

DEVELOPING A YOUNG FARMER ORGANIZATION FOR VIRGINIA

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DEVELOPING A YOUNG FARMER ORGANIZATION FOR VIRGINIA

CHAPTER I

THE PROBLEM

Introductory Statement

In recent years increased emphasis has been placed on a program for the development of a young farmer organization in Virginia, both on a local and state level.

It is the observation of the author that the Virginia teachers of vocational agriculture as well as the supervisors and teacher-trainers are earnestly searching for answers and solutions to the problems they have to face in organizing and conducting young farmer organizations. It is to be hoped that this study will prove helpful to the teachers of vocational agriculture, supervisors and teacher-trainers in organizing and conducting the young farmer program.

The Purpose of the Study

The general aim of this study is to reveal the situation that exists in the young farmer organizations of Virginia so as to answer the following questions:

1. To what extent are young farmer organizations functioning in Virginia?
2. What are the procedures followed and the difficulties encountered in organizing the young farmer clubs?
3. What groups make up the membership and what are the requirements for the supervised farming program of the members?
4. What are the purposes of the young farmer organization, how

often and where do the clubs meet and what is the procedure followed in conducting the meetings?

5. Does the organization have a definite written program of work, who sets up the program of work and what are the topics for discussion at the meetings?
6. What agencies have been used in carrying on the programs and what benefits have been derived from the young farmer organizations?
7. What techniques or activities have been used in creating and holding interest and what difficulties have the teachers of vocational agriculture experienced in carrying on the young farmer organization?

It is a further purpose of this study to formulate a suggested plan that may be used as a guide in each rural agricultural community in Virginia for organizing young farmers in an educational group.

The Need for the Study

Since the establishment of departments of vocational agriculture in Virginia, the teachers of vocational agriculture have been conducting an educational program for the out-of-school young farmers of the local communities. As the programs developed the idea of a young farmer organization began to crystalize. The local organizations have been conducted at the discretion of the teachers of vocational agriculture, since there has been no guide or standard to follow in organizing and conducting the young farmer program.

What procedures have been followed in organizing the young farmers

into an educational group? What difficulties may be encountered in organizing the young farmer group? What group should make up the membership of the young farmer organization? What activities could be used for creating and holding interest? These are a few examples of the questions that confront teachers, supervisors, and teacher-trainers in the field of vocational agriculture.

There has never been any systematic effort to determine to what extent young farmer organizations are functioning in Virginia, to find the procedure followed in organizing the young farmer groups, to determine the difficulties encountered, to determine the agencies used in conducting the program, to find the benefits derived from the organizations, nor to determine the difficulties experienced in conducting the young farmer organization.

The teachers of vocational agriculture have expressed a desire to know what is being done in young farmer organizations. At the same time the teachers of vocational agriculture who are conducting local organizations desire to know how they can improve their programs.

Since the teachers of vocational agriculture are organizing and conducting the local young farmer organizations without a guide to follow it is obvious that a study is needed to secure this information for them.

The Limitations of the Study

This study will deal with the activities of the young farmer organizations in 203 departments of vocational agriculture in Virginia and 14 departments of vocational agriculture in North Carolina, South

Carolina, Georgia, Pennsylvania and Ohio.

The study is based upon statements of teachers of vocational agriculture in the 217 departments. It is assumed that all answer are true statements of the situation as it actually existed in the 217 young farmer organizations in the academic year of 1951-1952.

THE METHOD OF INVESTIGATION

This part of Chapter I deals with the general procedure followed in conducting the study.

Method of Procedure

There were two possibilities that could have been used in conducting this study. The first method was to conduct personal interviews with the teachers of vocational agriculture to secure the information needed for the study. The second method was the use of a questionnaire to be filled out by the teacher of vocational agriculture giving the information needed. Inasmuch as the study included 203 teachers of vocational agriculture in Virginia and 14 teachers of vocational agriculture in five other states it was impractical to collect the data for the study by the personal interview method.

A combination of the two methods was used in collecting the data. Twelve outstanding departments of vocational agriculture in Virginia with young farmer organizations were visited to secure information for the study. The twelve departments were selected, two from each supervisory area, by the area supervisors of vocational agriculture. The twelve departments in which the teachers of vocational agriculture were interviewed

may be seen in Table 2 page 8.

Questionnaires were mailed to 191 white teachers of vocational agriculture in Virginia and to 14 teachers of vocational agriculture in 5 other states. The departments in each state were selected by the state supervisor of vocational agriculture or by someone appointed by the state supervisor.

A self-addressed, stamped envelope was included in which the questionnaire forms could be returned.

The Extent of Response to the Questionnaire

A total of 116 teachers of vocational agriculture in Virginia returned the questionnaire. The percentage of return was 60.7. Of the 116 questionnaires returned 55 reported having no young farmer organization and 61 teachers of vocational agriculture supplied information on their young farmer organization.

Ten of the 14 out-of-state questionnaires were returned with eight departments supplying information on their young farmer organization. The percentage of return was 71.43 for the out-of-state questionnaires.

The remaining 12 teachers were interviewed by the author in their local schools.

Information was received from 62.6 per cent of all persons included in the study.

Table 1, page 7, lists the schools, the counties, and the teachers of vocational agriculture in Virginia supplying information on their young farmer organizations.

Table 2, page 8, lists the schools, the counties, and the teachers of vocational agriculture in which the teachers were interviewed.

TABLE 1. THE VIRGINIA DEPARTMENTS OF VOCATIONAL AGRICULTURE SUPPLYING
INFORMATION ON YOUNG FARMER ORGANIZATIONS

School	County	Teacher
Appomattox	Appomattox	H. B. Pack
Bealeton and Remington	Fauquier	J. A. Yowell
Blacksburg	Montgomery	R. T. Hale
Bland	Bland	Ralph Reynolds
Blue Ridge	Patrick	C. W. Spencer
Brookville	Campbell	V. B. Cauley
Buchanan	Botetourt	L. J. Keith
Buckingham Central	Buckingham	G. L. Baldwin
Burkeville	Nottoway	J. S. Clingenpeel
Chase City	Mecklenburg	J. E. Brame
Churchville	Augusta	W. A. Fullen
Cleveland	Washington	David Thomas
Clover	Halifax	S. M. Carbaugh
Cople	Westmoreland	T. G. Hudson
Creeds	Princess Anne	S. B. Myers
Culpeper	Culpeper	R. R. Tolbert
Cumberland and John Randolph	Cumberland	E. H. Vasser
Dickenson Memorial	Dickenson	E. C. Smith
Disputanta	Prince George	L. L. Beazley
Dublin	Pulaski	G. G. Wygal
Dungannon	Scott	C. H. Mays
Eagle Rock	Botetourt	E. T. Robertson
Effinger	Rockbridge	D. L. Glick
Elk Creek	Grayson	E. W. Stone
Farnham	Richmond	E. D. Booker
George Wythe	Wythe	J. H. Copenhaver
Goochland	Goochland	Royall S. Wheeler
Hillsville	Carroll	R.A. Noell
Independence	Grayson	G. W. Callison
Ivor	Southampton	J. S. Bryant
Kenbridge	Lunenburg	L. G. Shelton
King George	King George	J. F. Coleman
King William	King William	C. L. Wilkins
Leesburg	Loudoun	A. L. Hutton
Madison	Madison	W. H. Wetsel
Maywood	Craig	E. A. Harding
McKenny	Dinwiddie	G. V. Nelson
Meadows of Dan	Patrick	N. E. Thomas
Monterey	Highland	W. A. Gutshall

TABLE 1. (Continued)

School	County	Teacher
Mt. Clinton	Rockingham	E. S. Wine
Narrows	Giles	C. A. McClaugherty
New Market	Shenandoah	H. M. Hawkins
Newsoms	Southampton	G. W. Nichols
North River	Augusta	O. B. Roller
Rocky Gap	Bland	Bruce Robertson
Rustburg	Campbell	A. L. Mitchell, Jr.
Scottsville	Albemarle	T. A. Allison
Spencer Penn	Henrico	E. L. Dupuy
South Hill	Mecklenburg	L. E. Kent
Spotsylvania	Spotsylvania	J. H. Zigler
Spottswood	Augusta	L. E. Tolley
Stony Creek	Sussex	A. T. Poole
Strasburg	Shenandoah	B. W. Roller
Tuberville	Halifax	J. W. Myers
Victoria	Lunenburg	J. W. Thweatt
Virginia Carolina	Grayson	M. W. Reynolds
Washington Lee	Westmoreland	H. F. Adams
Whitmell	Pittsylvania	J. Powers Pullen
Wilson Memorial	Augusta	G. R. Kinzie
Woodlawn	Carroll	E. C. Gardner

TABLE 2. THE DEPARTMENTS OF VOCATIONAL AGRICULTURE IN WHICH TEACHERS WERE INTERVIEWED

School	County	Teacher
Amelia	Amelia	R. F. Lane
Dryden	Lee	C. A. Cox
Fincastle	Botetourt	J. W. Obenshain
Holland	Nansemond	S. J. Felton
LaCrosse	Mecklenburg	J. B. Rockwell
Louisa County	Louisa	E. M. Penington
Luray	Page	Griffin Hardy
Mt. Jackson	Shenandoah	L. D. Bowers
Riner	Montgomery	G. C. Williams
Rural Retreat	Wythe	C. M. Vaughan, Jr.
West Point	King William	S. U. Ferguson
Willis	Floyd	M. C. Huff

TABLE 3. THE OUT-OF-STATE DEPARTMENTS OF VOCATIONAL AGRICULTURE
RESPONDING TO THE QUESTIONNAIRE

School	State	Teacher
Coats	North Carolina	M. O. Phillips
Johnston	South Carolina	J. F. Wyse
Sycamore	Georgia	O. H. Rhodes
Donalsonville	Georgia	Bruce B. Baker
Mifflinburg	Pennsylvania	Fred C. Snyder
Bloomsburg	Pennsylvania	E. L. Litwhiler
Canal Winchester	Ohio	G.S. Guiler
Shawnee	Ohio	John Starling

Chapter Summary

This is an objective questionnaire study. The form was designed to portray the situation that exists in the young farmer organizations of Virginia. The form was mailed to 191 departments of vocational agriculture in Virginia, and to 14 departments of vocational agriculture in 5 other states. Teachers of vocational agriculture in twelve departments in Virginia were interviewed by the author. This gave a total of 217 individuals included in the study. Returns were received from 136 of the 217 individuals.

Classifications of the data were made to portray the results obtained by the study.

CHAPTER II

THE SUMMARY OF THE ACTIVITIES OF THE YOUNG FARMER ORGANIZATIONS

This chapter deals with the summarization and classification of the data that were received from the respondents in answer to the questionnaire. The chapter is divided into three subdivisions. The subdivisions will deal with:

- I. Information supplied by 61 Virginia teachers of vocational agriculture replying to the questionnaire.
- II. Information supplied by 12 Virginia teachers of vocational agriculture who were interviewed.
- III. Information supplied by eight out-of-state teachers of vocational agriculture replying to the questionnaire.

Part I - The Summary of the Activities of the 61 Virginia Young Farmer Organizations

The activities of the 61 Virginia young farmer organizations listed in Table 1, page 7, are included in this summary.

Organization and Membership

The number years tenure by responding teachers of vocational agriculture, the number of teachers in each department of vocational agriculture, the year the young farmer clubs were organized, the number of years in operation and the membership of the 61 Virginia young farmer organizations may be seen in Table 4.

TABLE 4. ORGANIZATION AND MEMBERSHIP OF LOCAL CHAPTERS

Number Years Tenure by Res- ponding Teacher	Number Teachers in Department	Year Young Farmers Organized	Number of Years in Operation	MEMBERSHIP		
				Beginning	Present	Maximum
5	2	1950	1	6	10	10
1	3	1951	0	27	27	27
14	2	1949	3	12	10	12
3	4	1950	1	90	0	90
6	1	1949	2	15	8	20
0	2	1951	0	56	40	56
1	3	1950	1 ¹ / ₂	43	60	60
5	1	1951	0	40	38	40
6	1	1949	3	25	40	44
6	1	1950	2	24	22	28
14	3	1951	1	11	15	15
15	4	1950	1	63	24	63
6	3	1950	3	8	45	45
-	-	1938	13	20	60	60
-	2	1950	1	24	24	24
28	2	1951	0	15	19	19
-	6	1950	1	21	21	21
9	2	1949	2	25	16	25
4	2	1950	2	24	16	34
8	2	1949	2	25	21	28
1	2	1949	2	12	13	13
5	2	1949	2	30	44	44
9	2	1951	0	12	12	12
8	2	1951	0	16	12	16
	2	1950	2	26	13	26
8	2	1949	2	16	28	28
2	3	1949	3	65	120	124
5	2	1950	1	9	19	19
12	2	1950	2	24	36	36
4	2	1951	0	16	16	16
6	5	1951	0	26	26	26
27	2	1950	1	25	20	25
21	3	1950	1	60	48	80

- respondent did not supply information - question not answered

TABLE 4 (Continued)

Number Years Tenure by Res- pondent Teacher	Number Teachers in Department	Year Young Farmers Organized	Number of Years in Operation	MEMBERSHIP		
				Beginning	Present	Maximum
5	4	1950	2	45	50	55
13	5	1949	3	47	76	76
12	3	1938	13	12	20	25
24	2	1949	3	12	7	16
6	2	1949	3	30	29	62
13	3	1949	3	25	15	25
10	2	1950	1	35	26	35
5	3	1950	2	10	14	14
9	2	1950	2	10	30	30
1	2	1950	2	53	59	59
10	1	1950	1	25	25	25
6	4	1951	1	54	52	54
4	3	1949	3	15	18	26
9	1	1950	2	12	12	12
2	2	1950	2	35	32	35
1	2	1951	1	8	10	10
32	4	1934	7	12	0	30
5	4	1951	1	27	27	27
12	6	1950	2	100	80	125
5	3	1945	5	10	15	15
5	4	1949	3	15	63	65
1	3	1938	13	12	15	17
16	4	1945	2	90	60	90
17	1	1951	1	21	21	21
19	2	1950	2	20	31	31
32	4	1947	5	24	34	34
15	2	1949	2	11	10	32
23	2	1950	2	30	30	30
Totals 551	157	xxx	144.5	1711	1784	2262
Average 9.7	2.6	xxx	2.4	28.05	29.2	37.1

As listed in Table 4 the tenure of teachers in the 57 departments reporting was from 0 to 32 years, with an average of 9.7 years. Four teachers failed to supply information on the number of years in the department. There were 157 teachers of vocational agriculture in 60 departments, with an average of 2.6 teachers in each department. The first young farmer club in the 61 departments was organized in 1934 and operated for 7 years. Two clubs were organized in 1938 and have been in continuous operation for 13 years. Of the 61 clubs the latest was organized in August 1951. The organizations average 2.4 years in operation.

The total beginning membership was 1711, with an average of 28.05 members per club. The total membership at the time of reporting was 1784, with an average of 29.2 members per club. The average maximum membership of the 61 organizations was 37.1 members per club, or a total of 2262 members. Twenty-six of the young farmer organizations increased their membership, while 22 showed a decrease in membership, eleven had the same number of members as in the beginning, and two clubs had been discontinued. In one of the instances the reason given for discontinuing the club was the state of health of the teacher of vocational agriculture. The second club was made up entirely of institutional-on-farm trainees and they stopped attending the meetings when they no longer received class credit.

Procedure Followed In Setting Up Young Farmer Organizations

The procedure followed in setting up the young farmer organizations varied somewhat to meet the needs of the situation in the local community.

In Table 5 the 14 steps of procedure in organizing young farmers used

by the 61 Virginia teachers of vocational agriculture responding to the questionnaire are tabulated.

TABLE 5 PROCEDURE FOLLOWED IN ORGANIZING LOCAL CHAPTERS

Procedure in Organizing	Number Respon- dents using the Procedure
Presented the organization at a meeting of all groups of young farmers of the community	32
Teachers of vocational agriculture personally visited prospective members	17
Contacted former students by letter to determine interest in an organization	15
Invited young farmers of community to meet with institutional-on-farm trainees and presented organization to the group	13
Young farmer organization grew out of institutional-on-farm training class	9
Young farmer organization grew out of part-time class	5
Selected a committee of interested young farmers and met in the home of one of the members to make plans for setting up the organization	3
Discussed the organization with the advisory council to get their reaction	2
Presented the organization at a joint meeting of part-time members and institutional-on-farm trainees	2
Explained the organization to evening class and secured their assistance in promoting the organization	1
Taught class on parliamentary procedure to institutional-on-farm training groups	1
Neighboring club officers met with the group of young farmers and assisted in organizing	1
New article in county paper explaining the organization and extending an invitation to young farmers to attend a meeting to discuss the possibilities of an organization	1
The club was organized jointly by the county agent, soil conservation agent and teacher of vocational agriculture	1

It is to be expected that the teacher of vocational agriculture will be confronted with difficulties in setting up the local young farmer organization.

Twenty-nine difficulties were reported by the Virginia teachers of vocational agriculture as being encountered in setting up the young farmer organization in the local community. A part of these difficulties appeared to the author as being specific to the individual community.

Difficulties Encountered

1. Institutional-on-farm trainees and former students of vocational agriculture were not interested in a formal organization.
2. The institutional-on-farm trainees lived in different sections of the county and had very little community spirit.
3. Veterans and non-veterans did not feel at ease together.
4. Conflict between young farmer and county wide ex 4-H club organization.
5. The out-of-school young farmers had a feeling that the organization was for veterans only.
6. Too many competing organizations in the community.
7. Some members thought the club overlapped with existing farm organizations.
8. Difficult to find a suitable meeting date and meeting place due to the many other meetings already scheduled.
9. Lack of interest on the part of members.
10. Poor attendance at meetings.
11. Difficult to find officers and members that would actively support the club.
12. Past members of a similar organization had a defeatist attitude.

13. Teacher of vocational agriculture had to overcome local grudges and individual differences to bring the membership together for the best interests of the club.
14. Much time was required in teaching parliamentary procedure.
15. Difficult to secure the right kind of entertainment for club meetings.
16. Members too busy with farm work to participate in club activities.
17. Potential members were skeptical of the club and felt that too much pressure was being put on them.
18. The members put too much emphasis on cooperative buying.
19. Lack of young men in the community due to military service.
20. Lack of sufficient time on the part of the teacher to visit prospective members.
21. The young farmers of the community leaving the farm to work in industries.
22. Difficult to promote enthusiasm and arouse the interest of the members.
23. Difficult to sell the members on the permanent benefits of the organization.
24. Lack of standard procedure to follow as a guide in setting up the organization.
25. Lack of information concerning young farmer organizations.
26. Difficult to determine the amount of dues necessary to keep the organization functioning.
27. Hard to get fund raising activities to finance the organization.
28. Difficult to establish the constitution and by-laws of the local organization without a guide to follow.
29. Difficult to determine the activities that should be included in the program of work.

It is well to note that teachers of agriculture were not provided with a uniform constitution and by-laws to govern the conduct of young farmer organizations. Neither did the questionnaire make any provision for attitudes

and interests of teachers with respect to young farmer programs. No attempt is made to measure the effect of these two situations on the success of the young farmer programs.

The Constitution

Thirty-seven of the 61 Virginia teachers of vocational agriculture reported that the young farmer organization had a written constitution. Twenty-four of the organizations were operating without a written constitution.

The constitution of an organization generally states the requirements for membership and the age group of members that may be included in the organization.

Distribution and Age Group Represented by Young Farmer Membership

The membership of the Virginia young farmer organization was composed of representatives of four groups, the institutional-on-farm training classes, the part-time classes, the evening classes and non-class members.

The distribution and age group represented by young farmer membership may be seen in Table 6.

TABLE 6 DISTRIBUTION AND AGE GROUP REPRESENTED BY YOUNG FARMER MEMBERSHIP

Distribution of Membership					Age Group Represented	
Institutional- on-Farm Train- ing Class	Part-time Class	Evening Class	Non Class Members	Total	From	To
1	6	1	2	10	17	25
20	1	1	5	27	20	40
0	8	0	2	10	18	35
0	0	0	0	0	20	35
2	5	0	1	8	23	45
24	0	0	16	40	21	35
40	8	10	2	60		
30	6	0	2	38	20	44
10	0	25	5	40	19	59
18	2	0	2	22		
2	3	5	5	15	20	46
24	0	0	0	24	26	45
18	0	27	0	45	17	59
10	0	50	0	60		
12	3	2	7	24	19	45
1	18	0	0	19	20	32
16	0	0	5	21	20	39
14	0	0	2	16	21	35
11	3	0	2	16	19	50
20	0	1	0	21	24	40
0	13	0	0	13	16	35
44	0	0	0	0	25	40
6	0	4	2	12	19	35
00	12	0	0	12	18	25
13	0	0	0	13	21	46
22	0	6	0	28	20	51
110	0	0	10	120	24	45
0	19	0	0	19	18	40
36	0	0	0	36	29	45
8	8	0	0	16	19	40
22	0	0	4	26	28	45
15	5	0	0	20	25	40
38	10	0	0	48	19	48

TABLE 6 (Continued)

Distribution of Membership					Age Group Represented	
Institutional on-farm Training Class	Part-Time Class	Evening Class	Non Class Members	Total	From	To
35	15	0	0	50	20	50
65	11	0	0	76	20	40
2	15	3	0	20		
4	1	1	1	7	25	35
14	7	0	8	29	18	40
15	0	0	0	15		
24	0	0	2	26	24	40
0	12	2	0	14	18	29
15	15	0	0	30	18	45
18	41	0	0	59	18	35
0	25	0	0	25	18	42
52	0	0	0	52	20	40
8	4	6	0	18	20	35
0	12	0	0	12	22	44
24	6	0	2	32	18	45
4	6	0	0	10	20	35
0	0	0	0	0	16	32
0	27	0	0	27	18	25
80	0	0	0	80	21	40
0	15	0	0	15	17	25
46	17	0	0	63	18	65
4	6	4	1	15	18	38
4	6	4	1	15	18	38
60	0	0	0	60	22	35
12	9	0	0	21	22	45
20	1	4	6	31	20	35
2	10	0	22	34	25	52
0	10	0	0	10	18	25
30	0	0	0	30	24	30
Totals 1121	395	152	116	1784	XX	XX
Percentage of Total 62.8	22.1	8.6	6.5	100	XX	XX

The table reveals that the 61 Virginia young farmer organizations had a total membership of 1784. Of the total membership 1121 members were from institutional-on-farm training classes, 395 from part-time classes, 152 from evening classes, and 116 members were not connected with either of the 3 classes but secured what instruction they received from the young farmer clubs.

The total membership was composed 62.8 per cent from institutional-on-farm training classes, 22.1 per cent from part-time classes, 8.6 per cent from evening classes, and 6.5 per cent of the members were not connected with either of the 3 classes.

The age group represented was from 16 years to 59 years. The chapter average age in the beginning group was 20.4 years; the average maximum age reported by the chapters was 43.4 years.

Regardless of the age limit the Smith-Hughes Act requires that all enrolled in a class of vocational agriculture must conduct a supervised farming program as a part of their training.

Requirements for Admission to Young Farmer Clubs

There were 18 requirements for admission for members of young farmer organizations reported by the Virginia teachers of vocational agriculture.

The requirements for admission and the number and percentage of the Virginia young farmer organizations reporting the requirement may be seen in Table 7.

TABLE 7 REQUIREMENTS FOR ADMISSION TO THE YOUNG FARMER CHAPTER REPORTED BY 61 VIRGINIA YOUNG FARMER ORGANIZATIONS

Requirements Reported	Organizations Reported	
	Number	Per cent
Actively engaged in farming	18	29.5
No requirements	17	27.9
Living on a farm	6	9.8
Keeping farm records	5	8.2
Carrying improvement projects	5	8.2
Enrolled in a class of vocational agriculture	4	6.6
Comply with the veterans program	2	3.3
Two enterprises	2	3.3
Three enterprises	1	1.65
Voted into club by members	1	1.65
Attend class	1	1.65
Attend 85% of all meetings	1	1.65
Make at least \$1000.00 on the farm	1	1.65
Own or operate a farm	1	1.65
Have a live-at-home program	1	1.65
Own at least one productive enterprise	1	1.65
Set up a long time farming program	1	1.65
Conduct more than one cash enterprise	1	1.65
Attend three out of ten meetings	1.	1.65

As listed in Table 7, the 18 requirements for admission to the local young farmer chapter were reported 53 times. Seventeen of the 61 or 27.9 per cent of the organizations reported having no requirements for the admission of the members. The requirements for admission will be determined to a great extent by the purposes of the local young farmer organization. The reported purposes varied according to local interest and desires.

Purposes of the Young Farmer Organization

A variety of purposes were reported by the 61 Virginia young farmer organizations. The purposes reported were:

1. To develop individual and group interest in farming
2. To discover and utilize placement opportunities on farm
3. To develop leadership abilities
4. To develop an understanding of farm organizations
5. To develop abilities in producing and marketing farm products
6. To get latest agricultural information
7. To get information from each other
8. To enjoy the fellowship of meeting together
9. To develop group and individual responsibility to meet the needs in becoming established and progressing in farming
10. To encourage cooperation
11. To promote agriculture
12. To provide a binding tie among all men who are directly engaged in the art of practical and scientific farming, who desire to learn more of, and add to the effectiveness of this art
13. To interest out-of-school young farmers in a program of systematic instruction in vocational agriculture to become established satisfactorily in farming occupation

14. To ferment and cause a better understanding of the "Golden Rule"
15. To promulgate and nurture a love of country life
16. To inform and acquaint members with rural services provided by other agencies and organizations working in the community
17. To develop abilities in parliamentary procedure, conduct of meetings, public speaking, and other rural leadership activities
18. To promote and encourage the development of organized rural recreational activities
19. To keep the membership informed of desirable placement opportunities either on a rental, lease or purchase basis
20. To improve the farm home and its surroundings
21. To encourage and promote thrift
22. To plan and render worthwhile community services based on the needs of the community
23. To encourage members to operate their farms in a business like manner
24. To keep abreast of public issues affecting farmers
25. To train the young farmers to meet the competition in the production and marketing of farm products
26. To develop pride in farming
27. To buy and sell cooperatively
28. To encourage members to strive for a high standard of living comparable with other segments of the economy
29. To raise the standard of living
30. To assist in making a happy, prosperous, contented farm family
31. To promote long-time farm plans
32. To continue education in agriculture above the high school level
33. To encourage planning and saving in agricultural activities
34. To give the young men of the community an opportunity to express themselves

The purposes of the young farmer organization might be summed up by stating that the chapters of the organization are so organized that they provide the young farmer with up-to-date information, assist the young farmer to become established in farming, promote leadership and citizenship training and improve community living for rural families.

Frequency and Place of Meeting

The 61 Virginia young farmer organizations used various meeting places which included the vocational agriculture classroom, the shop, the high school, the town hall, a local restaurant, the high school gymnasium, the cannery, homes of members, and one organization reported meeting at various places in the county.

Fifty-two or 85.2 per cent of the organizations held a part of their meetings in the vocational agriculture classroom. Ten or 16.4 per cent of the organizations held a part of their meetings in the shop. Fifteen or 24.6 per cent of the organizations held a part of their meetings in the high school. One organization reported meeting in the town hall, one organization held monthly dinner meetings in a local restaurant, and one organization reported holding monthly social meetings in the homes of members during the summer months.

Thirty-three or 54.1 per cent of the organizations had dinner meetings or ladies nights as a regular activity of the club. The number of these meetings held varied from one per year to four per year. Nineteen organizations reported holding dinner meetings or ladies night annually, eight organizations held dinner meetings or ladies night semi-annually, five organizations held quarterly dinner meetings and one organization held

dinner meetings monthly.

Fifty-six or 91.8 per cent of the 61 Virginia young farmer organizations held monthly meetings. Four of the organizations, or 6.6 per cent, met bi-monthly and one organization held regular monthly meetings and weekly meetings from January through April. The average length of meetings for the 61 Virginia young farmer organizations was 1.7 hours.

Members to Whom Cards Were Mailed

The data indicates that young farmers are forgetful for a majority of the clubs notify the members of the meetings. The club secretary of 43 Virginia young farmer organizations sent cards to all members reminding them of meeting dates; in four organizations only members absent at the past meeting received cards. In 25 organizations prospective members were mailed cards inviting them to attend the meeting.

In 70.5 per cent of the 61 Virginia young farmer organizations all members were mailed cards reminding them of meeting dates; in 6.6 per cent of the organizations only members absent at the past meeting were mailed cards, and 20.9 per cent of the organizations mailed cards to prospective members inviting them to attend the meeting. The cards were mailed two to seven days before the meeting, with the average number of days being 2.6 days.

Procedure Followed in Conducting Meetings

Since there has been no standard procedure for conducting young farmer chapter meetings the organizations have been using the procedure generally followed by other organizations in conducting their meetings.

A summarization of the findings of the study would tend to indicate that an average of the order of business of chapters reporting would be about as follows:

1. Call to order - President
2. Roll call
3. Minutes of Previous meeting
(Read by secretary and passed by group)
4. Officers' reports
5. Committee reports
6. Old business
7. New business
8. Special features - one or more of following
 - a. Speaker
 - b. Movie
 - c. Slides
 - d. Farm topic discussion (Members or advisor)
 - e. Demonstration
 - f. Question and answer session
 - g. Instruction on timely topics
 - h. Special music
 - i. Panel discussion
 - j. Shop instruction
9. Adjournment
10. Entertainment, refreshments, social, recreation

Topics for Discussion

The topics for discussion at young farmer organization meetings

varied according to the location of the club and the major enterprises of the local community.

The topics that have been discussed at the Virginia young farmer organization meetings may be listed under 19 main areas.

I. Corn

1. Securing seed
2. Adapted hybrids
3. Cultivating
4. Storing the crop

II. Hay

1. Seeding alfalfa
2. Establishing ladino clover
3. Barn curing
4. Making grass silage

III. Home Garden

1. Planning the garden
2. Controlling diseases and insects

IV. Farm Forestry

1. Managing the farm woodlot
2. Protecting the forest from fire
3. Measuring the timber crop

V. Pasture

1. Seeding permanent pasture
2. Winter pasture
3. Controlling weeds with chemicals
4. Seeding improved pastures

5. Irrigating pastures

6. Fertilizing

VI. Peanuts

1. Selecting the variety

VII. Small Grains

1. Selecting the variety

2. Seeding and fertilizing

3. Storing

4. Seed certification laws

VIII. Tobacco

1. Selecting the variety

2. Producing flue-cured tobacco

IX. Beef Cattle

1. Feeding and care of breeding stock

2. Marketing

3. Fattening cattle

4. Providing housing and equipment

5. Breeding

X. Dairying

1. Feeding for production

2. Processing milk

3. Dehorning

4. Rules of good milking

5. Marketing milk

6. Artificial breeding

7. Producing Grade A Milk

8. Controlling Bang's disease
9. Keeping production records

XI. Poultry

1. Diseases
2. Controlling parasites
3. Feeding for egg production
4. Culling
5. Caponizing
6. Pedigreeing poultry

XII. Sheep

1. Caring for ewes and lambs at lambing time
2. Feeding the flock
3. Care and management of the ewe flock

XIII. Swine

1. Cholera control
2. Keeping quarters sanitary
3. Controlling diseases and parasites
4. Caring for sow during farrowing
5. Feeder pig sale

XIV. Farm Management

1. Plant foods and fertilizer
2. Soil testing and liming
3. Financing the farm business
4. Farm credit
5. Farm insurance

6. Farm law
7. Planning crop rotation
8. Feeds and feeding
9. Sanitation
10. Choosing and buying a farm
11. Social security
12. Maintaining soil fertility
13. Labor relations
14. Farm legislation
15. Borrowing money
16. Farm cooperation
17. Keeping farm records
18. Father-son agreement
19. Pest control
20. Constructing farm fences
21. Planning the farm shop
22. Constructing septic tanks

XV. Farm Power Machinery

1. Buying machinery
2. Repairing machinery
3. Farm tractors and equipment
4. Safety with machinery

XVI. Food Production and Conservation

1. Planning the family's food needs
2. Cutting, curing and canning meat

XVII. Rural Electrification

1. Home lighting
2. Farm lighting
3. Planning a farm wiring system
4. Maintenance of electrical appliances

XVIII. Soil and Water Management

1. Erosion control
2. Laying out contour strips
3. The home water supply

XIX. Wildlife Management

1. Protecting wildlife
2. Constructing the farm pond
3. Stocking the farm pond

Program of Work

In order to accomplish the most good an organization must be striving to reach certain goals. The program of work of the young farmer organization contains the goals that the organization has set to work toward.

Thirty-one of the Virginia teachers of vocational agriculture reported that the young farmer organization had a definite written program of work, while 30 young farmer organizations were operating without a written program of work. Forty-four committees on program of work were appointed by the president of the organization. Seven program of work committees were elected by the members of the young farmer organization, and three committees were selected by the executive committee.

In 40 of the local chapters the program of work was set up by a committee appointed for this purpose.

The program of work headings may be seen in Table 8.

TABLE 8. PROGRAM OF WORK HEADINGS

Headings	Respondents Using The Heading
Community Service	23
Cooperative effort	19
Recreation	19
Leadership	18
Citizenship	14
Finance	12
Public Relations	9
Health	8
Supervised Farming	8
Improved Agriculture	7
Livestock production and improvement	6
Home improvement	5
Farm Mechanics	5
Farm Management	5
Marketing	5
Home Living	5
Crop production	4
Program	4
Thrift	2
Farm Finance	2
Rural Telephone	1
Experiment Station Work	1

TABLE 8 (Continued)

Headings	Respondents Using the Heading
Seasonal Planning	1
Farm Safety	1
Wildlife Conservation	1
Forest Conservation	1
Conduct of Meeting	1
Membership	1
Record Keeping	1

The Virginia young farmer organizations reported using 30 program of work headings. The most frequently listed heading was community service. To render the maximum service in the community an organization should cooperate with other agencies for the common good of both.

Agencies Used in Conducting Programs

The agencies used by the local young farmer chapters and the number of respondents using the agency may be seen in Table 9.

TABLE 9. AGENCIES USED IN CONDUCTING PROGRAMS

Agencies Used	Number Respondents Using the Agencies
Forest Service	45
Extension Service	39
Local Banks	19

TABLE 9 (Continued)

Agencies Used	Number Respondents Using the Agencies
Farm Bureau	19
Ruritan	14
Soil Conservation Service	12
Production and Marketing Administration	7
Future Farmer of America	5
Local Business Men	4
Farm Machinery Dealers	4
Parent-Teachers Association	4
Veterinarian	3
Local Druggist	2
Production Credit	2
Kiwanis Club	2
Lions Club	2
Virginia Game Commission	2
Southern States Co-op	2
Insurance Agencies	2
Local Lawyer	2
Institutional-on-farm training class	2
Social Security	1
Du-Pont	1
Rural Electrification Administration	1
Grange	1
Appalachian Electric Power Company	1
Farm Home Administration	1
Local Feed Dealers	1
County Health Department	1
Agricultural Education Department	1

As listed in Table 9, thirty agencies have been used by the Virginia young farmer organizations. The most frequently reported agencies used were the forest service and the extension service. Forty-five of the respondents reported using the forest service and 39 reported using the extension service.

Benefits Derived From the Organization

The benefits derived from the young farmer organizations may be listed under actual benefits and potential benefits.

The Virginia young farmer organizations reported 41 actual benefits derived from the organization.

A. Actual Benefits

1. Trained leaders
2. Provides a means of getting interested farmers together to talk over mutual problems
3. Develop market for surplus materials
4. Enjoyed learning
5. Use of better sires
6. Better crop production practices
7. Provides additional education
8. Better recreational opportunities
9. Improved citizenship
10. Better selection of seed
11. Buying and selling cooperatively
12. Better balance between livestock and crops
13. Vaccinating farm animals

14. Better cooperation between school and community
15. Farmers using shop and community cannery facilities
16. Promoting civic responsibility
17. Better cooperation between farm families
18. Fellowship
19. Providing instruction for out of school farm youth
20. Saving by pooling orders for seed, fertilizer, farm machinery and supplies
21. Prizes awarded for pasture improvement resulting in more ladino clover being seeded
22. Testing soil
23. Poultry on farms of members improved
24. Learning Pariliamentary Procedure
25. Improved instruction
26. Prolonged contact with former students
27. Members hear speakers that they would otherwise be unable to secure
28. Teacher of vocational agriculture reaches members through organized instruction with whom he had no previous contact
29. Conducting successful feeder pig sale
30. Developing ability to speak in public
31. Developing a feeling of responsibility in the community
32. Helps members to think for themselves
33. Only farmer's organization in the community
34. Every member of age a voter in County, State and National elections
35. Ladies night promotes more interest in school and community
36. Enjoying organized recreation
37. Aiding in social adjustment

38. Adding confidence in themselves by conducting own meetings
39. A keener sense of belonging
40. Aids in helping to finance farming enterprises
41. Organizing and conducting an annual farm show

The Virginia respondents reported 22 potential benefits of the young farmer organization.

B. Potential Benefits

1. Giving members opportunity to keep up with current trends
2. Community betterment
3. Improvement of farming methods
4. Improvement of home life and surroundings
5. Training future agricultural leaders
6. Help establish members in farming
7. Improved livestock
8. Developing better land use
9. Sponsoring worthwhile activities
10. Buying and selling cooperatively
11. Members have gainful knowledge of various subjects which they may put to practice at a later date
12. Strengthen the Vocational Agriculture Department
13. Increased enthusiasm in farming
14. Keeping veterans in organization after completion of training
15. Improved standard of living
16. A voice in community affairs
17. Reach members through organization that otherwise would not be able to contact

18. Aiding the F.F.A. program
19. Forming cooperative artificial insemination association
20. Influencing other people in community and county
21. Participation in competition with other groups in the State
22. Developing pride in improving farming status

Techniques and Activities Used in Creating and Holding Interest

The Virginia teachers of vocational agriculture used 29 techniques or activities to create and hold the interest of the members in the young farmer organizations.

The techniques and activities used by the Virginia teachers of vocational agriculture were:

1. Personal visitation to members
2. Field trips
3. Sponsoring a booth at fairs
4. Using progressive farmers of the community as speakers at meetings and leaders of panel discussion
5. Varying the program to meet the needs and interest of the group
6. Conducting meetings and sponsoring programs according to suggestions from the members
7. Recreation at meetings
8. Cooperative buying and selling
9. Movies at meetings
10. Movies for the entire family
11. Holding dinner meetings
12. A part of each program social in nature

13. Discussing problems definitely related to the farm
14. Having definitely planned programs for each meeting
15. Providing activities for the families of members
16. Sponsoring contests
17. Holding meetings on time and date
18. Holding social meetings during the summer months
19. Good committee work
20. Use of visual aids at meetings
21. Outside speakers
22. Demonstrations
23. All members participate in programs and discussions
24. Banquets
25. Farm tours
26. Family picnics
27. Holding shop classes
28. Refreshments after meetings
29. Ladies night

The techniques and activities used in young farmer organizations to create and hold the interest of the members may be summed up by this statement: In order to keep the young farmer interested he must have something to work on in which he is interested and some type of recreation in conjunction with his work.

Although the organizations are functioning well it is to be expected that the teachers of vocational agriculture will experience some difficulties in creating and holding the interest of all members in the local

organizations. Some difficulties which teachers are facing in conducting a young farmer program are such that they challenge both his initiative and ability as a leader.

Difficulties Experienced in Carrying on the Organization

The respondents to the questionnaire reported 35 difficulties in carrying on the organization.

1. Poor attendance
2. Committees failed to function
3. Very little interest in the club
4. Veterans come only when receiving class credit
5. Young farmers not interested in becoming members
6. Members inactive
7. Members fail to carry on for themselves
8. Members rely on adviser to do most of the work
9. Loss of members to Ex- 4-H Young Farmer organization
10. Lack of careful planning by the members
11. Holding interest in the organization
12. Members dropping out
13. Individual problems
14. Lack of time to visit and better understand each farmer
15. Increasing membership
16. Raising funds other than by membership fees
17. Too much industry surrounding school
18. Undesirable attitude between agricultural agencies in the county
19. Lack of education

20. Lack of time
21. Veterans returning to industry when their time expires
22. Getting members to assume responsibility
23. Members object to State modeling after Future Farmers of America
24. Boys widely scattered
25. Finding time for meetings not conflicting with other meetings
26. Lack of time for committee work
27. Keeping the interest of all members for discussions
28. Securing a good Veterans Instructor as an advisor
29. Election of qualified officers
30. Community over organized
31. Members attend only when interested in topic
32. Keeping dues paid
33. Getting committees to function
34. Unwillingness of a few to cooperate in community affairs
35. High wages paid by manufacturing companies in the county

PART II - The Summary Of The Activities of the 12 Virginia Young Farmer Organizations in which Teacher was Interviewed

The activities of the 12 Virginia young farmer organizations in which the teacher of vocational agriculture was interviewed by the author are included in this summary. The schools, the counties, and the teachers are listed in Table 2, page 8. This information is in addition to that contained in part I.

Organization and Membership

The tenure of teachers interviewed, the number of teachers of vocational agriculture in each department, the year the young farmer clubs were organized, the number of years in operation and the membership of the 12 Virginia young farmer organizations may be seen in Table 10.

TABLE 10 ORGANIZATION AND MEMBERSHIP OF LOCAL CHAPTERS

Number Years Tenure by Res ponding Teacher	Number Teachers in Department	Year Young Farmers Organized	Number of Years in Operation	Membership		
				Beginning	Present	Maximum
10	4	1949	3	20	20	20
4	4	1949	2	24	25	25
19	4	1949	2	30	40	50
2	4	1948	3	35	40	50
2	3	1949	2	60	40	75
5	3	1949	2	17	67	67
1	1	1950	1	20	35	35
9	3	1928	23	15	26	
10	2	1945	6	12	43	43
8	2	1944	7	15	18	18
2	1	1950	1	36	33	36
3	2	1950	1	25	35	35
Totals 75	33	XXXX	53	309	422	454
Average 6.3	2.8	XXXX	4.4	25.7	35.2	41.3

As listed in Table 10 the tenure of the 12 Virginia teachers of vocational agriculture who were interviewed was from one to 19 years, with an average of 6.3 years. There were 33 teachers in the 12 departments, with an average of 2.7 teachers in each department. The first young farmer club in the 12 departments was organized in 1928 and had been in continuous operation for 23 years. Of the 12 clubs the latest was organized in 1950. The organizations averaged 4.4 years in operation.

The total beginning membership was 309, with an average of 25.7 members per club. The total membership at the time of the interview was 422, with an average of 35.2 members per club. The average maximum membership of the 11 organizations was 41.3 members per club, or a total of 454 members. The information on the maximum membership was not available for the club organized in 1928.

Nine of the young farmer organizations increased their membership, while two showed a decrease in membership and one organization had the same number of members as in the beginning.

Procedure Followed in Setting Up the Young Farmer Organization

The procedure followed in setting up the young farmer organization varied somewhat to meet the needs of the situation in the local community.

In Table 11 the 15 steps of procedure in organizing young farmers used by the 12 Virginia teachers of vocational agriculture who were interviewed are tabulated.

TABLE 11. PROCEDURE FOLLOWED IN ORGANIZING LOCAL CHAPTERS

Procedure in Organizing	Number Teachers Using the Procedure
Presented the organization at a meeting of all groups of young farmers of the community	9
Personnally visited prospective members	4
Elected officers at the second meeting and appointed a constitution committee	4
Taught class on parliamentary procedure to institution-on-farm training groups	1
Studied the need for an organization	1
Held conference of teachers in the department to develop plans for the organization	1
Delegation of prospective members attended a meeting of a neighboring club	1
Appointed committee on program of work	1
Created the need for an organization	1
Motivated the young farmers to want the organizations	1
Contacted former students by letter to determine the interest in an organization	1
Sent an announcement of the organization meeting to a local newspaper	1
Discussed the organization with the high school principal, superintendent of schools, and advisory council	1
Visited Vocational Agriculture Department at Virginia Polytechnic Institute to secure information on organizing	1
Local young farmers requested an organization	1
Young farmer organization grew out of part-time class	1

It is to be expected that the teacher of vocational agriculture will be confronted with some problems in setting up the local young farmer chapter.

Twelve difficulties were reported by the Virginia teachers of vocational agriculture who were interviewed as being encountered in setting up the young farmer organization in the local community.

Difficulties Encountered

1. Lack of interest on the part of members due to competition with other agricultural organizations
2. Apparent lack of interest in organizations
3. The majority of farming in the area is on a part-time basis and the boys are not interested in farming as a vocation
4. Young farmers attending the institutional-on-farm training class live in three counties and show very little interest in the school community
5. Young farmers outside the institutional-on-farm training class thought the organization was for veterans only
6. Organization was slow in getting started
7. Difficult to get a program or lesson of interest to all members
8. Difficult to get members to participate in the activities and to take an active part on committees
9. Had trouble in scheduling meetings because of other meetings of the community
10. Difficult to get members to set up a "down-to-earth" program of work
11. Difficult to finance club activities
12. Hard to explain the group the correct procedure for a young farmer organization without a definite guide to follow

The Constitution

Twelve or 100 per cent of the Virginia teachers of vocational agriculture who were interviewed reported that the young farmer organization had a written constitution.

Distribution and Age Group Represented by Young Farmer Membership

The membership of the Virginia young farmer organizations was composed of representatives from four groups, the institutional-on-farm training classes, the part-time classes, the evening classes and non-class members.

The distribution and age group represented by young farmer membership may be seen in Table 12.

TABLE 12. DISTRIBUTION AND AGE GROUP REPRESENTED BY YOUNG FARMER MEMBERSHIP

Distribution of Membership					Age Group Represented		
Institutional on-Farm Training Class	Part-Time Class	Evening Class	Non Class Members	Total	From	To	
12	4	3	1	20	17	45	
18	0	0	7	25	18	35	
30	10	0	0	40	17	58	
25	10	0	5	40	18	50	
10	15	5	10	40	19	42	
27	4	7	29	67	21	32	
20	14	1	0	35	20	44	
6	20	0	0	26	16	40	
3	35	5	0	43	19	45	
16	2	0	0	18	22	32	
27	6	0	0	33	18	35	
19	5	11	0	35	18	40	
Total	213	125	32	52	422	xxx	xxx
Percentage of Total	50.5	29.6	7.6	12.3	100	xxx	xxx

The 12 Virginia young farmer organizations had a total membership of 422. Of the total membership 213 members were from institutional-on-farm training classes, 125 from part-time classes, 32 from evening classes and 52 members were not connected with either of the three classes, but secured what instruction they received from the young farmer clubs.

The total membership was composed of 50.5 per cent from institutional-on-farm training classes, 29.6 per cent from part-time classes, 7.6 per cent from evening classes, and 12.3 per cent of the members were not connected with either of the three classes.

The age group represented was from 16 years to 58 years. The chapter average age in the beginning group was 18.6 years, with the average maximum age represented in the chapters being 41.5 years.

Requirements for Admission to Young Farmer Clubs

There were four requirements for admission for members of young farmer organizations reported by the 12 Virginia teachers of vocational agriculture who were interviewed.

The requirements for admission and the number and percentage of the 12 Virginia young farmer organizations having the requirement may be seen in Table 13.

TABLE 13. REQUIREMENTS FOR ADMISSION TO THE YOUNG FARMER CHAPTER REPORTED BY 12 VIRGINIA YOUNG FARMER ORGANIZATIONS

Requirements Reported	Organizations Reported	
	Number	Per cent
Actively engaged in farming	6	50.0
No requirements	2	16.6
Keeping farm records	1	8.3
Majority of income comes from farm	1	8.3
Belong to organized class	1	8.3

Two of the 12 or 16.6 per cent of the young farmer organizations reported having no requirements for the admission of members to the local chapter.

Purposes of the Young Farmer Organization

The Virginia teachers of vocational agriculture who were interviewed reported 11 purposes of the young farmer organization.

1. To develop rural leadership
2. To continue education in agriculture
3. To foster and encourage cooperative buying and selling
4. To promote recreational and fellowship activities
5. To develop sound business principles in farming
6. To encourage planning and saving in agricultural activities
7. To encourage farmers to take an active part in community, county, State and National affairs

8. To encourage the adoption of sound and proven up-to-date scientific principles in agriculture
9. To encourage members to strive for a higher standard of living
10. To develop pride and confidence in farming as a vocation
11. To work with State and National organizations that are striving for the improvement of agriculture

The purposes of the young farmer organizations might be summed up by stating that the primary purposes of the organizations are the improvement of agriculture and making the local community a better place in which to live.

Frequency and Place of Meeting

The 12 Virginia young farmer organizations used various meeting places which included the vocational agriculture classroom, the high school and homes of members. One organization held social meetings in the homes of members in the summer months. These meetings included the wives and girl friends of the members.

Ten, or 83.3 per cent of the organizations held some of their meetings in the agriculture classroom. Three, or 25 per cent of the organizations held some of their meetings in the high school.

Nine, or 75 per cent of the 12 Virginia young farmer organizations, in which the teachers of vocational agriculture were interviewed, held dinner meetings or ladies night as a regular activity of the club. The number of these meetings held varied from one per year to four per year. Four organizations reported holding dinner meetings or ladies night annually; four organizations held semi-annual dinner meetings or

ladies night, and one organization held ladies night three times a year.

Twelve, or 100 per cent of the organizations held regular monthly meetings. One organization reported meeting twice a month in winter in addition to the regular monthly meeting. The monthly meeting was devoted to business of club and social functions, the winter meetings were composed of study and discussion of timely agricultural topics.

The average length of meetings for the 12 Virginia young farmer organizations, in which the teachers of vocational agriculture were interviewed, was 1.7 hours.

Members to Whom Cards Were Mailed

The club secretary of 11 or 91.7 per cent of the 12 Virginia young farmer organizations notified all members of meeting dates. In three organizations prospective members were mailed cards inviting them to attend the meeting and one teacher of vocational agriculture reported that prospective members were given a personal invitation to attend the meetings. In one organization each member was given a calendar with the meeting date encircled in red.

The cards were mailed to members reminding them of meeting dates from two to five days before the meeting. The average number of days before the meeting that the cards were mailed was 2.9 days.

Procedure Followed in Conducting Meetings

The teachers of vocational agriculture who were interviewed reported that the young farmer organizations used accepted parliamentary procedure for conducting meetings. A summarization of the findings of the study

would tend to indicate that an average of the order of business of chapters reporting would be about as follows:

1. Call to order - President
2. Roll call
3. Minutes of previous meeting - Read by secretary and passed upon by group.
4. Committee reports
5. Old business
6. New business
7. Special features - one or more of the following:
 - a. Speaker
 - b. Instruction on farm topics
 - c. Movies
 - d. Special music
 - e. Panel discussion
8. Adjournment
9. Entertainment, refreshments

One organization reported serving ham sandwiches and coca-colas at every meeting.

Topics for Discussion

The topics for discussion at the young farmer organization meetings varied somewhat according to the major farming enterprises of the local community.

The topics that have been discussed at the 12 Virginia young farmer organization meetings may be listed under 13 main areas.

- I. Corn
 1. What's new in hybrid corn
 2. Fertilizing
- II. Home Garden
 1. Planning the garden to meet the family needs
 2. Growing tomatoes
 3. Using weed killer
 4. Controlling insects
- III. Farm Forestry
 1. Managing the farm woodlot
 2. Measuring the timber crop
- IV. Pasture
 1. Pasture improvement
 2. Seeding spring pastures
- V. Beef Cattle
 1. What's new in beef cattle
 2. Feeding and care of breeding stock
 3. Controlling parasites and diseases
- VI. Dairying
 1. Feeding for milk production
 2. Current developments in dairy cattle
 3. Controlling parasites and diseases
 4. Feeding dairy calves
- VII. Poultry
 1. Producing hatching eggs

2. Turkey production
3. Feeding for egg production
4. Feeding laying hens
5. Fattening broilers for market
6. Providing quarters and equipment

VIII. Swine

1. Sanitation
2. Selecting breeding stock
3. What's new in hog breeding
4. Producing ton-litters

IX. Farm Management

1. Farm insurance
2. Soil conservation and strip cropping
3. Types of farming
4. Farm records and accounts
5. Farm financing
6. Production and Marketing Association program
7. Managing the farm
8. Social Security as it affects farmers
9. Crop insurance
10. Farm law
11. Father-Son agreements
12. Sources of agriculture credit

X. Farm Power and Machinery

1. Safety with machinery

2. Tractor maintenance
3. Hammermill operation
4. Constructing farm equipment

XI. Food Production and Conservation

1. Planning the family's food needs
2. Canning meats

XII. Rural Electrification

1. Home lighting
2. Farm lighting
3. Planning a farm wiring system

XIII. Wildlife Management

1. Constructing the farm pond
2. Managing wildlife cover and feed plots

Program of Work

Ten of the 12 Virginia young farmer organizations had a definite written program of work. The program of work committee was appointed by the president in seven of the organizations; in three organizations the committee was elected by the members and in one organization the program of work committee was selected by the executive committee.

Ten organizations reported that the program of work was set up by a program of work committee and in one organization it was set up by the members of the organization.

The program of work headings may be seen in Table 14.

TABLE 14. PROGRAM OF WORK HEADINGS

Headings	Respondents Using the Headings
Recreation	5
Leadership	4
Cooperative Activities	4
Community Service	4
Improved Agriculture	3
Finance	3
Citizenship	3
Health	3
Public Relations	3
Farm Mechanics	1
Supervised Farming	1
Thrift	1
Education	1
Entertainment	1

Agencies Used in Conducting Programs

The Virginia teachers of vocational agriculture who were interviewed reported using 28 agencies in carrying on the young farmer organization programs.

The agencies used by the local young farmer chapters and the number of organizations using the agency may be seen in Table 15.

Table 15 AGENCIES USED IN CONDUCTING PROGRAMS

Agencies Used	Organizations Using the Agency
Forest Service	9
Extension Service	8
Local Farmers	7
Soil Conservation Service	6
Local Banks	5
Ruritan Club	4
Future Farmers of America	3
Production Marketing Association	3
Farm Bureau	2
Parent-Teachers Association	2
Blue Cross Insurance Representative	1
Veterans Administration	1
County Officers	1
Health Department	1
School Superintendent	1
Co-op Officials	1
Lions Club	1
School Board	1
Appalachian Electric Power Company	1
Seaboard Airline and Railroad	1
American Cyanamid Company	1
Virginia Forests, Inc.	1
Federal Housing Administration	1

Table 15 (Continued)

Agencies Used	Organizations Using the Agency
Serum Company Representative	1
Experiment Station Staff	1
Home Demonstration Clubs	1
Home Economics Department	1
American Legion	1

The most frequently reported agencies used were the forest service and extension service. Nine of the young farmer organizations reported using the forest service and eight reported using the extension service.

Benefits Derived From the Organization

The benefits derived from the young farmer organizations may be listed under actual benefits and potential benefits.

The 12 Virginia teachers of vocational agriculture who were interviewed reported 22 actual benefits derived from the young farmer organization.

A. Actual Benefits

1. Training future community leaders
2. Provides an organization for young men who do not belong to other organizations
3. Members learn to work together and profit from it
4. Provides technical and practical information for members

5. Organized a purebred livestock chain
6. Saving on farm supplies by pooling orders
7. Secured a veterinarian for the local community
8. Strengthened community agricultural program
9. Provided educational opportunity for out of school youth
10. Provided recreation for members
11. Members conducted a county fair
12. Created an interest in organized instruction in agriculture
13. Provided fellowship for members
14. Obtained outstanding speakers on farm topics
15. Improved farming methods
16. Vocational Agriculture department and public brought closer together
17. Improved vocational agriculture department
18. Created a friendly spirit of competition
19. Secured equipment for vocational agriculture department
20. Secured manufacturing plant for the community
21. Improved livestock and crop program in the community
22. Assisted members to become established in farming

The Virginia teachers of vocational agriculture who were interviewed reported 12 potential benefits of the young farmer organizations.

B. Potential Benefits

1. Better cooperation among farmers
2. Stronger farm organization
3. Better citizens of the community

4. Saving money for members by pooling orders
5. More interest in farming as a vocation
6. Higher standard of living for farm families
7. Wholesome recreation for out of school farm youth
8. Better informed farmers
9. More cooperation between individual farmers
10. More civic minded citizens
11. Community improvement
12. Greater asset to the families, the community, the State and
Nation

Techniques and Activities Used in Creating and Holding Interest

The 12 Virginia teachers of vocational agriculture who were interviewed reported using 18 techniques and activities in creating and holding the interest of the members in the young farmer organizations.

The techniques and activities used by the 12 Virginia teachers of vocational agriculture were:

1. Educational program at each meeting
2. Some form of recreation or refreshments at meetings
3. Some group activity for the members to be working on at all times
4. The organization controlled by the members
5. Each member serve on a committee
6. Members pool orders from local merchants
7. Mimeographed information for members to take home at each meeting
8. Field trips
9. Panel discussion by the members

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numbering

10. Start and stop meeting on time
11. Banquets and family picnics
12. Movies quarterly
13. Contests and games
14. Interesting and challenging programs
15. Three or four social affairs each year
16. Meet at definite time and place
17. A working program of activities
18. Farm sale

Difficulties Experienced in Carrying on the Organization

After the local young farmer chapter is organized and functioning it is to be expected that the teacher of vocational agriculture will be confronted with difficulties in creating and holding the interest of all members in the local organization.

The teachers of vocational agriculture who were interviewed reported 15 difficulties in carrying on the organization.

1. Getting members to participate in the club activities
2. Keeping every member busy
3. Getting program committee to make thorough preparation for program
4. Keeping members from being too impatient about accomplishments
5. Lack of education among members
6. Financing activities
7. Scheduling meeting dates
8. Getting members to work up a definite program of work

9. Members have trouble finding time to devote to club activities
10. Members making plans too big to be carried out
11. A few members assume the responsibility
12. Competition with other agricultural agencies limit the scope of work
13. Lack of community interest on the part of the members
14. Difficult to plan programs that are interesting and usable for all members
15. Members scattered over a large area making it hard to get information to them

PART III - THE SUMMARY OF THE ACTIVITIES OF THE OUT-OF-STATE YOUNG FARMER ORGANIZATIONS

The activities of the eight out-of-state young farmer organizations listed in Table 3, page 9 are included in this summary. This information is in addition to parts I and II.

Organization and Membership

The tenure of responding teachers, the number of teachers of vocational agriculture in each department, the year the young farmer clubs were organized, the number of years in operation and the membership of the eight out-of-state young farmer organizations may be seen in Table 16.

TABLE 16. ORGANIZATION AND MEMBERSHIP OF LOCAL CHAPTERS

Number Years Tenure by Responding Teachers	Number Teachers in Department	Year Young Farmers Organized	Number of Years in Operation	Membership		
				Beginning	Present	Maximum
15	1	1947	5	14	18	18
12	1	1947	5	34	46	46
6	4	1951	1	16	14	16
10	1	1949	3	12	22	22
4	2	1940	12	32	41	43
2	1	1950	2	14	24	24
4	1	1929	22	12	34	43
5	1	1938	13	10	26	33
Totals 58	12	XXXX	63	144	225	245
Average 7.25	1.5	XXXX	7.9	18	28.1	30.6

As listed in Table 16 the tenure of the teachers in the eight out-of-state departments was from two years to 15 years, with an average tenure of 7.25 years. There were 12 teachers of vocational agriculture in the eight departments, with an average of 1.5 teachers in each department. The first young farmer club in the eight departments was organized in 1929 and had been in continuous operation for 22 years. Of the eight clubs the latest was organized in January 1951. The organizations average 7.9 years in operation.

The total beginning membership of the organizations was 144, with an average of 18 members per club. The total membership at the time of reporting was 225, with an average of 28.1 members per club. The average maximum membership of the eight organizations was 30.6 members per club, or a total of 245 members. Seven of the young farmer organizations increased their membership, while only one showed a decrease in membership,

Procedure Followed in Setting Up Young Farmer Organizations

The procedure followed in setting up the young farmer organizations varied somewhat to meet the needs of the situation in the local community. In Table 17 the eight steps of procedure in organizing young farmers used by the eight out-of-state teachers of vocational agriculture responding to the questionnaire are tabulated.

TABLE 17 PROCEDURE FOLLOWED IN ORGANIZING LOCAL CHAPTERS

Procedure in Organizing	Respondents Using the Procedure	
	Number	Per cent
Teacher of vocational agriculture made a survey of the community to determine the number and interest of prospective members	4	50.0
Called a meeting of all young farmers of the community interested in studying farm problems	4	50.0
Teacher of vocational agriculture personally visited prospective members	3	37.5
Selected a committee of interested young farmers to assist in making plans for the organization	3	37.5
Contacted former students of vocational agriculture to determine the interest in an organization	1	12.5
Discussed the organization with the advisory council to get their reaction and support	1	12.5
Organization grew out of part-time class	1	12.5
Teacher of vocational agriculture and advisory council set up a tentative program for the organization	1	12.5

It is to be expected that the teacher of vocational agriculture will be confronted with difficulties in setting up the local young farmer organization. The difficulties encountered and the number and per cent of the out-of-state respondents reporting the difficulties may be seen in Table 18.

Difficulties Encountered

There were eight difficulties reported by the out-of-state teachers of vocational agriculture as being encountered in setting up the local young farmer chapter. Three of the eight, or 37.5 per cent of the out-of-state respondents reported having no difficulties in setting up the local young farmer organization.

TABLE 18 DIFFICULTIES ENCOUNTERED IN SETTING UP THE YOUNG FARMER ORGANIZATIONS

Difficulties Encountered	Respondents Reporting the Difficulty	
	Number	Per cent
Getting members	1	12.5
Determining the age groups to include in the membership	1	12.5
Getting the members to attend the meetings	1	12.5
Determining whether the organization should be business or civic in nature	1	12.5
Getting boys to recognize the need of an organization	1	12.5
Lack of sufficient time to carry out the work of the organization	1	12.5
Scheduling meeting dates in cases of several institutional-on-farm training classes	1	12.5
Many young farmers of the community already engaged in several activities	1	12.5
No difficulties	3	37.5

The Constitution

Five of the eight, or 62.5 per cent of the out-of-state teachers of vocational agriculture reported that the young farmer organizations had a written constitution. Three of the organizations were operating without a written constitution.

Distribution and Age Group Represented By Young Farmer Membership

The membership of the out-of-state young farmer organizations was composed of representatives from four groups, the institutional-on-farm training classes, the part-time classes, the evening classes and non-class members.

The distribution and age group represented by young farmer membership in the out-of-state organizations may be seen in Table 19.

TABLE 19 DISTRIBUTION AND AGE GROUP REPRESENTED BY YOUNG FARMER MEMBERSHIP

Distribution of Membership					Age Group Represented	
Institutional on-farm Training Class	Part-Time Class	Evening Class	Non-class Members	Total	From	To
7	0	0	11	18	18	35
36	3	7	0	46	24	46
0	0	0	14	14	18	22
2	0	0	20	22	17	30

Table 19 (Continued)

Distribution of Membership					Total	Age Group Represented	
Institutional-on-farm Training Class	Part-time Class	Evening Class	Non-class members	From		To	
4	37	0	0	41	19	54	
0	0	0	24	24	19	32	
3	1	1	29	34	18	26	
6	0	8	12	26	19	36	
Total	58	41	16	110	225	xx	xx
Percentage of Total	25.8	18.2	7.1	48.9	100.0	xx	xx

The table reveals that the eight out-of-state young farmer organizations had a total membership of 225. Of the total membership 58 members were from institutional-on-farm training classes, 41 from part-time classes, 16 from evening classes, and 110 members were not connected with either of the three classes but secured what instruction they received from the young farmer clubs.

The total membership was composed of 25.8 per cent from institutional-on-farm training classes, 18.2 per cent from part-time classes, 7.1 per cent from evening classes and 48.9 per cent of the members were not connected with either of the three classes.

The age group represented was from 17 years to 54 years. The chapter average age of the beginning group was 19 years; the average maximum age reported by the chapters was 35.1 years.

Requirements for Admission to Young Farmer Clubs

There were seven requirements for admission for members of young farmer organizations reported by the out-of-state teachers of vocational agriculture.

The requirements for admission and the number and percentage of the out-of-state young farmer organizations reporting the requirement may be seen in Table 20.

TABLE 20 REQUIREMENTS FOR ADMISSION TO THE YOUNG FARMER CHAPTER REPORTED BY EIGHT OUT-OF-STATE YOUNG FARMER ORGANIZATIONS

Requirements Reported	Organizations Reported	
	Number	Per cent
Farming for himself	3	37.5
No requirements	2	25.0
Farming full time	2	25.0
Farming with father or partner	2	25.0
Member of good standing in community	1	12.5
Attend two-thirds of all planned meetings	1	12.5
Interested in rural life and farming	1	12.5
In occupation related to farming	1	12.5

As listed in the table seven requirements for admission to the local young farmer chapter were reported 11 times. Two of the eight or 25 per

cent of the organizations reported having no requirements for admission of the members. The requirements for admission will be determined to a great extent by the purposes of the local young farmer organization. The reported purposes varied according to the local interest and desires.

Purposes of the Young Farmer Organization

1. To make use of the facilities available at the high school
2. To develop competent, aggressive, rural and agricultural leadership
3. To create and nurture a love of country life
4. To encourage members in the development of individual farming programs and establishment in farming
5. To encourage and practice conservation
6. To provide and encourage the development of organized rural recreational activities
7. To encourage members to improve the farm home and its surroundings
8. To develop character, train for useful citizenship and foster patriotism
9. To acquaint members with agricultural legislation
10. To assist and cooperate with other farm organizations and the Future Farmers of America
11. To promote better consumer-producer relationship
12. To provide leadership training
13. To develop civic responsibility
14. To improve community living
15. To provide a well rounded instructional program based on farm needs

16. To make better citizens in the community
17. To assist in making a better Vocational Agriculture Department
18. To sponsor meetings and classes for learning improved farm practices

The out-of-state young farmer organizations reported 18 purposes of the organizations.

Frequency and Place of Meeting

The eight out-of-state young farmer organizations used various meeting places which included the vocational agriculture classroom, the shop, the high school, a local hotel, and homes of members.

Eight or 100 per cent of the organizations held a part of their meetings in the vocational agriculture classroom. Six or 75 per cent of the organizations held a part of their meetings in the shop. Two or 25 per cent of the organizations held a part of their meetings in the high school. Two organizations reported meeting in the homes of members and one organization reported holding monthly dinner meetings in a local hotel.

Eight or 100 per cent of the out-of-state young farmer organizations had dinner meetings or ladies night as a regular activity of the club. The number of these meetings held varied from one per year to four per year. Two organizations held dinner meetings or ladies night annually, one organization held ladies night semi-annually, two organizations held three ladies night meetings during the year, two organizations held dinner meetings quarterly, and one organization reported holding dinner meetings monthly and ladies night semi-annually.

Six or 75 per cent of the eight out-of-state young farmer organizations held monthly meetings. Two organizations or 25 per cent met bi-monthly. Three organizations reported holding weekly meetings during the winter months in addition to the regular monthly meetings. One organization met weekly from November through April. The average length of meetings for the organizations was 1.9 hours.

Members to Whom Cards Were Mailed

The club secretary of seven of the out-of-state young farmer organizations mailed cards to all members reminding them of meeting dates; in one organization only members absent at the past meeting received cards. In three organizations prospective members were mailed cards inviting them to attend the meeting.

In 87.5 per cent of the eight out-of-state young farmer organizations all members were mailed cards reminding them of meeting dates; in 12.5 per cent of the organizations only members absent at the past meeting were notified of the meeting date; and 37.5 per cent of the organizations invited prospective members to attend the meeting. The cards were mailed from two to four days before the meeting, with the average number of days before the meeting the cards were mailed being three days.

Procedure followed in Conducting Meetings

Three general procedures were followed by the out-of-state young farmer organizations in conducting the meetings. The meetings may be divided into three types, with a procedure for conducting each type of meeting.

The types of meetings were:

- A. Monthly meetings with a lesson or program as a part of the meeting
- B. Monthly dinner meetings
- C. Agricultural short course

A. Monthly Meetings

1. Call to order by president
2. Roll call
3. Minutes of previous meeting
4. Old business
5. New business
6. Special features
 - (a) Lesson
 - (b) Speaker
7. Announcements
8. Adjournment
9. Entertainment, refreshments or recreation

B. Monthly Dinner Meetings

1. Call to order
2. Invocation
3. Meal
4. Business Meeting
 - (a) Minutes of previous meeting
 - (b) Roll call
 - (c) Treasurer's report

- (d) Committee reports
- (e) Old business
- (f) New business
- 5. Special features
 - (a) Speaker
 - (b) Movie

C. Agricultural Short Course

- 1. Call to order
- 2. Review of past weeks' lesson
- 3. Introduction to new lesson
- 4. New subject matter
- 5. Follow-up

Topics For Discussion At Young Farmer Meetings

The topics that have been discussed at the eight out-of-state young farmer organizations may be listed under 18 areas:

- I. Corn
 - 1. Selection of hybrid seed corn
 - 2. Fertilizing
 - 3. Varieties to plant
 - 4. Diseases
 - 5. Pests of corn
 - 6. Insect control
- II. Hay
 - 1. Selecting varieties

2. Fertilizing and liming
3. Controlling diseases and insects

III. Home Garden

1. Planning the garden to meet the family needs
2. Controlling diseases and insects
3. Fertilizing
4. Controlling weeds

IV. Farm Forestry

1. Managing the farm woodlot
2. Brush control
3. Measuring and marketing the timber crop

V. Fruits

1. Controlling diseases and insects
2. Storing
3. Planting trees

VI. Pastures

1. Grassland farming
2. Control of spittle bug
3. Fertilizing and liming
4. Establishing pastures
5. Year around grazing
6. Seeding
7. Establishing cover crops

VII. Small Grains

1. Selecting the variety
2. Using nitrogen fertilizer

3. Fertilizing and liming
4. Controlling diseases and insects
5. Securing seed
6. Combine losses

VIII. Beef Cattle

1. Feeding and care of breeding stock
2. Selecting sires
3. Breeding
4. Care of cow and calf at calving
5. Caring of bull
6. Controlling diseases and parasites
7. Sanitation

IX. Dairying

1. Artificial insemination
2. Treating for grubs
3. Controlling and preventing diseases
4. Feeding for production
5. Selecting the sire
6. Providing pasture
7. Keeping records
8. Sanitation

X. Sheep

1. Selecting breeding stock
2. Providing pasture

XI. Swine

1. Keeping quarter sanitary

2. Controlling diseases and parasites

XII. Farm Buildings

1. Determining the building needs
2. Types of construction for farm buildings
3. Wiring farm buildings

XIII. Farm Management

1. Record keeping
2. Planning the farm program
3. Becoming familiar with farm laws
4. Farm deeds
5. Filing income tax returns

XIV. Farm Power and Machinery

1. Tractor maintenance
2. Plow adjustment
3. Operating the combine
4. Safety with farm machinery

XV. Home Ground Improvement

1. Making and maintaining a lawn
2. Selecting and planting shrubs

XVI. Rural Electrification

1. Planning a farm wiring system
2. Electrical demonstrations

XVII. Farm Mechanics

1. Using hand tools
2. Fitting farm tools

XVIII. Wildlife Management

1. Constructing the farm pond
2. Developing wildlife cover and fee plots

Program of Work

Five or 62.5 per cent of the out-of-state teachers of vocational agriculture reported that the young farmer organization had a definite written program of work, while three of the organizations were operating without a program of work.

5 The five committees on program of work were appointed by the president of the organizations. In three of the local chapters the program of work was set up by a committee appointed for that purpose. Two organizations reported that the members of the group set up the program of work.

Only two of the written programs of work were set up under specific headings. One organization used the same headings as the Future Farmers of America, and the other organization listed the program of work under four headings, which were:

1. Leadership
2. Community Service
3. Conservation
4. Improved Practices

Agencies Used in Conducting Programs

The agencies used by the out-of-state young farmer chapters and the number of respondents using the agency may be seen in Table 21.

Benefits Derived

The benefits derived from the young farmer organizations may be listed

TABLE 21 AGENCIES USED IN CONDUCTING PROGRAMS

Agencies Used	Respondents Using the Agency
Farm Bureau	7
Forest Service	6
Extension Service	6
Local Banks	4
Soil Conservation Service	2
Future Farmers of America	2
Parent-teachers Association	1
Local Civic Club	1
Local Lawyer	1
Livestock Buyers	1
Kiwanis Club	1
Fertilizer Company	1
Federal Housing Administration	1
Production Marketing Administration	1
Farm Equipment Company	1
Insurance Agent	1
Oil Company Representative	1

As listed in Table 17, agencies have been used by the out-of-state young farmer organizations. The most frequently reported agencies used were the farm bureau, the forest service and the extension service.

Benefits Derived From the Organization

The benefits derived from the young farmer organizations may be listed

under actual benefits and potential benefits.

The out-of-state young farmer organizations reported 22 actual benefits.

A. Actual Benefits

1. Increased corn yields
2. Increased food and feed production
3. Better sires used
4. Better seed planted
5. Improved practices in soil conservation
6. Improved forest management practices
7. Improved pastures
8. Improved farm buildings
9. Better fences constructed
10. More interest in social activities
11. Improved farming conditions
12. Developing leadership in the community
13. Members assist farmers outside of the young farmer organizations
14. More cooperation among members
15. Increased number of approved practices carried out on farm
16. The young farmer organization serves as a clearing house for farms and equipment for sale
17. Well known speakers secured for local chapter meetings
18. Self satisfaction of a job well done
19. Providing advanced education in farming
20. Improved skills in farm shop jobs
21. Members become established in farming
22. Members more active in other organizations

The out-of-state teachers of vocational agriculture reported seven potential benefits of the young farmer organization.

B. Potential Benefits

1. Better living conditions
2. An increased appreciation for family life
3. More interest in rural life
4. Gradual increase in income due to improved farm practices
5. Improved livestock, especially dairy cattle
6. Spreading good-will toward farmers
7. Closer cooperation between members

Techniques and Activities Used in Creating and Holding Interest

The out-of-state teachers of vocational agriculture used 18 techniques or activities to create and hold the interest of the members in the young farmer organization.

The techniques and activities used were:

1. Group participation
2. Topic of local interest
3. Visit to experiment station
4. Outstanding farmers appear on programs
5. Good movies occasionally
6. Test soil in the agriculture department
7. Aid members in fulfilling their needs
8. Variety in programs
9. Informal meals at monthly meetings

10. Ladies night and game supper
11. Challenging program of work
12. Social gathering
13. Programs planned by members
14. Visual aids at meetings
15. Show the need of keeping up with the latest farming information
16. Develop into action that which the young farmer wants
17. Refreshments at meetings
18. Advisor a member of the organization

The techniques and activities used in young farmer organizations to create and hold interest of the members may be summed up by this statement: In order to keep the young farmer interested he must have some work in the organization in which he is interested and provide him with some entertainment at each meeting.

Although an organization is functioning well it is to be expected that some difficulties will be experienced by the teacher of vocational agriculture in creating and holding the interest of all members.

Difficulties Experienced in Carrying on the Organization

The out-of-state teachers of vocational agriculture reported seven difficulties in conducting the local young farmer program.

1. Lack of time due to heavy schedule of all-day classes and large institutional-on-farm training group
2. Difficult to get every member to participate in the club activities
3. Lack of time for visiting individual members

4. Young farmers leaving for military service
5. Severe weather conditions during winter months
6. Too many competing community organizations
7. Members not attending meetings due to television

The Summary of the Chapter

This part of the study was an attempt to reveal the situation that exists in organizing and conducting the local young farmer organizations.

The chapter is divided into three parts.

1. The summary of the activities of 61 Virginia young farmer organizations replying to the questionnaire
2. The summary of the activities of 12 Virginia young farmer organizations in which the teacher of vocational agriculture was interviewed
3. The summary of the activities of out-of-state young farmer organizations as reported by eight teachers of vocational agriculture in five states

The tenure of teachers reported, the number of teachers of vocational agriculture in each department, the number of years in operation and the membership of the young farmer organizations may be seen in Table 22.

TABLE 22 ORGANIZATION AND MEMBERSHIP OF LOCAL CHAPTERS

	Tenure in Years By Responding Teachers		Teachers in Department		Number of Years in Operation		Membership					
	Total	Average	Total	Average	Total	Average	Beginning		Present		Maximum	
							Total	Average	Total	Average	Total	Average
61 Virginia Teachers	551	9.7	157	2.6	144.5	2.4	1711	28.05	1784	29.2	2262	37.1
12 Virginia Teachers interviewed	75	6.3	33	2.8	53	4.4	309	25.7	422	35.2	454	41.3
8 Out-of-state teachers	58	7.25	12	1.5	63	7.9	144	18	225	28.1	245	30.6
Total	684	xxx	202	xxx	260.5	xxx	2164	xxx	2431	xxx	2961	xxx
Average	8.5	xxx	2.5	xxx	3.2	xxx	26.7	xxx	30	xxx	36.6	xxx

The table reveals that the 81 teachers of vocational agriculture supplying information on young farmer organizations had a total tenure of 684 years, with an average of 8.5 years. There were 202 teachers of vocational agriculture in the 81 departments, with an average of 2.5 teachers in each department. The 81 young farmer organizations had been in operation a total of 260.5 years, with an average of 3.2 years in operation.

The total beginning membership was 2164, with an average of 26.7 members per club. The total membership at the time of reporting was 2431, with an average of 30 members per club. The 81 clubs had an average increase in membership of 3.3 members per club. The average maximum membership was 36.6 members per club or a total of 2961 members.

The procedure followed in organizing local chapters of young farmers varied somewhat to meet the needs of the situation in the local community. The 61 Virginia teachers of vocational agriculture responding to the questionnaire reported 14 steps of procedure in organizing young farmers; the 12 Virginia teachers of vocational agriculture who were interviewed reported 15 steps of procedure in organizing young farmer groups, and the eight out-of-state teachers reported eight steps of procedure.

Forty-five teachers reported discussing the young farmer organization at a meeting of all groups of young farmers in the local community and 24 teachers reported visiting prospective members to determine the interest in an organization. These were the most frequently reported steps of procedure in setting up the young farmer organization.

It is to be expected that the teacher of vocational agriculture

will be confronted with difficulties in organizing the local young farmer chapter. The 61 Virginia teachers of vocational agriculture reported 29 difficulties in setting up the young farmer organization; the 12 Virginia teachers of vocational agriculture who were interviewed reported 12 difficulties in organizing local chapters, and the eight out-of-state teachers of vocational agriculture reported eight difficulties in setting up the young farmer organizations. A majority of the difficulties reported in organizing the young farmer chapter appeared to the author as being specific to the local community and many of the difficulties arose because of the lack of a standard procedure to follow in carrying on the activities of the local chapter. The constitution now available for Virginia young farmer organizations will serve as a standard to follow in directing the activities of the club.

Fifty-four or 66.6 per cent of the 81 teachers of vocational agriculture reported that the young farmer organization had a written constitution. The constitution of an organization generally states the requirements for membership and the age group of members that may be included in the organization.

The membership of the young farmer organizations was composed of representatives from four groups, the institutional-on-farm training classes, the part-time classes, the evening classes and non-class members.

The distribution of young farmer membership may be seen in Table 23.

TABLE 23 DISTRIBUTION OF MEMBERSHIP

Teachers Reporting	Institutional- on-farm Training Class		Part-time Class		Evening Class		Non-Class Members		Total Members
	Total	Per cent	Total	Per cent	Total	Per cent	Total	Per cent	
61 Virginia teachers	1121	62.8	395	22.1	152	8.6	116	6.5	1784
12 Virginia teacher interviewed	213	50.5	125	29.6	32	7.6	52	12.3	422
8 Out-of-state teachers	58	25.8	41	18.2	16	7.1	110	48.9	225
Total	1392	xxx	561	xxx	200	xxx	278	xxx	2431
Percentage of Total	57.3	xxx	23.1	xxx	8.2	xxx	11.4	xxx	100

The table reveals that the 81 young farmer organizations had a total membership of 2431. Of the total membership 1392 or 57.3 per cent were from institutional-on-farm training classes, 561 or 23.1 per cent from part-time classes, 200 or 8.2 per cent from evening classes, and 278 or 11.4 per cent of the members were not connected with either of the three classes but secured what instruction they received from young farmer clubs.

The age group represented by the members of the 81 young farmer organizations was from 16 years to 59 years.

Regardless of the age limit the Smith-Hughes Act requires that all members enrolled in a class of vocational agriculture must conduct a supervised farming program as a part of their training. The requirements for admission will be determined to a great extent by the purposes of the local young farmer organization. The reported purposes varied according to the local interest and desires.

The 61 Virginia teachers of vocational agriculture reported 18 requirements for admission for members; the 12 Virginia teachers reported four requirements and the out-of-state teachers reported seven requirements for admission for members of the young farmer organizations. Twenty-one organizations had no requirements for the admission of members.

The requirements for admission to membership in local chapters might be summed up by stating that the majority of the requirements stressed that the members of a young farmer organization should be farming in some capacity.

A total of 63 purposes were reported by the 81 young farmer organizations. The purposes of the young farmer organization might be summed

up by stating that the chapters of the organization are so organized that they provide the young farmer with up-to-date information, assist the young farmer to become established in farming, promote leadership and citizenship training and improve community living for rural families.

Seventy-four of the 81 young farmer organizations reported meeting monthly. Seven organizations held bi-monthly meetings. The average length of meeting was approximately one hour and forty-five minutes. Various meeting places were used by the young farmer organizations. They appeared to have been selected according to the nature of meeting and the expected attendance. Fifty or 61.7 per cent of the organizations held dinner meetings or ladies night as a regular activity of the club. These meetings varied in number from one per year to four per year. Two organizations held dinner meetings monthly.

The data indicates that young farmers are forgetful for a majority of the clubs notify the members of the meetings. The club secretary of 61 or 75.3 per cent of the young farmer organizations mailed cards to all members reminding them of meeting dates. In 31 organizations prospective members were mailed cards inviting them to attend the meetings.

Since there has been no standard procedure for conducting young farmer chapter meetings the organizations have been using the procedure generally followed by other organizations in conducting their meetings.

The topics for discussion at local young farmer chapter meetings varied according to the location of the club, the major farming enterprises of the community, the interest and needs of the members.

In order to accomplish the maximum benefits an organization must be

striving to attain certain goals. The program of work of the young farmer organization contains the goals. Forty-six or 56.8 per cent of the teachers of vocational agriculture reported that the local young farmer chapter had a definite written program of work. The most frequently reported headings on program of work were:

1. Community Service
2. Recreation
3. Leadership
4. Cooperative Activities

The program of work headings varied to meet the needs and interests of the local young farmer chapter. In a majority of the organizations the program of work was set up by a committee appointed for that purpose.

In order to render the maximum service in the community an organization should cooperate with other agencies for the common good of both. The most frequently reported agencies used in conducting the young farmer chapter programs were:

Forest Service, Extension Service, Farm Bureau, local banks, Soil Conservation Service, and Ruritan Clubs. The number of organizations using these agencies are listed below.

Forest Service	-----	60
Extension Service	-----	53
Farm Bureau	-----	28
Local Banks	-----	28
Soil Conservation Service	---	26
Ruritan Clubs	-----	18

A total of 54 agencies were reported as being used by the young farmer organizations in carrying out their programs.

The benefits of the young farmer organization were reported under the headings of actual and potential benefits. The actual benefits may be summed up by stating that the local young farmer organizations have been influential in improving farming conditions and improved living conditions in the local communities. The improved farming conditions have been brought about by using better livestock and crop production practices and by cooperation among the members. The improved living conditions have been made possible by leadership and citizenship training and by all members working together for the common good of the community. The potential benefits reported by the young farmer organizations indicate that the communities and members can profit by a continuation of the same type of benefits that have been derived from the local organizations.

The techniques and activities used in creating and holding the interest of members in the local organization varied according to the needs of the individual members and the community and the initiative and ability of the teacher of vocational agriculture as a leader.

The difficulties experienced by the teachers of vocational agriculture in carrying on the local young farmer program were due mainly to the lack of time to devote to the program on the part of both the teachers and members and the inability of members to carry on the program because of a lack of leadership training in preceding years. Also, conditions specific to the individual communities brought about a part of the difficulties encountered in conducting the programs.

CHAPTER III

CONCLUSIONS

1. The average young farmer organization in Virginia has 30.2 members.
2. In Virginia the average young farmer organization has increased in membership by 2.6 members in an average of 2.7 years.
3. The Virginia teacher of vocational agriculture conducting a young farmer chapter has an average tenure of 9.1 years in the department.
4. The average department of vocational agriculture in Virginia conducting young farmer organizations has 2.7 teachers.
5. The most frequently used procedure in organizing the local young farmer chapter was to call a meeting of all groups of young farmers in the community, explain the operation, the purposes of the organization and show the need for such an organization in the community.
6. The teacher of vocational agriculture may expect some difficulties in organizing the local young farmer chapter. The difficulties encountered will vary according to the situation in the local community.
7. The majority of the young farmer organizations in Virginia have a written constitution to follow in conducting the activities of the chapter on the local level.
8. The membership of the average Virginia young farmer organization is composed of 60.5 per cent from institutional-on-farm training classes, 23.6 per cent from part-time classes, 8.3 per cent from evening classes and 7.6 per cent of the young farmers are non-class members.

9. Chronological age has not been the determining factor as to eligibility of admittance to a young farmer organization. Perhaps the most important factor should be the type of farming problems a potential member might have.
10. The most frequently used requirement for supervised farming programs is that the member shall be engaged in farming in some capacity.
11. The purposes of the young farmer organization varied according to local interests and desires. The general purposes of the organization is the promotion of leadership training and improved living conditions in the community.
12. The average young farmer organization in Virginia holds regular monthly meetings and two dinner meetings or ladies night meetings per year.
13. The average length of meeting for young farmer organizations in Virginia was 1.7 hours.
14. About three-fourths of the members of Virginia young farmer organizations are notified of meeting dates. The club secretary mails cards to members on an average of 2.7 days before the meeting.
15. The local young farmer chapter meetings are conducted by accepted parliamentary procedure.
16. The topics for discussion at young farmer chapter meetings vary according to the interest and needs of the members and the major farming enterprises of the community.
17. The majority of Virginia young farmer organizations have a definite program of work and the program of work is set up by a special committee appointed for that purpose.

18. The most commonly used program of work headings are: Community service, recreation, leadership and cooperative activities.
19. The teachers of vocational agriculture are getting the cooperation of other agencies in carrying on the young farmer organization program.
20. The most frequently used agencies are the Forest Service and Extension Service.
21. The young farmer organizations have benefited the community by improving living conditions and have helped individual members by providing leadership training and supplying up-to-date information on farm problems.
22. The techniques and activities used to create and hold the interest of the members vary according to the interest and needs of the members and the leadership ability of the teacher of vocational agriculture. To keep the young farmer interested he must have something to work on in which he is interested and he likes some type of recreation in conjunction with his work.
23. The teacher of vocational agriculture may expect some difficulties in carrying on the young farmer organization. The difficulties vary according to the leadership ability of the members and the situation of the local community.
24. The out-of-state young farmer organizations included in the study are conducting a program similar in set up and nature of activities to the program being conducted in Virginia.

CHAPTER IV

SUGGESTED PROCEDURE FOR ORGANIZING AND CONDUCTING THE LOCAL YOUNG FARMER CHAPTER

In making suggestions for organizing and conducting the local young farmer chapter based on the findings of this study, it must be emphasized that any such suggestions are for average conditions in Virginia and in attempting to use such recommendations, it will be necessary to adapt the procedure to the individual community. It should be kept in mind that the average department of vocational agriculture conducting the young farmer program was found to have 2.7 teachers and the average young farmer organization was composed of about 30 members.

In arriving at a satisfactory procedure to follow in organizing the local chapter it would seem advisable for all teachers of vocational agriculture in the department to work together in planning the approach to the organization.

In light of the information furnished by the respondents the following general procedure is given:

1. Secure a list of all former students of vocational agriculture living in the community.
2. Secure a list of all young farmers in the community who are not former students of vocational agriculture.
3. Meet with the advisory council to explain the purposes and benefits of the young farmer organization and secure their support in promoting the organization.

4. Discuss the organization with the superintendent of schools, high school principal and school board members to get their support in promoting the organization.
5. Enlist the aid of the influential young farmers in the community in promoting the organization.
6. Discuss the organizations with the institutional-on-farm training classes to get their reaction.
7. Contact the young farmers of the community by letter and personal visitation to develop the need for an organization and to determine the interest in an organization.
8. Set a date, time and place of meeting and invite all young farmers of the community to attend the meeting to discuss the organization. The vocational agriculture classroom seems to be the logical meeting place.
9. Explain to the group the purposes and advantages of having an organization. Officers and members of nearby young farmer chapters may prove helpful in "selling" the organization to the group.
10. If the group approves of an organization appoint a nominating committee to present a slate of officers to the group at the second meeting.
11. A regular meeting date should be set by the group as soon as possible since meetings shifted from one date to another tends to promote irregularity of attendance.
12. The newly elected president, with the help of the executive

committee, should appoint a constitution committee and a program of work committee. The young farmer chapter should have a written constitution and a written program of work.

13. Have the members of the organization to submit suggestions to the program of work committee.
14. It is recommended that purposes of the young farmer chapter include:
 - (a) To provide organized and systematic instruction for all young farmers of the community, based on the needs and interest of the individual members and the community.
 - (b) To assist the young farmers to become satisfactorily established in farming.
 - (c) To provide leadership training for the members.
 - (d) To promote community services needed in further developing the community.
 - (e) To provide recreational opportunities for the young farmers and their families.
15. The basis for the requirements for membership should be the interests of the members and the activities in farming rather than chronological age.
16. Set up requirements for the supervised farming program of members.
17. Set a time for meeting and try to keep meetings within the limit. The average length of meeting should be approximately one hour and forty-five minutes.
18. The club secretary should notify members of meeting dates by mailing cards on an average of two days to four days before meetings depending upon the location of the members.

19. It is recommended that the local chapter meet monthly and hold dinner meetings, ladies or guest night twice a year and that instruction be provided on a monthly basis throughout the year.
20. All meetings should be conducted by accepted parliamentary procedure.
21. Select topics for discussion at meetings according to the interests and needs of members, the location of the club and the major farming enterprises of the community.
22. Secure the assistance of other agencies of the community in conducting the young farmer program.
23. To prevent members from losing interest in the organization keep them working on something in which they are interested and provide some form of recreation at the meetings.
24. The program of work should be challenging but within the bounds of reasonable application to the members situations and set up on a yearly basis.
25. The duties of the teacher of vocational agriculture in conducting the young farmer program should be:
 - (a) To assume full responsibility for the instructional program.
 - (b) To serve in an advisory capacity in planning the activities of the local chapter.
 - (c) To secure instructors from other agencies for teaching special problems.
 - (d) To provide instruction on a monthly basis.
 - (e) To assist young farmers to become established in farming.
 - (f) To assume full responsibility for the supervision of the farming program of the members.

- (g) To visit the young farmer on the farm and provide individual instruction and assistance.
- (h) To make use of an advisory council for the total program of vocational agriculture.
- (i) To assume the responsibility for the evaluation of his instructional program and make such changes in the program as are necessary to further the young farmers education.

No. attempt is made to suggest solutions to some of the difficulties in organizing and conducting the young farmer organization. The difficulties vary according to the individual community, the leadership training of the members and the leadership ability of the teacher of vocational agriculture.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This study was made possible by the cooperation of many persons and the author wishes to express his appreciation to the following who have rendered assistance in the preparation of this thesis:

To the members of my advisory committee for their help and guidance.

To the teachers of vocational agriculture who have contributed information for the study.

To the area supervisors of vocational agriculture in Virginia for selecting the schools in which the teacher of vocational agriculture was interviewed.

To the state supervisors of vocational agriculture in Ohio, Pennsylvania, North Carolina, South Carolina and Georgia for selecting schools to be included in the study.

To all others who have rendered assistance in the preparation of this thesis.

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the scanned document**

APPENDIX

Ceres, Virginia
October 2, 1951

To: Teachers of Vocational Agriculture

From: Eugene Orr, Teacher of Vocational Agriculture

Dear Fellow Workers:

During the past year emphasis has been centered on a program for development of Young Farmer Organizations in Virginia. Both the teachers of vocational agriculture and young farmers have shown a great deal of interest in the local and State organizations.

In an effort to organize and conduct a satisfactory young farmer organization many teachers have found considerable difficulty in establishing and conducting the local program. This expressed need on the part of many teachers has lead me to undertake a study on "Developing a Young Farmer Organization for Virginia." The study will determine the extent to which local organizations are now functioning; the methods of organizing young farmers educational groups; and will formulate a suggested plan that may be used in organizing a young farmers group in Virginia.

During the summer I visited each of the supervisory areas in the State to secure information on the study. In addition I should like to receive information from other teachers with whom it will be impossible to visit. Your cooperation and assistance in supplying the information on the enclosed answer form will be greatly appreciated.

The Vocational Agriculture Staff and Teacher Trainer Department both feel that such a study will be of considerable value to teachers in assisting them in planning and organizing a young farmer program.

For your convenience in returning the completed form a self-addressed, stamped envelope is enclosed.

Yours truly.

Eugene Orr, Teacher
Vocational Agriculture
Ceres High School

YOUNG FARMERS ORGANIZATION

School _____ Address _____

Teacher of Agriculture _____ Years in Dept. _____

Number of teachers in department _____

I. History of Young Farmers Organization:

- A. Year Organized _____
- B. Years in continuous operation _____
- C. Membership (1) Beginning _____ (2) Present _____
- D. Maximum past membership _____
- E. Title of organization _____

II. What procedure did you follow in setting up the Young Farmers Organization?

- A. _____
- B. _____
- B. _____
- C. _____
- D. _____
- E. _____

III. What difficulties did you encounter in setting up the Young Farmers Organization?

- A. _____
- B. _____
- C. _____
- D. _____
- E. _____

IV. A. Does the Young Farmers Organization have a written constitution and by-laws ? _____ If so, please return a copy with this questionnaire.

B. Distribution of membership:

1. Number from Veterans class who are members _____

2. Number from Part-time class who are members _____

3. Number from Evening class who are members _____

4. Young men in the organization not directly connected with either of the three mentioned _____

5. Age group represented in the Young Farmers Organization
From _____ years To _____ years

C. What are the requirements for the Supervised Farming program of the members ?

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

V. What are the purposes of the Young Farmers Organization ?

Omit question A. _____
V if a copy of the constitution is enclosed. B. _____
C. _____
D. _____
E. _____

VI. Frequency and place of meeting:

A. Meetings are held in:

1. Vocational Agriculture classroom _____ shop _____

2. High School _____

3. Other _____
(Specify)

B. Are dinner meetings or Ladies Night a regular activity of the organization ? _____ If so, how often are they held _____

C. Organization meets:

1. Monthly _____
2. Bi-monthly _____
3. Other _____
(Specify)
4. Average length of meetings _____ hrs.

D. Does secretary send cards to members reminding them of meeting dates ? _____ If so,

1. To all members _____
2. To members absent at past meeting _____
3. To prospective members _____
4. Number days before meeting cards are mailed _____

VII. What is the procedure followed in conducting the meetings ?

- A. _____
- B. _____
- C. _____
- D. _____
- E. _____
- F. _____

VIII. What are some of the topics for discussion at your Young Farmers meetings ?

- A. _____
- B. _____
- C. _____
- D. _____
- E. _____
- F. _____
- G. _____
- H. _____
- I. _____
- J. _____

IX. A. Does the organization have a definite written Program of Work ?

_____ If so, please enclose a copy with this questionnaire.

B. Does the organization have a committee on program of work? _____

1. Appointed by president _____

2. Elected by members _____

3. Selected by executive committee _____

4. Other _____
(Specify)

C. Program of Work is set up by:

1. Program of Work committee _____

2. Membership of organization _____

3. Other _____
(Specify)

D. Under what headings are the items in your Program of Work listed?

Omit question D if Program of Work is enclosed. 1. _____ 5. _____
2. _____ 6. _____
3. _____ 7. _____
4. _____ 8. _____

X. What agencies have been used in carrying on the program ?

A. P. T. A. _____

B. Local banks _____

C. Extension Service _____

D. Farm Bureau _____

E. Forest Service _____

F. Ruritan Club _____

G. Others:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

6. _____

XI. What benefits have been derived from the Young Farmers Organization?

A. Actual benefits:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

B. Potential benefits:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

XII. What techniques or activities do you use in creating and holding interest ?

- A. _____
- B. _____
- C. _____

XIII. Does your organization have an emblem ? _____ If so, describe it _____

XIV. What difficulties have you experienced in carrying on the organization ?

- A. _____

- B. _____

- C. _____

- D. _____

- E. _____
