sent to each of the members of

this study. Of the 20 questionnaires originally returned by the post office marked "address unknown," the author wrote to the vocational agriculture instructors of the schools where eight of these boys had lived to find a valid address. No responses to these letters were received. After a month, a follow-up letter was sent to the 58 members who had not responded to the questionnaire. On this round, no questionnaires were returned by the post office because of unknown addresses. Nineteen responses were received as a result of the follow-up letter. When added to the 53 original responses, 82 or 58.6 percent of the total sample responded. This was a good return considering the extent the boys had become scattered throughout the state, nation and world.

Hoping to get a better response from the non-State Farmers, a third follow-up letter and questionnaire were sent to the 23 who had not previously responded. Seven of these were returned by the post office and three were returned by FFA members with a usable response.

Phase IV. The last step of this study will consist of analyzing and summarizing the information received. The information will be compared by use of percentages. If there appears to be a difference between the responses, the chi-square test of significance will be used to determine the level of significance.

Background Information

The FFA has four degrees of membership: Greenhand, Chapter Farmer, State Farmer and American Farmer. This study will deal with the State Farmer degree which is conferred by the state association. This degree is based on outstanding achievement in a supervised farming and/or other agricultural occupational experience programs, leadership and cooperative activities, and scholastics. Each state association can elect two percent of the total state membership annually that have been found the most worthy to receive the honor and have achieved the minimum requirements.

To qualify for evaluation by the state executive committee, the individual must first make written application for this award and have it approved by his local advisor.

The state executive committee has the responsibility of selecting the most worthy and nominating these members to the delegates of the state convention who, on approval, will be awarded the degree. The executive committee bases its recommendation on a written application and a personal interview with the applicants.

These degrees are given to encourage self-improvement, particularly in the field of agriculture, and to reward those who have achieved success in the Future Farmers of America. The Oregon association awarded the State Farmer degree to 74 members in

1959, 76 members in 1960, 73 members in 1961, 75 members in 1962 and 80 members in 1963.

Definition of Terms

For reasons of clarity the following terms are defined:

1. Agriculturally related occupations: Occupations involving agricultural knowledge and skills on a farm or in another business, agency, or organization which produces, processes, distributes, or services farm products. Workers need competencies in one or more of the primary areas in plant science, animal science, farm management, agricultural mechanization, and agricultural leadership.

2. Chi-square: This test compares observed frequencies with theoretical or expected frequencies and compares two or more sets of observed frequencies in order to determine whether the differences among the two sets of frequencies are significant; that is, whether the observed differences are too great to be attributed to chance.

3. Future Farmers of America: As defined by Phipps and Cook (1b, p. 286):

"The Future Farmers of America, commonly known as the 'FFA' is the national organization of, by, and for the boys studying vocational agriculture in public secondary schools under the provisions of the National Vocational Acts. It is an integral part of the program of vocational agriculture."

4. Non-State Farmer: A random sample of FFA members

from 1959 through 1963 who did not receive the State Farmer degree.

5. State Farmers: A random sample of the FFA members who received the State Farmer degree during the period of 1959 through 1963.

6. Vocational Agriculture: Vocational agriculture was included in the first legislation of vocational education under the Smith-Hughes Act of 1917. The curriculum includes five major subjects: production of livestock and farm crops, marketing of farm products, farm business management, soil management, and improved citizenship and rural leadership. Instruction is carried on in the classroom, the laboratory or shop, and through supervised farm projects for each student. With the legislation of the Vocational Education Act of 1963, off-farm work experience programs were added to the curriculum.

II. REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

Occupational Status

There have been many follow-up studies of the occupational status of former vocational agriculture graduates to evaluate programs in various schools, communities and states.

Future Farmers who earned the State Farmer degree have been studied several times. Holmquist (10, p. 36) in an Idaho study of State Farmers (1955 to 1960) found that 47.8 percent were farming, 17.6 percent were in agricultural occupations and 34.6 percent were in nonagricultural occupations. Lewis (12, p. 38) in a study of South Carolina's State Farmers from 1951 through 1960 found 47 percent of 292 respondents engaged in farming but gave no indication of those involved in off-farm agricultural occupations.

Forty-one and nine-tenths percent of South Dakota's State Farmers studied by Dooley (5, p. 53) were engaged in full time farming with 27.13 percent in related occupations. Studies in 1953 by Carter (3, p. 14) reflected that 60 percent of the State Farmers from 1929 to 1948 were engaged in farming and an additional 15 percent in related agricultural occupations. Of the American Farmers studied, 90.5 percent were farming or engaged in a related occupation.

Drew (7, p. 30) in a study of 1940 to 1952 American Farmers,

found that 88.8 percent were engaged in farming with an additional 8.7 percent in related occupations. Pederson (15, p. 57) found 51.4 percent of the vocational agricultural graduates of Turtle Lake High School engaged in farming and 27.7 percent in related occupations.

Gray (9, p. 36) in a 1952 study of 1941 to 1950 State Farmers of Colorado, found that 70 percent were engaged in farming with 0.8 percent in related occupations.

In a 1953 study of South Carolina's State Farmers from 1928 through 1951, Black (2, p. 7-8) found that 54.1 percent were farming, 8.1 percent were in related occupations, 25.7 percent were in non-agricultural jobs, and 12.1 percent were college or high school students.

Dowling (6, p. 17) in a 1952 study of Minnesota District V State Farmers from 1941 to 1950, found a surprisingly high 81 percent established in farming with two percent in related occupations. In a similar study of a limited area in South Dakota, Thomson (20, p. 23) showed that 83.3 percent were farming, following an agricultural curriculum in college, or were engaged in a related occupation.

In a study in 1967 Priebe (17) found that 36 percent of the 1959 agriculture graduates were farming and 21 percent were in related occupations. This study had given students time to complete college and serve in the armed services as indicated by only 6 percent being in the armed services.

In 1961 Bender (1, p. 236-237) found that 24.9 percent of the Ohio vocational agriculture graduates who had been out of high school five years were farming full time. An additional 18.8 percent were farming part time, 11.3 percent were in related occupations and 4.3 percent were attending a college of agriculture. Only 34.6 percent were in non-agricultural occupations and 6 percent in a non-agricultural colleges.

In 1961 Wood (22) related that 57 percent of the 1942 to 1950 Illinois vocational agriculture graduates with known occupations were engaged in agricultural work. He found 40 percent in farming, 8 percent in occupations related to farming, 3 percent in the armed services, 2 percent in college, 9 percent unknown and 2 percent deceased.

In a 1960 study of 1941-1958 Fennimore, Wisconsin vocational agriculture students, Cooper (4) found 57 percent farming or in agricultural occupations. In 1963 Tellefson (19, p. 62) reported that 38.5 percent of the Hermiston, Oregon agricultural graduates were employed in farming or related occupations, with 29 percent actually farming.

Magisos (13, p. 7) in a 1966 study in Washington, found that only 10 percent of the vocational agriculture graduates in 1956 were farming and 6 percent were in off-farm agricultural occupations. An additional 16 percent were in mechanical occupations related to the farm mechanization instructional phase of vocational agriculture.

The more recent the graduates in this study, the greater tendency to be in off-farm occupations.

Job Satisfaction

In this area of job satisfaction, the study by Galbraith (8, p. 50) indicated 37 percent highly satisfied, 46 percent well satisfied, 7 percent indifferent, 10 percent somewhat dissatisfied, and none were dissatisfied, the average being slightly above well satisfied.

Robinson, Connors and Whitacre (18) reported that in the past 31 years, 494 reported studies have indicated a wide range of dissatisfaction of workers with their jobs. The median has held constant at 13 percent dissatisfied for the past 10 years. Kuhlen (11) found that occupational satisfaction ratings ranged from 1 to 11 for 108 males with the median being 8.9. About three-fourths of the ratings fell in the categories of 8, 9 and 10. A rating of 6 represented "average" satisfaction and 11 highly satisfied.

Education

Contemporary society has indicated that continued education is a measure of success and contributes to both the mental and financial well being of a person.

The Panel of Consultants Report on vocational education (21,

p. 8) indicated that only 20 percent of the elementary students of 1960 through 1962 would complete four years of college.

Holmquist (10, p. 37) found that 78.7 percent of Idaho's State Farmer degree winners attended college. Forty-four and nine-tenths percent of the degree winners graduated. Lewis (12, p. 39) reported that 56 percent of South Carolina's State Farmers enrolled in an institute of higher learning with 22.3 percent of the State Farmers earning a four-year degree. It was noted also that 21 percent were attending school at the time of this study; the average level of education beyond the high school level was 1.5 years. In an earlier South Carolina study, Black (2) indicated that nearly 47 percent of the State Farmers had attended college.

In Dowling's (6, p. 17) local study in Minnesota where a high percentage of the State Farmers went into farming and related occupations, only 15 percent attended college and only 2 percent of those studied graduated. In contrast, Thompson (60, p. 21) found in a similar study in South Dakota with a large percentage in agriculture that 66 percent attended college.

Illinois vocational agricultural graduates were found by Wood (22) to attend college at the rate of 11 percent. Thirty-seven percent of the vocational agriculture students in Fennimore, Wisconsin had attended one or more years of college, but only 7.4 percent of those studied had graduated. Cooper (4) also reported an additional 6.2

percent had attended vocational school and 19 percent had attended farm short courses or had young farmer training.

Income

In reviewing Oregon Economic Statistics (14, p. 23, 39) it was found that the median income in 1960 for 20 to 24-year old males was \$3,001.00. For males 25 to 34 years old, the median income was \$5,248.00. When considering inflation, the increase in per capita income and the average age of the group to be studied, it was determined that the average yearly income for 1967 to 1968 would be between \$5000 and \$6000.

Leadership

Leadership has been studied in several ways. Holmquist (10, p. 36) indicated that leadership ability of Idaho State Farmers was shown by the fact that 69.6 percent of those who served in the armed forces were rated as officers.

Dooley (5, p. 58), in 1952, conducted a study to determine the leadership status of State Farmers in South Dakota and discovered State Farmers held an average of 1.9 offices on the local, district, state and national levels. Community leadership was indicated by offices held since graduation from high school. At the time of his study, there were 50 important offices held by 129 State Farmers

in county, state, and national organizations. Leadership activities were found to increase as the age of the men advanced.

Drew (7, p. 30) reported that American Farmers had an average membership in 10.9 organizations in all community organizations and held or were holding an average of 3.0 leadership positions.

The research studies of Pederson (15, p. 55) in 1962 indicated that the leadership abilities developed by former vocational agriculture students who became Future Farmers of America members carried over into later life. The training they received in the Future Farmer activities apparently helped the former vocational agricultural students to assume leadership positions and probably to become better socially adjusted members in their community. Pederson found that 74 graduates of a local high school were in 164 organizations and held 13 offices.

III. PRESENTATION OF DATA

This study covers State Farmer degree winners from 1959 to 1963. A random sample of 70 of the 378 State Farmers was taken from the list of degree winners. These FFA members will be compared with a sample of FFA members from the same chapters as those selected for the above sample with the same number of years in FFA. The findings are based on results from a questionnaire sent to both samples. The results can be best presented by a consideration of the components of the questionnaire.

Questionnaires Sent and Returned

Identical questionnaires were sent to the two samples using the addresses they had sent into the state office their senior year of high school. Reaching the sample in this method had a major obstacle in that nine years had elapsed since the earliest sample had graduated. Table 1 shows the results of questionnaires sent, returned "address unknown," returned completed and not returned.

Of the 140 questionnaires sent, 85 or 60.7 percent were returned answered. Twenty-seven or 19.3 percent of the sample were unable to be located by the above procedure. An attempt was made to locate part of these by questioning the present vocational agriculture teacher at the school from which they graduated, but no reply

was sent back. By using the chi-square formula, it was found that there was a significant difference to the 0.001 level in the rate of replies and unknown addresses. An examination of Table 1 seems to indicate that State Farmers were more stable in the community and tended to move less--possibly because their parents may have been established in farming.

Table 1. Questionnaire

	State Farmers		Non-State Farmers		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Number sent	70		70		140	
Returned answered	54	77.1	31	44.3	85	60.7
Returned unopened	6	8.6	21	30.	27	19.3
Unreturned	10	14.3	18	25.7	28	20.0

A further analysis was made in Table 2 which showed that the State Farmers returned the questionnaire to a greater degree than the non-State Farmers who received the questionnaire. With 84.4 percent of the State Farmers and only 54.1 percent of non-State Farmers answering, the level of significance was 0.01 using the chi-square test of significance.

Table 2. Response of Those Receiving Questionnaire

	State Farmers		Non-State Farmers		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Total Number	64		49		113	
Returning	54	84.4	31	63.3	85	75.2
Unreturned	10	15.6	18	36.7	28	24.8

When the reliability of the addresses were analyzed, the researcher found that the State Farmers had significantly more stability as measured by the unopened return of questionnaires by the post office. The chi-square test was applied to Table 3 and there was found to be a significant difference to the 0.001 level.

Table 3. Reliability of Addresses

	State Farmers		Non-State Farmers		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Number Sent	70		70		140	
Number Received	64	91.4	49	70.	113	80.7
Return Unopened	6	8.6	21	30.	27	19.3

Occupational Information

The questionnaires indicated that 13 or 24.1 percent of the State Farmers were farming while 6 or 19.4 percent of the non-State

Farmers were farming. An additional 12 or 22.2 percent of the State Farmers were in agriculturally related occupations but only 4 or 12.9 percent of the non-State Farmers were so employed. Little difference appeared between the 8 or 14.8 percent of the State Farmers in the service and school as compared to the 2 or 6.5 percent of the non-State Farmers. The percentage difference between the 21 or 38.9 percent State Farmers and 19 or 61.3 percent non-State Farmers in non-agriculturally related occupations appears to be different. But when the chi-square test is used the difference is not significant at the 0.05 level.

Table 4. Occupational Status

	State Farmer		Non-State Farmer	
	No.	%	No.	%
Farming	13	24.1	6	19.4
Ag Related	12	22.2	4	12.9
Student	5	9.3	1	3.2
Service	3	5.6	1	3.2
Non Ag	<u>21</u>	<u>38.9</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>61.3</u>
Total	54	100.1	31	100.0

Although Table 5 shows that State Farmers available for employment are entering farming and agriculturally related occupations to a greater extent than non-State Farmers, the difference is not

significant at the 0.05 level when the chi-square test is applied. However, if the ratio had remained the same and the sample size doubled, it would have been significant. The percentages in agriculturally related occupations are similar to those found in related literature.

Table 5. Occupations of Those Available for Employment

	State Farmers		Non-State Farmers		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Number	46		29		75	
Farming & Related	25	54.3	10	35.5	35	46.7
Non-related	21	45.7	19	65.5	40	53.3

Job Satisfaction

There appears to be very little difference, as shown in Table 6, between the job satisfaction of State Farmers and non-State Farmers. By use of a rating scale giving "dissatisfied" one point and progressing to "very satisfied" with four points, the mean is 3.26 for State Farmers and 3.23 for non-State Farmers. This is very similar to the degree of job satisfaction found by Galbraith (8, p. 46).

Table 6. Job Satisfaction

	State Farmers		Non-State Farmers		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Very Satisfied	26	48.1	14	45.2	40	47.1
Satisfied	20	37.0	11	35.5	31	36.5
Nearly Satisfied	4	7.4	5	16.1	9	10.6
Dissatisfied	4	7.4	1	3.2	5	5.9

Education

The State Farmers excelled in the area of continued education in institutions of higher learning; 48 or 88.9 percent of the State Farmers attended at least one year beyond high school as compared to only 15 or 48.4 percent of the non-State Farmers. The mean level of advanced education was 1.52 years for non-State Farmers and 2.83 years for State Farmers. Twenty-three or 42.6 percent of the State Farmers had earned bachelor's degrees with an additional 2 or 3.7 percent receiving master's degrees. The non-State Farmers had no one who earned a master's degree, but 8 or 25.8 percent had received bachelor's degrees. Three or 5.6 percent of the State Farmers had received a particular type of license compared to 2 or 6.5 percent of the non-State Farmers. In addition, 5 or 9.3 percent of the State Farmers were still in college as contrasted by only 1 or 3.2 percent of the non-State Farmers.

Table 7 shows the distribution of the sample according to the number of years of education they completed beyond the high school level. It reveals the greater accomplishment of State Farmers and is further established by the 0.01 level of significance indicated when the chi-square test is used.

Table 7. Education Beyond High School

Years of Education	State Farmers		Non-State Farmers		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
0	6	11.1	16	51.6	22	25.9
1	8	14.8	4	12.9	12	14.1
2	10	18.5	1	3.2	11	12.9
3	2	3.7	2	6.5	4	4.7
4	21	38.9	5	16.9	26	30.6
5	<u>7</u>	<u>13.0</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>9.7</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>11.8</u>
Total	54	100.0	31	100.0	85	100.0

Income Status

The income of State Farmers as shown in Table 8 was decidedly higher than non-State Farmers as indicated by the greater number of respondents in the "over \$8,000" bracket. The level of significance is 0.05 when the chi-square test is applied. Important also is the fact that five of the State Farmers that were in the lowest income

bracket of 0 - \$5,000 were students and members of the armed services compared to only two of the non-State Farmers in this area.

When compared to the average income in the state, the non-State farmers were slightly higher, but the State Farmers were definitely higher. When the averages of the first three brackets are used and an average of \$10,000 is used for the "over \$8,000" bracket, the State Farmers averaged \$7,252 while the non-State Farmers averaged \$6,105.

Table 8. Yearly Income

	State Farmers		Non-State Farmers	
	No.	%	No.	%
0-5000	8	14.8	5	16.1
5-6000	7	13.0	10	32.3
6-8000	19	35.2	13	42.0
over 8000	<u>20</u>	<u>35.2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>9.7</u>
Total	54	100.0	31	100.1

Leadership Activities

Members of the survey were asked to indicate their regular attendance to organizations, their occasional attendance to organizations, and the number of offices they had held since high school. The distribution of their responses is shown on Tables 9, 10 and 11. The information appearing in Tables 9 and 11 would indicate that the State Farmers showed more leadership characteristics. But when

the chi-square test was applied, it was not significant at the 0.01 or 0.05 level.

Table 9. Regular Attendance to Organizations

No. of Organizations	State Farmers		Non-State Farmers	
	No.	%	No.	%
0-1	29	53.7	20	64.5
2-3	24	45.3	10	32.3
4-6	<u>1</u>	<u>1.9</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>3.2</u>
Total	54	99.9	31	100.0

Table 10. Occasional Attendance to Organizations

Organizations	State Farmers		Non-State Farmers	
	No.	%	No.	%
0-1	34	63.0	20	64.5
2-3	17	31.5	9	29.0
4-6	<u>3</u>	<u>5.6</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>6.5</u>
Total	54	100.1	31	100.0

Table 11. Different Offices Held Since High School

No. of Offices	State Farmers		Non-State Farmers	
	No.	%	No.	%
0-1	28	51.9	18	58.1
2-3	12	22.2	9	29.0
4-6	9	16.7	2	6.5
over 6	<u>5</u>	<u>9.3</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>6.5</u>
Total	54	100.1	31	100.1

The average number of organizations attended regularly was 1.47 for the State Farmers and 1.29 for the non-State Farmers.

The average occasional attendance at organizations (Table 9) was virtually identical with State Farmers attending 1.38 and non-State Farmers attending 1.37 meetings.

Table 11 shows no conclusive difference between the groups studied in terms of offices held. More State Farmers than non-State Farmers fell in the higher two categories of "4-6" and "over 6" different offices held since high school. More of the non-State Farmers responded in the "0-1" and "2-3" category than State Farmers.

IV. SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS, AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Summary

Vocational agriculture was established by the Smith-Hughes Act for students in our public secondary schools. In 1928 the national organization of Future Farmers of America was established with Oregon being chartered in 1929. This organization is designed to expand the leadership activities of vocational agriculture students and to aid in establishing members in farming and related occupations. To encourage this, and to recognize outstanding members, four progressing degrees of membership are awarded.

The purpose of this study was to compare the relative success of Oregon State Farmer degree holders as compared with other Oregon FFA members. Present occupation, leadership activities, income, educational level and job satisfaction were used as criteria in comparing the subsequent success of the two groups used.

Most State Farmer studies reviewed showed a consistent pattern of 40 to 60 percent entering farming and 10 to 20 percent entering related agricultural occupations. Numerous studies focusing on educational attainment show little consistency, with a variation of 15 to 80 percent of the State Farmers attending college. Nonconclusive data was available concerning job satisfaction, income, and leadership activities.

Data collected for this study was obtained by sending questionnaires to 70 boys who earned the Oregon State Farmer degree in the Future Farmers of America organization during the years 1959 through 1963. Questionnaires were also sent to 70 boys from the same period of time who had not received the State Farmer degree. Completed questionnaires were received from 54 or 77.1 percent of the State Farmers and 31 or 44.3 percent of the non-State Farmers.

A significant difference to the 0.01 level was found between the sample groups concerning the rate of returns and the reliability of the addresses used. The source of addresses used was from five to ten years old. Thirty percent of the non-State Farmer questionnaires were returned marked "address unknown" while only 8.6 percent of the State Farmer questionnaires were so returned. This seemed to indicate that the State Farmers came from homes that were more established in the community. Of those receiving the form, 84.4 percent of the State Farmers returned it contrasted by only 63.3 percent of the non-State Farmers.

State Farmers showed only a slight preference for farming over non-State Farmers with 24.1 percent of the State Farmers and 19.4 percent of the non-State Farmers choosing farming as their present occupation. More of the State Farmers chose agriculturally related occupations as 22.2 percent were so employed compared to only 12.9 percent of the non-State Farmers. These differences

are not significant at the 0.05 level when the chi-square test is applied.

In comparing the results of this study with the findings of similar studies in this and other states, it was found that Oregon State Farmers and non-State Farmers ranked lower in establishment in farming and other agriculturally related occupations.

No difference was found between the two groups in regards to job satisfaction with results comparing to those found in a study by Galbraith (8, p. 46).

It appears that nearly all of the State Farmers are capable of doing college work with 88.9 percent attending college, 74.1 percent completing at least one year, 46.3 percent receiving a bachelor's degrees and 3.7 percent receiving master's degrees. The non-State Farmers were not as successful in this area as only 48.4 percent attended college, only 35.5 percent completed more than one year and only 25.8 percent graduated from college. In addition 5.6 percent of the State Farmers and 6.5 percent of the non-State Farmers received a particular type of license. The average level of education beyond high school of Oregon State Farmers was nearly twice that of non-State Farmers and State Farmers of other studies. The State Farmers attended 2.83 years and non-State Farmers 1.52 years with 9.3 percent and 3.2 percent respectively in school at the time of this study. This is significant to the 0.01 level.

The Oregon State Farmers showed greater success in the area of yearly income receiving \$7,251 compared to \$6,105 for non-State Farmers. This nearly \$1,150 difference is significant to the 0.05 level.

The criteria used for leadership revealed little difference between the two samples. The State Farmers attended an average of 1.47 organizations regularly and 1.38 organizations occasionally compared to the non-State Farmers who attended 1.29 organizations regularly and 1.37 organizations occasionally. There was no significant difference at the 0.05 level regarding the offices held since high school. The State Farmers held an average of 2.39 different offices and 1.84 were held by non-State Farmers.

Conclusion and Recommendations

It is evident that the Oregon State farmers received more formal education as assumed in Chapter I and were earning more at the time of this study than non-State Farmers. There seems to be a positive relationship between these two factors with those receiving the greater amount of education also receiving the higher income. State Farmers chosen because of their ability to excel have continued to do so in these areas.

State Farmers did not enter or stay in agricultural occupations to a significant extent more than non-State Farmers as assumed in

Chapter I. Less than half of the State Farmers and non-State Farmers of Oregon entered farming and agriculturally related fields. The reasons for this are not brought out in this study and need further research. A great emphasis placed on college prep programs, the rush for engineers to compete in the race for space, and emphasis on production agriculture, rather than off-farm occupations, are conditions that existed when the State Farmers received their degrees. These factors may be responsible for the movement of Oregon's top FFA boys away from agriculture. The author would recommend that more encouragement be given to State Farmers to stay in agriculture and that further research be done in this area.

Nearly all of the FFA members in this study were satisfied with their occupations with no difference between the groups studied.

Participation in leadership activities by State Farmers was not greater than non-State Farmers as assumed in Chapter I. The activities chosen to indicate leadership characteristics showed an inconclusive difference between the respondents. Further study in this area is needed to find out why the leaders in the FFA are not showing the same characteristics now compared to when they received their degrees. Possibly their age and conditions have prohibited leadership activities. With the majority of them attending college and many serving in the armed services, the State Farmers have had little time to become established and participate in the

leadership of the community.

Those responsible for selecting the Oregon State Farmer degree winners should review this and other studies and compare the results with the objectives of the degree.

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APPENDICES

APPENDIX I

Schools Used in Survey

<u>School</u>	<u>No. of State Farmers Surveyed</u>
Albany	3
Banks	2
Bend	2
Canby	3
Central-Linn	1
Central Point	1
Clackamas	1
Corvallis	1
Crater	1
Culver	1
Eagle Point	1
Enterprise	2
Estacada	3
Gresham	3
Harrisburg	1
Hillsboro	1
Independence	1
Joseph	2
LaGrande	1
Lake View	1
Marshfield	2
McLoughlin	1
Molalla	1
Newberg	1
North Marion	1
Ontario	2
Pendleton	3
Phoenix	2
Scappoose	1
Sheridan	2
Sherman	2
Stanfield	1
St. Paul	1
The Dalles	2
Vale	2
Veronia	1
Wallawa	1
West Linn	5
Woodburn	3
Wy'east	4

APPENDIX II

First Cover Letter for Questionnaire

September 13, 1968

Dear Sir:

I am attempting to follow-up 1959-63 high school Vo-Ag graduates of Oregon that were FFA members to find out their occupational and financial status. This information can help me as a Vo-Ag instructor to survey the relevance of Vo-Ag to the present occupations of FFA members.

I greatly appreciate your consideration in filling out this short form and returning it in the self-addressed envelope.

OSU graduate student
Paul Olsen

APPENDIX III

Second Cover Letter for Questionnaire

October 14, 1968

Dear Sir:

A few weeks ago you should have received a form to fill out concerning the occupational and activity status of 1959-1963 Vo-Ag students. The information you can supply is necessary to make this survey representative.

In case you have mislaid the first form I am sending another and greatly appreciate your filling it out and returning it in the self-addressed envelope.

OSU Graduate Student
Paul Olsen

APPENDIX IV

Third Cover Letter for Questionnaire

February 27, 1969

Dear Sir:

Last fall you received a form to fill out concerning the occupational and activity status of 1959-1963 Vo-Ag students. The information you can supply is necessary to make this survey representative.

In case you have mislaid the first form I am sending another and greatly appreciate your filling it out and returning it in the self-addressed envelope.

OSU Graduate School
Paul Olsen

APPENDIX V
QUESTIONNAIRE

Follow-up Survey

- I Present Occupation _____ Ag Related _____ Yes _____ No _____ Length of Employment _____
- II Previous Occupation _____ Ag Related _____ Yes _____ No _____ Length of Employment _____
- III Would you please rate your degree of satisfaction with your present position.
 _____ Dissatisfied _____ Nearly Satisfied _____ Satisfied _____ Very Satisfied
- IV Did your high school course of study prepare you for this occupation? _____ Yes _____ No
 If yes, to what degree? (Please circle)
Closely Related 1 2 3 4 Not Related 5
- V Is your present occupation related to your high school occupational choice?
 _____ Unrelated _____ Related _____ Closely Related
- VI Number of class or organizational offices you held while in high school. _____
- VII Please check the extent of your education or training since completing high school.
 _____ 1 year _____ 2 years _____ 3 years _____ 4 years _____ 5 years or more
 Degree(s) (Specify) _____
- VIII How does your average yearly taxable income compare with the average state income of \$5,000 to \$6,000 for 25 year olds?
 _____ Below Average (0 - \$5,000) _____ Above Average (\$6,000 - \$8,000)
 _____ Average (\$5,000 - \$6,000) _____ Well Above Average (\$8,000 +)
- IX Number of organizations you attend regularly.
 _____ 0-1 _____ 2-3 _____ 4-6 _____ over 6
- X Number of organizations you attend occasionally.
 _____ 0-1 _____ 2-3 _____ 4-6 _____ over 6
- XI Number of different offices you have held since high school.
 _____ 0-1 _____ 2-3 _____ 4-6 _____ over 6
- XII Did you receive the State Farmer Degree? _____ Yes _____ No