

A FOLLOW-UP STUDY OF GRADUATES RECEIVING THE BACHELOR
OF SCIENCE DEGREE IN AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION
FROM VIRGINIA POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE
1959-1969

by

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

Background Of The Study

"The Agricultural Education Department at Virginia Polytechnic Institute was established in 1918 for the preparation of teachers of vocational agriculture."¹ To the author's present knowledge, very little has been published concerning the history of the agricultural education department at Virginia Polytechnic Institute.

Three studies of students graduating in agricultural education from Virginia Polytechnic Institute have been made. The writer recognizes that these studies on the status of the graduates have helped members of the staff in agricultural education to determine the effectiveness of the training offered.

A study of 1948-1958 graduates was completed in 1959, and is the most recent study of the agricultural education graduates from Virginia Polytechnic Institute. What have been the accomplishments of graduates from

¹Virginia Agricultural and Mechanical College and Polytechnic Institute, The Virginia Plan For The Training of Teachers of Vocational Agriculture in Cooperation With The State Board For Vocational Education (Blacksburg: n.p., n.d.), p. 5.

1959-1969? The findings of a study of these graduates should contain information members of the agricultural education staff can use to evaluate their program. The study should also be of interest to the graduates themselves.

Statement Of The Problem

The problem for this study was to determine the employment record of the 1959-1969 graduates in agricultural education from Virginia Polytechnic Institute, their reasons for changing occupations, the effectiveness of their training, their advancements and achievements, and their mobility.

Significance Of The Problem

A study of this problem should prove helpful to members of the agricultural education staff of Virginia Polytechnic Institute. It should provide information on the success of their program and on improvements that can be made. As no other similar studies of these graduates have been made, it may be of interest to the graduates themselves as it should provide information about classmates and other items of importance to them.

Purposes

Specific purposes of the study were to determine:

1. The employment record of agricultural education students receiving a Bachelor of Science degree from

Virginia Polytechnic Institute from 1959-1969.

2. The mobility of these graduates.
3. The effectiveness of the present departmental training program.
4. The financial advancement of these graduates.
5. The educational advancement of these graduates.
6. Other achievements of these graduates.

Assumptions

The author assumed that the graduates had been employed in numerous jobs in various areas of the world and that they had changed jobs for definite reasons. It was also assumed that they would have suggestions for improvement of the agricultural education curriculum. The author also assumed that there would be variations in the salaries received by the graduates. Furthermore, it was assumed that many of the graduates had pursued further courses of study as well as attaining other achievements, and that all the information supplied on the questionnaire was valid.

Limitations

This study was limited to agricultural education students who received Bachelor of Science degrees from Virginia Polytechnic Institute from 1959-1969. As 1969 graduates had not received a full year's salary, all

graduates were requested to give their average monthly salary for the three months prior to receiving the questionnaire. These monthly salaries were then computed to give an annual salary.

Definition Of Terms

Graduate, as used in this study refers to those individuals receiving the Bachelor of Science degree from Virginia Polytechnic Institute with a major in agricultural education during the years of 1959-1969.

Agricultural education is that curriculum in the Education Department of Virginia Polytechnic Institute with the purpose of training individuals to teach agricultural education on the secondary school level.

Options, as used in this study, refer to the six specialized areas of the agricultural education curriculum which a student may pursue on the high school level. These options are: agricultural production, agricultural machinery service, agricultural business, agricultural processing and marketing, ornamental horticulture, and conservation and forestry.

Special needs, as used in this study, is a descriptive adjective for courses designed for students who are handicapped either economically, physically or mentally.

The following terms were used for classifying occupations:

1. Agricultural education; occupations involving the provision of education in the field of agriculture, such as agricultural education teachers and county agricultural extension agents.

2. Nonagricultural education; occupations in the field of education which do not provide training in the field of agriculture, such as high school science teachers.

3. Agricultural, noneducational; occupations in the field of agriculture which do not deal directly with education, such as farmers and feed salesmen.

4. Nonagricultural, noneducational; occupations which are neither in the field of agriculture or education such as insurance agents.

Design Of The Study

The problem of determining the occupations and achievements of the agricultural education graduates of Virginia Polytechnic Institute from 1959-1969, and their appraisal of the agricultural education curriculum was selected. An outline of the problem was submitted in the fall of 1969. The literature in the library was reviewed to determine the available background material from similar studies.

After surveying the past studies and deciding on the types of information desired, a two page questionnaire was developed for obtaining this information, a copy of which

is included as Appendix A. This questionnaire was reviewed by members of the writer's advisory committee and many helpful changes were made to improve the clarity of it.

Copies of Virginia Polytechnic Institute, Degrees Conferred for the years 1959-1969, were reviewed to obtain a list of those receiving a Bachelor of Science degree in agricultural education. This study revealed a total of 245 graduates receiving this degree during this time period. The data in Table I show the number of students receiving the Bachelor of Science degree in agricultural education from Virginia Polytechnic Institute by years.

The list of graduates obtained from Virginia Polytechnic Institute, Degrees Conferred, was used to obtain addresses from the files of the alumni office. A list of the graduates by year graduated, their 1970 occupations and addresses, is included as Appendix E. For those who did not return the questionnaire, their last known address and occupation, if any, is listed.

On January 26, 1970, a questionnaire was mailed to each of the 245 graduates. An accompanying letter of explanation and a letter of endorsement were mailed at the same time. Copies of these letters are included as Appendices B and C respectively. A self-addressed, stamped envelope was enclosed for returning the completed questionnaire. By February 20, 1970, 123 or 50.2 percent of the question-

TABLE I

NUMBER OF AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION GRADUATES
FROM VIRGINIA POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE
1959-1969 AND YEAR GRADUATED

Year Of Graduation	Number Of Graduates
1959	26
1960	27
1961	23
1962	25
1963	30
1964	14
1965	21
1966	13
1967	19
1968	18
1969	29
Total 1959-1969	245

naires had been returned. Another questionnaire was mailed on February 20, 1970, to the 122 graduates for whom no returns had been received including 4 returned with incorrect addresses. A follow-up letter, explaining the need for their cooperation in the study was included and also appears as Appendix D. By April 1, 1970, 179, or 73.1 percent, had been returned. Six more were returned after April 1, 1970, and were not included in the study. The returns by years for questionnaires received before April 1, 1970, are included in Table II.

The data received on the questionnaires were summarized and compiled into tables. An explanation of and observations about the material in the tables were included in Chapter III.

TABLE II
RETURN OF QUESTIONNAIRES BY YEAR OF GRADUATION

Year Of Graduation	Number	Percent
1959	16	61.5
1960	18	66.7
1961	14	60.9
1962	18	72.0
1963	20	66.7
1964	11	78.6
1965	17	81.0
1966	10	76.9
1967	16	84.2
1968	13	72.2
1969	<u>26</u>	<u>89.7</u>
Total 1959-1969	179	73.1

CHAPTER II

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Many studies have been made of agricultural education graduates, but only three extensive studies have been found of graduates in agricultural education from Virginia Polytechnic Institute.

In a follow-up study of graduates, post graduates, and those qualified to teach by taking certain classes in agricultural education at Virginia Polytechnic Institute, Pulley found that of the 432 men who qualified to teach vocational agriculture during 1918-1940, 60 percent were still engaged in that occupation in 1940. Only 41 percent of those who graduated from 1924-1928 were teaching vocational agriculture in 1940 compared with 72 percent of those from the 1934-1938 classes.²

Beamer, in a study of 307 graduates of agricultural education who graduated from Virginia Polytechnic Institute from 1920-1947, reported that these 307 were engaged in 105 different occupations during that period. These were grouped

²Mason H. Pulley, "A Follow-Up Study of Graduates, Post Graduates, and Those Qualified to Teach by Taking Certain Classes in Agricultural Education at Virginia Polytechnic Institute Since 1918" (unpublished M.S. thesis, Virginia Polytechnic Institute, 1940), pp. 16-47.

into 5 classifications: vocational education in agriculture, 45.6 percent: other professional agriculture occupations, 14 percent: related agriculture occupations, 14 percent: non-vocational education, 8.1 percent: miscellaneous, 17.9 percent. Incomes ranged from \$2,000.00 to more than \$10,000.00 with an average of \$4,050.00. Twelve percent of the graduates held Master of Science degrees. The holder of a Master of Science degree was paid an average of \$305.00 annually more than the holder of the Bachelor of Science degree.³

Heiskell, in a study of 236 graduates each of whom had received the Bachelor of Science degree in agricultural education from Virginia Polytechnic Institute from 1948-1958, found that these graduates were employed in a total of 50 different occupations during that period. The average beginning salaries for those graduates entering teaching were less than for those entering other occupations for each year covered by the study. The average 1958 salary for graduates with the Master of Science degree was \$654.00 above the salary of graduates with only a Bachelor of Science degree. There were 69.9 percent of the graduates

³Rufus W. Beamer, "A Follow-Up Study of Virginia Polytechnic Institute Graduates in Agricultural Education Since 1918" (unpublished M.S. thesis, Virginia Polytechnic Institute, 1948), pp. 47-53.

in the study who had changed jobs during the years covered by the study. Fourteen percent of the subjects of this study had received advanced degrees beyond the Bachelor of Science degree during the years 1948-1958. Three of the graduates receiving advanced degrees received the Doctor of Philosophy degree. There were 52 curriculum changes or improvements for the agricultural education department at Virginia Polytechnic Institute which were suggested by 63.6 percent of the graduates.⁴

Ferguson, in a study of agricultural education graduates from Oregon State University, found that 81.2 percent of the graduates began teaching vocational agriculture the first year after graduation.⁵

In a study of agricultural education graduates from the University of Tennessee, made in 1965, Rhody found that 52 percent of the graduates taught agriculture as their first job. This study also revealed that 54 percent of the

⁴Lawrence C. Heiskell, "Occupations Entered by Agriculture Education Graduates of Virginia Polytechnic Institute, 1948-1958" (unpublished M.S. thesis, Virginia Polytechnic Institute, 1959), pp. 105-117.

⁵John M. Ferguson, "A Follow-Up of the Graduates of Agricultural Education at Oregon State University" unpublished M.Ed. thesis, Oregon State University, 1966, cited by Research Committee, Agricultural Education Division, American Vocational Association, Summaries of Studies in Agricultural Education, 1965-1967 (Danville, Illinois: Interstate Printers and Publishers, 1970), p. 76.

graduates had taught agriculture since graduating and that 35 percent were teaching agriculture at the time of the study.⁶

Severance, in a study of agricultural education graduates from Kansas State University, made in 1966, found that the mean annual salary of graduates who taught agriculture the first year after graduation was \$4,754.00. Graduates who were teaching at the time the study was made (1966), had a mean annual salary of \$6,357.00.⁷

Ferguson⁸ and Rhody⁹ found that 81.2 percent and 52 percent, respectively, of the graduates in their studies began employment in the agricultural education field whereas 74.9 percent of the graduates in the writer's study began

⁶Billy L. Rhody, "Agriculture Education Majors Who Graduated From the University of Tennessee College of Agriculture From the Summer Quarter, 1955, Through the Summer Quarter, 1964" unpublished M.S. thesis, University of Tennessee, 1965, cited by Research Committee, Agricultural Education Division, American Vocational Association, Summaries of Studies in Agricultural Education, 1965-1967 (Danville, Illinois: Interstate Printers and Publishers, 1970), pp. 189-190.

⁷Harold G. Severance, "A Study of the Occupations of Graduates in Agricultural Education Who Did Not Teach Vocational Agriculture" unpublished Master's report, Kansas State University, 1966, cited by Research Committee, Agricultural Education Division, American Vocational Association, Summaries of Studies in Agricultural Education, 1965-1967 (Danville, Illinois: Interstate Printers and Publishers, 1970), pp. 199-200.

⁸Ferguson, loc. cit.

⁹Rhody, loc. cit.

employment in the agricultural education field.

Pulley¹⁰ and Rhody¹¹ in their studies of agriculture education graduates found that 60 percent and 35 percent, respectively, of the graduates reporting were employed in the agricultural education field at the time of their studies. The writer found in his study of agricultural education graduates that 53.6 percent of the graduates were employed in the agricultural education field at the time of his study.

In his study of agricultural education graduates from Kansas State University, Severance found that the graduates who were teaching agriculture at the time of his study (1966) had a mean annual salary of \$6,357.00.¹² The writer found in his study that the average salary of the graduates who were teaching agriculture at the time the study was made (1970) was \$8,441.00.

There were other findings from the above studies in the areas of employment records, salaries, educational advancements and mobility of graduates which were not on a basis that could be compared with the writer's findings.

¹⁰Pulley, loc. cit.

¹¹Rhody, loc. cit.

¹²Severance, loc. cit.

The findings of each of the studies reviewed, show that some of the graduates who had received degrees in agricultural education had been employed in occupations other than agricultural education.

A summary of the findings of the studies reviewed, shows a wide range in the salaries received by the graduates investigated. These findings also show that some of the graduates investigated received advanced degrees beyond the Bachelor of Science degree. The findings of the studies reviewed, also show that graduates who held advanced degrees beyond the Bachelor of Science degree received higher salaries than those graduates with only a Bachelor of Science degree.

The findings of each of these studies may reflect the conditions existing at the time each study was made, more than they reflect the relative achievements of the graduates.

CHAPTER III

PRESENTATION OF DATA

Students who majored in agricultural education and who were graduated from Virginia Polytechnic Institute from 1959 through 1969 have been employed in many different occupations during the past 11 years. In the remainder of this thesis, these students will be referred to as graduates. In order to tabulate the employment information into a workable form, the 41 occupations represented by the 245 graduates were summarized into 4 major groups according to the type of occupations in which they were engaged.

Occupations Entered By The Graduates

The following is a list of the groups used in this study with a breakdown for each:

A. Agricultural education

1. Extension service personnel: graduates employed by the extension service.
2. Agricultural education teachers: graduates employed to teach agriculture in public high schools.
3. College professor: graduates employed by colleges and universities to teach agricultural subjects.

4. Assistant state supervisor of agricultural education: graduates employed in this position.
5. Agricultural education graduate students: graduates doing full time graduate work in agricultural education.

B. Nonagricultural education

1. Job Corps coordinator: graduates employed to coordinate Federal Job Corps centers.
2. School teacher (nonagricultural): graduates employed as elementary and secondary school teachers of subjects other than agriculture.
3. School administrators: graduates employed as principals, directors of instruction and in other administrative positions.

C. Agricultural, noneducational

1. Soil conservationist: graduates employed by the United States Soil Conservation Service.
2. Market reporter: graduates employed as reporters of agricultural markets.
3. Wildlife biologist: graduates employed by the United States Government to oversee the care of wildlife.

4. Forester: graduates employed by the United States Forest Service to oversee an area of the national forests.
5. Agricultural, noneducational graduate student: graduates doing full time graduate work in agricultural subjects other than agricultural education.
6. Dairy inspector: graduates employed by a locality to inspect dairies in the area.
7. Agricultural stabilization and conservation service manager: graduates employed by the United States Government to manage a local Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service office.
8. Agricultural economist: graduates employed in the analysis of agricultural records.
9. Farm credit officer: graduates employed in the business of providing credit for farmers.
10. Department of agriculture inspector: graduates employed by Federal and State governments to inspect processing plants.
11. Business manager: graduates employed in the management of agricultural businesses.
12. Salesman: graduates employed in selling agricultural products.

13. Utility company representative: graduates employed by utility companies to coordinate services to the agricultural industry.

D. Nonagricultural, noneducational

1. Fuel oil deliveryman: graduates employed in the business of delivering fuel oil.
2. Programmer analyst: graduates employed in programming and analyzing computer programs.
3. Minister: graduates employed as ministers for a local congregation.
4. County executive secretary: graduates employed by a county to direct the day to day business of the county.
5. Food and drug inspector: graduates employed by Federal and state governments to inspect food and drugs for quality.
6. Business manager: graduates employed as managers of nonagricultural businesses.
7. Salesman: graduates employed as salesmen of nonagricultural products.
8. Military service: graduates in the military services.
9. Banking: graduates employed in the banking business.
10. Probation officer: graduates employed by

localities to assist the courts in keeping track of those who have appeared in the courts.

11. Commercial pilot: graduates who are pilots of commercial planes.
12. Counselor: graduates employed in the business of counseling.
13. Computer operator: graduates employed in the operation of computers.
14. Systems specialist: graduates employed as designers of systems for businesses.
15. Engineer: graduates employed as engineers by the business field.
16. Claims adjuster: graduates employed by insurance companies to settle claims.
17. Criminal investigator: graduates employed by the United States Government to investigate criminal activities.
18. Researcher: graduates employed by business to develop and test products.
19. Insurance agent: graduates employed by insurance companies to sell life, health, auto and other forms of insurance.
20. Utility company representative: graduates employed to coordinate services to the nonagricultural sector of their consumers.

Listed in Table III are the classifications of the beginning occupations of the 179 reporting graduates. Of the total, 134 (74.9 percent) began employment in the field of agricultural education, 9 (5 percent) began employment in the nonagricultural education field, 16 (8.9 percent) found their beginning employment in the agricultural, noneducational field, and 20 (11.4 percent) began employment in the nonagricultural, noneducational field. Because many college graduates faced military duty upon graduation, and because they were listed in the nonagricultural, noneducational field, the total for this field was higher than might otherwise be expected.

The 1966 class had the highest percentage of graduates beginning employment in the field of agricultural education with 100 percent entering this field and the 1962 class with 55.6 percent had the lowest percentage of graduates beginning employment in this field.

Data in Table IV show that of the 179 graduates reporting, 145 (81.0 percent) were employed in the field of agricultural education sometime during their careers. There were 35 (19.6 percent) that had been employed in the nonagricultural education field. Thirty-seven (20.7 percent) of the graduates were employed in the agricultural, noneducational field sometime during their careers, and 46

TABLE III
CLASSIFICATION OF THE BEGINNING OCCUPATIONS OF 179 OF THE 245 GRADUATES
BY YEAR OF GRADUATION

Year Of Graduation	Occupational Classification							
	Agricultural Education		Nonagricultural Education		Agricultural, Noneducational		Nonagricultural, Noneducational	
	No.	Percent	No.	Percent	No.	Percent	No.	Percent
1959	10	62.5	0	0.0	2	12.5	4	25.0
1960	11	61.1	2	11.1	3	16.7	2	11.1
1961	12	85.7	2	14.3	0	0.0	0	0.0
1962	10	55.6	0	0.0	2	11.1	6	33.3
1963	13	65.0	0	0.0	4	20.0	3	15.0
1964	10	90.9	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	9.1
1965	14	82.4	0	0.0	2	11.8	1	5.9
1966	10	100.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
1967	13	81.3	1	6.3	2	12.5	0	0.0
1968	10	76.9	1	7.7	1	7.7	1	7.7
1969	21	80.8	3	11.5	0	0.0	2	7.7
Total	134	74.9	9	5.0	16	8.9	20	11.4

TABLE IV
CLASSIFICATION OF OCCUPATIONS ENTERED SOMETIME DURING THE CAREERS
OF 179 OF THE 245 GRADUATES BY YEAR OF GRADUATION

Year Of Graduation	Occupational Classification							
	Agricultural Education		Nonagricultural Education		Agricultural, Noneducational		Nonagricultural, Noneducational	
	No.	Percent	No.	Percent	No.	Percent	No.	Percent
1959	12	75.0	5	31.3	4	25.0	7	43.8
1960	12	66.7	6	33.3	6	33.3	3	16.7
1961	13	92.9	2	14.3	2	14.3	5	35.7
1962	14	77.8	2	11.1	5	27.8	7	38.9
1963	13	65.0	5	25.0	8	40.0	8	40.0
1964	10	90.9	3	27.3	1	9.1	4	36.4
1965	14	82.4	1	5.9	4	23.5	6	35.3
1966	10	100.0	1	10.0	2	20.0	1	10.0
1967	15	93.8	6	37.5	3	18.8	1	6.3
1968	10	76.9	2	15.4	1	7.7	2	15.4
1969	22	84.6	2	7.7	1	3.5	2	7.7
Total	145	81.0	35	19.6	37	20.7	46	25.7

(25.7 percent) had been employed at some time in the nonagricultural, noneducational field. These data show that 81 percent of the graduates were employed at some time in the field for which they were trained.

Although 19 percent of the graduates never entered the agricultural education field, there are indications that much of their training was used to advantage in their chosen field of employment, because those who were employed in fields other than agricultural education, received salaries similar to and sometimes greater than the salaries of graduates employed in agricultural education.

The data summarized in Tables III and IV reveal that the graduates were employed in different fields and changed their field of employment from time to time. Table V contains a listing of the fields in which the graduates were employed in 1970. When these data are compared with the data in Tables III and IV, they point up changes in employment made by the graduates from the time of graduation to 1970.

As shown in Table V, 96 (53.6 percent) were employed in the agricultural education field in 1970. Twenty-two (12.3 percent) of the graduates were employed in the educational, nonagricultural field. There were 28 (15.6 percent) of the graduates employed in the agricultural, noneducational field in 1970, and 33 (18.4 percent) were employed in the

TABLE V
CLASSIFICATION OF THE 1970 OCCUPATIONS OF 179 OF THE 245 GRADUATES
BY YEAR OF GRADUATION

Year Of Graduation	Occupational Classification							
	Agricultural Education		Nonagricultural Education		Agricultural, Noneducational		Nonagricultural, Noneducational	
	No.	Percent	No.	Percent	No.	Percent	No.	Percent
1959	4	25.0	2	12.5	4	25.0	6	37.5
1960	6	33.3	5	27.8	4	22.2	3	16.7
1961	9	64.3	1	7.1	2	14.2	2	14.2
1962	10	55.6	0	0.0	4	22.2	4	22.2
1963	5	25.0	3	15.0	4	20.0	8	40.0
1964	5	45.5	1	9.1	2	18.2	3	27.3
1965	12	70.6	0	0.0	4	23.5	1	5.9
1966	6	60.0	1	10.0	2	20.0	1	10.0
1967	10	62.5	4	25.0	1	6.3	1	6.3
1968	9	69.2	2	15.4	0	0.0	2	15.4
1969	20	76.9	3	11.5	1	3.8	2	7.7
Total	96	53.6	22	12.3	28	15.6	33	18.4

nonagricultural, noneducational field. In comparing beginning employment with 1970 employment, we find that the percentage of graduates (74.9 percent) who began employment in the agricultural education field was higher than the percentage (53.6 percent) who were employed in agricultural education in 1970. Each of the other 3 fields of employment showed increases in the percentage of the graduates employed in them in 1970 as compared to the percentage with beginning employment in these fields.

Mobility Of The Graduates

Table VI illustrates the fact that the 179 reporting graduates had made an average of 1.01 changes in occupation during their careers. The changes per graduate ranged from 0 to 5. Seventy-five graduates made no changes as contrasted to 1 graduate who made 5 changes. The 1969 graduates had the lowest average number of changes per graduate. This was expected because these graduates had less time to make changes. This pattern continued from 1969 back to 1963, after which the pattern became irregular. A possible explanation is that the employment world was more stable from 1959-1962 than it was from 1963-1969.

The 104 graduates who reported that they had changed occupations listed 39 reasons for making these changes. A summary of these reasons and the number of times each was

TABLE VI
CHANGES OF OCCUPATION AS REPORTED BY 179 OF THE 245 GRADUATES
BY YEAR OF GRADUATION

Year Of Graduation	Number of Graduates Reporting	Number Of Changes Reported					Average Number Of Changes Per Graduate	
		0	1	2	3	4		5
1959	16	3	3	7	2	1	0	1.69
1960	18	3	7	6	2	0	0	1.39
1961	14	5	3	2	3	1	0	1.43
1962	18	6	3	4	3	1	1	1.61
1963	20	3	5	9	1	2	0	1.70
1964	11	1	5	3	2	0	0	1.55
1965	17	6	3	6	2	0	0	1.24
1966	10	5	3	1	1	0	0	0.80
1967	16	7	5	4	0	0	0	0.81
1968	13	11	2	0	0	0	0	0.15
1969	26	25	1	0	0	0	0	0.04
Total	179	75	40	42	16	5	1	1.01

listed is found in Table VII. The 2 reasons listed most often were: (1) greater earning opportunity and (2) poor working conditions. This indicates that agricultural education graduates are looking for higher salaries and are moving to jobs offering better salaries. However, many of the graduates were concerned about the working conditions and moved to occupations offering better working conditions.

Another aspect of the graduates' mobility is the number of changes they have made in geographical location. Of the 179 reporting graduates, 82 (45.8 percent) had not made any changes in geographical location. The average number of changes per graduate was 1.05. These data are very similar to the data on changes in occupation with the 1969 graduates having the lowest number of changes and the 1963 graduates having the highest number. These data can be found in Table VIII.

The graduates were asked to indicate on the questionnaire if their job locations were within 50 miles of their childhood home town. Of the 179 reporting graduates, 63 (35.2 percent) of the graduates reported that they began employment within 50 miles of their home town. There were 77 (43.0 percent) who reported employment within 50 miles of their childhood home town at the time of receiving the questionnaire. These data indicate an overall trend of graduates to return to their home town areas. However, the

TABLE VII

REASONS LISTED BY GRADUATES FOR CHANGING OCCUPATIONS

Reasons	Number Of Times Listed
Greater earning opportunity	42
Poor working conditions	23
Discharged from military service	17
Promotion	16
Entered military service	16
To pursue a higher degree	15
More opportunity for advancement	12
Moved closer to home town	10
Poor location	9
Desire to try a new field of work	8
Transferred	6
Better position	5
Work was not challenging	3
School consolidation	3
Excessive travel	3
Agricultural enrollment dropped	3
Desire to return to farming	3
Dislike of administration	3
Desire to enter the family business	2
Personnel conflict	2
Too many outdated reports	2
Professional and self improvement	1
School split	1
Could not obtain draft deferment	1
Too many meetings	1
Too many nonteaching and menial tasks	1
Company went out of business	1
Needed to move near large airport	1
Broken agreement	1
Did not work out partnership	1
Not able to obtain desired job in area	1
Desire to enter business for self	1
Better employee benefits and family security	1
Dislike of community action	1
Better self satisfaction	1
Temporary self support required	1
Discrimination	1
Too much moving	1
Sickness in family	1

TABLE VIII
CHANGES IN GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION AS REPORTED BY 179 OF THE 245 GRADUATES

Year Of Graduation	Number Of Graduates Reporting	Number Of Changes Reported						Average Number Of Changes Per Graduate
		0	1	2	3	4	5	
1959	16	5	6	3	1	1	0	1.19
1960	18	4	7	6	1	0	0	1.22
1961	14	5	2	3	3	1	0	1.50
1962	18	6	3	4	3	1	1	1.61
1963	20	3	6	6	3	1	1	1.80
1964	11	1	5	3	2	0	0	1.55
1965	17	6	4	3	2	2	0	1.41
1966	10	7	1	0	2	0	0	0.70
1967	16	8	6	1	1	0	0	0.69
1968	13	12	1	0	0	0	0	0.08
1969	26	25	1	0	0	0	0	0.04
Total	179	82	42	29	18	6	2	1.05

data from 1960, 1964, and 1967 graduates disclose that fewer of these graduates were employed in their home town areas in 1970 than were employed in their home town areas at the beginning of their employment. These data are summarized in Table IX.

Curriculum Suggestions

The graduates were asked to list on the questionnaire the types of courses which they felt were most valuable, the types of courses that were least valuable, and the types of courses which were needed but not provided. The types of courses and the number of times that courses of each type were listed as being most valuable to the graduates are listed in Table X.

Courses in animal science were listed more times than other types of courses. Of the 14 types of courses which were listed, 146 (81.6 percent) of the 179 graduates listed animal science courses as being the most valuable. Agricultural engineering courses were listed in the most valuable category by 133 (77.7 percent) of the graduates.

Physical science courses were rated as least valuable by 78 (43.6 percent) of the graduates. Social science courses were listed as least valuable by 64 or 35.8 percent. Most types of courses were listed both in the most valuable and in the least valuable categories. The total number of

TABLE IX

NUMBER OF REPORTING GRADUATES EMPLOYED WITHIN A FIFTY
MILE RADIUS OF THEIR CHILDHOOD HOME TOWN
BY YEAR OF GRADUATION

Year Of Graduation	Beginning Employment	1970 Employment
1959	6	8
1960	4	3
1961	7	10
1962	3	6
1963	4	10
1964	5	4
1965	5	6
1966	4	6
1967	7	6
1968	7	7
1969	<u>11</u>	<u>11</u>
Total	63	77

TABLE X

TYPES OF COURSES LISTED AS MOST VALUABLE BY GRADUATES

Types Of Courses	Number Of Times Listed
Animal production	146
Agricultural engineering	133
Plant production	91
Agricultural education	61
English	39
Economics	32
Physical science	26
Business and management	26
Dairy production	21
Mathematics	18
Social science	13
Forestry and wildlife	12
General education	8
Audio-visual	6
Poultry production	5
Resource conservation and management	4
Law	4

graduates reporting courses in the least valuable category was less than the number reporting in the most valuable category. This made it impossible to draw any more conclusions from the data which is summarized in Tables X and XI.

The graduates reported that they felt a need for new or additional offerings of 16 types of courses. Thirty-six (20.1 percent) of the graduates reported a need for more courses in business and management. Thirty-one (17.3 percent) reported that they felt a need for more courses in plant production and 30 (16.8 percent) of the graduates reported a need for more courses in animal production. This information is included in Table XII.

The graduates also listed twenty-seven suggestions for improving the agricultural education curriculum at Virginia Polytechnic Institute. Some of the suggestions listed were being carried out by the members of the agricultural education staff at Virginia Polytechnic Institute at the time this study was made, but apparently the graduates were unaware of this. The suggestions listed were as follows:

1. Place more emphasis on preparing students to teach the options.
2. Place more emphasis on preparing students to teach special needs classes.

TABLE XI
TYPES OF COURSES LISTED AS LEAST VALUABLE

Types Of Courses	Number Of Times Listed
Physical science	78
Social science	64
General education	44
Agricultural engineering	23
Mathematics	23
English	16
Plant production	13
Economics	11
Agricultural education	7
Animal production	5
Military science	4
Resource conservation	2
Law	1

TABLE XII

TYPES OF COURSES NEEDED BUT NOT PROVIDED
FOR THE REPORTING GRADUATES

Types Of Courses	Number Of Times Listed
Business and management	36
Plant production	31
Animal production	30
Agricultural engineering	26
Agricultural education	15
General education	12
Social science	11
Forestry wildlife	8
Law	6
Mathematics	5
Economics	4
English	3
Physical science	3
Resource conservation	3
Dairy production	3
Audio-visual	1

3. Require every student to have a minor.
4. Increase the practical information content of courses.
5. Broaden the shop program both in time and in areas covered.
6. Have agricultural examples included in nonagricultural courses.
7. Allow students to specialize more.
8. Require more business courses for all students.
9. Place shop courses on an elective basis.
10. Require students to have some work experience before selecting a major.
11. Provide a quarter of on-farm training in various production areas.
12. Add to and modernize the agricultural education staff.
13. Place more emphasis on research.
14. Update and modernize present courses.
15. Require participation in the Little International or similar events.
16. Provide more time for student practice teaching.
17. Train students to be able to work in situations less than ideal.
18. Provide more courses out in the field to update teachers.

19. Require Bachelor of Science recipients to teach a year and then return for a fifth year.

20. Require students to spend two weeks in the summer at the student teaching center prior to student teaching.

21. Provide financial aid for students doing student teaching.

22. Provide a more flexible curriculum.

23. Select student teaching centers more carefully.

24. Provide a degree program beyond the Master's degree but less than a Doctor's degree.

25. Require students to belong to the collegiate F.F.A.

26. Have definite goals and staff philosophy available to students.

27. Provide federal retraining funds from the 1968 ammendment to help teachers update their education.

Financial Advancement Of The Graduates

One indicator of success today is the salary that a person receives. Table XIII contains a summary of average beginning salaries received by graduates both by year of graduation and by field of employment. The average annual beginning salary for all of the 169 graduates who reported salary information was \$5,650.00. The 14 reporting students who graduated in 1959 received an average beginning

TABLE XIII

AVERAGE BEGINNING SALARIES OF 169 OF THE 245 GRADUATES BY
YEAR OF GRADUATION AND BY FIELDS OF EMPLOYMENT

Year Of Graduation	Field Of Employment									
	Agricultural		Nonagricultural		Education		Noneducational		All Fields	
	No. Av. Salary	No. Av. Salary	No. Av. Salary	No. Av. Salary	No. Av. Salary	No. Av. Salary	No. Av. Salary	No. Av. Salary	No. Av. Salary	No. Av. Salary
1959	9 \$4,082.00		2 \$3,600.00	3 \$ 4,112.00	14	\$4,020.00				
1960	11 4,407.00	2 \$3,900.00	3 4,200.00	2 5,400.00	18	4,427.00				
1961	11 4,655.00	2 5,958.00			13	4,855.00				33
1962	11 4,852.00		1 3,600.00	6 4,930.00	18	4,809.00				
1963	13 4,989.00		4 5,043.00	2 11,700.00	19	5,707.00				
1964	9 5,323.00			1 6,000.00	10	5,391.00				
1965	14 5,499.00		2 7,340.00	1 5,100.00	17	5,633.00				
1966	9 5,993.00				9	5,993.00				
1967	13 6,084.00	1 5,760.00	2 7,200.00		16	6,516.00				
1968	9 6,902.00	1 6,396.00	1 5,760.00	1 8,100.00	12	6,865.00				
1969	20 7,387.00	3 7,600.00			23	7,415.00				
Total	129 \$5,600.00	9 \$6,075.00	15 \$5,227.00	16 \$5,957.00	169	\$5,650.00				

salary of \$4,020.00 as compared to the 23 reporting students who graduated in 1969 and received an average beginning salary of \$7,415.00. This represents an increase in the average beginning salary of \$3,395.00. Table XIII reveals that the average beginning salary increased from 1959-1969 and that there were years in which average beginning salaries were lower than they had been for previous years.

The 9 graduates who began their employment in the nonagricultural education field had a higher average beginning salary than all other graduates. The average salary of \$6,075.00 received by these 9 graduates was \$475.00 higher than the average salary of the 129 graduates who began employment in the agricultural education field. The average beginning salary was \$5,957.00 for graduates employed in the nonagricultural, noneducational field and \$5,227.00 for those graduates employed in the agricultural, noneducational field. The agricultural education field was the only employment field in which average beginning salaries of the graduates studies increased each year from 1959-1969.

The average 1970 salary of 170 of the graduates who reported this information was \$9,439.00. This was \$3,789.00 above the average beginning salary. The average 1970 salary of 1959 graduates, which was \$11,396.00, was \$3,844.00 more than the average 1970 salary of 1969 graduates. Those 1959 graduates who began employment in the agricultural education

field received an average salary of \$4,082.00 in 1959 which was \$5,686.00 less than the \$9,768.00 average salary received in 1970 by 1959 graduates who were then employed in the agricultural education field. These data are summarized in Table XIV.

The data contained in Table XIV also reveal that the 1970 average salary of those who were then employed in the nonagricultural, noneducational field was \$12,852.00. The average 1970 salary of graduates employed in the agricultural, noneducational field was \$9,952.00 or \$663.00 more than the average 1970 salary received by graduates employed in the nonagricultural education field. Graduates who were employed in 1970 in the agricultural education field received an average salary of \$8,441.00 which was lower than the average salaries received by all other graduates. The 1959 graduates who were employed in the agricultural education field in 1970 were receiving average salaries of \$2,122.00 more than 1969 graduates employed in this field. Other fields of employment showed similar trends with the earlier graduates with more experience receiving higher salaries than those graduating in later years. The data also reveal that graduates of certain years were receiving higher average salaries than the graduates of the previous year.

TABLE XIV

AVERAGE 1970 ANNUAL SALARIES OF 170 OF THE 245 GRADUATES
BY YEAR OF GRADUATION AND BY FIELDS OF EMPLOYMENT

Year Of Graduation	Field Of Employment									
	Agricultural Education		Nonagricultural Education		Noneducational		Noneducational		All Fields	
	No. Av. Salary	No. Av. Salary	No. Av. Salary	No. Av. Salary	No. Av. Salary	No. Av. Salary	No. Av. Salary	No. Av. Salary	No. Av. Salary	No. Av. Salary
1959	5 \$9,768.00	2 \$9,348.00	3 \$11,140.00	4 \$14,649.00	14 \$11,396.00					
1960	6 9,542.00	5 10,250.00	4 10,776.00	3 11,200.00	18 12,000.00					
1961	9 9,069.00	1 10,440.00	2 13,998.00	2 13,200.00	14 10,461.00					
1962	9 9,120.00		3 9,060.00	5 12,312.00	17 10,048.00					
1963	5 7,929.00	4 9,144.00	4 10,017.00	6 17,850.00	19 11,752.00					
1964	4 8,281.00	2 10,968.00	2 8,244.00	2 10,440.00	10 9,242.00					
1965	12 7,819.00		4 8,864.00	1 9,600.00	17 8,158.00					
1966	6 8,376.00	1 8,640.00	2 10,412.00	1 7,920.00	10 8,764.00					
1967	10 8,109.00	4 9,051.00	1 8,520.00	1 3,960.00	16 8,111.00					
1968	8 7,873.00	2 8,244.00		2 8,700.00	12 8,073.00					
1969	19 7,646.00	3 7,600.00	1 5,700.00		23 7,552.00					
Total	93 \$8,441.00	24 \$9,289.00	26 \$9,952.00	27 \$12,852.00	170 \$9,439.00					

The 1970 average salary of 37 graduates who held either a Master of Science, Master of Arts, or Master of Education degree in 1970 was \$9,815.00. This was \$1,092.00 above the average salary of 130 graduates who held only the Bachelor of Science degree. Only three of the five graduates who held either a Doctor of Philosophy or Doctor of Education degree, reported their salaries. These three graduates received an average 1970 salary of \$10,664.00 which was \$1,941.00 more than the 1970 average salary of the graduates who held only the Bachelor of Science degree. The information summarized in Table XV also discloses that graduates of several years who held Master's degrees received a lower average salary in 1970 than graduates of the same years who held only the Bachelor of Science degree. Some of the graduates who held Master's degrees had a shorter work experience because they took time off to work toward an advanced degree. This may explain why their average salaries were lower.

Educational Advancement Of Graduates

Of the 179 graduates reporting, 5 (2.8 percent) had received the Doctor of Philosophy degree and 41 (22.9 percent) had received either the Master of Science, Master of Arts, or Master of Education degree. There were 54 (30.2 percent) of the graduates who had not received any hours of college credit beyond the Bachelor of Science degree. There were

TABLE XV

AVERAGE 1970 SALARIES OF 170 GRADUATED BY DEGREE HELD AND BY YEAR OF GRADUATION

Year Of Graduation	Degree Held					
	B.S.		M.S., M.A., or M.Ed.		Ph.D. or Ed.D.	
	Number	Average Salary	Number	Average Salary	Number	Average Salary
1959	10	\$11,756.00	4	\$10,494.00		
1960	7	10,942.00	11	9,874.00		
1961	9	10,173.00	5	10,980.00		
1962	11	9,877.00	5	9,636.00	1	\$13,992.00
1963	16	11,982.00	3	10,560.00		
1964	7	8,356.00	2	10,968.00	1	12,000.00
1965	13	8,557.00	3	7,184.00	1	6,000.00
1966	8	8,750.00	2	8,820.00		
1967	15	8,094.00	1	8,364.00		
1968	11	8,049.00	1	8,328.00		
1969	23	7,415.00				
Total	130	\$8,723.00	37	\$9,815.00	3	\$10,664.00

84 (46.9 percent) of the graduates who indicated that they had received from 1 to 44 quarter hours of college credit beyond the Bachelor of Science degree. Twenty-one (11.7 percent) of the graduates had received college credits beyond the Master's degree. Table XVI indicates the number of graduates reporting credit beyond the Bachelor of Science degree.

Other Achievements Of Graduates

There were 69 (38.5 percent) of the 179 graduates who returned their questionnaire, and did not report any special achievements. The other 110 reporting graduates reported that they had been involved in many church, civic, and educational activities. These graduates had received a total of 54 awards. There were 37 different awards won by these graduates, some of which were received by several graduates. This shows that these graduates were active in their communities.

The graduates also reported that they had been officers 70 times in 24 different organizations. There were 84 organizations in which graduates reported holding 396 memberships. There were 46 achievements of other types which the 110 graduates also reported. This record of achievements indicates that the reporting graduates were involved in many varied types of activities.

TABLE XVI

QUARTER HOURS OF COLLEGE CREDIT RECEIVED BEYOND THE BACHELOR OF SCIENCE DEGREE
BY GRADUATES BY YEAR OF GRADUATION

Quarter Hours Of Credit	Years Of Graduation												Total
	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969		
B.S.	4	4	1	2	9	2	4	3	4	5	16	54	
B.S. + 1-15	2		4	3	5	3	6	3	9	7	8	50	
B.S. + 16-30	6	2	3	4	3	3	2	1	1		2	27	
B.S. + 31-44			2	1			2	1	1			7	
Master's	2	3	3	1	2			2	1	1		15	
Master's + 1-15	2	7	1	3	1	2	2					18	
Master's + 16-30		2	1									3	
Ph.D.				3		1	1					5	

CHAPTER IV

SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS, AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This study was devoted to determining the employment record of the 245 graduates of the agricultural education department at Virginia Polytechnic Institute from 1959-1969, the mobility of these graduates, the effectiveness of the training of these graduates, the financial advancement of these graduates, the educational advancement of these graduates, and certain other achievements of these graduates.

Summary

A list of the graduates was obtained from copies of Virginia Polytechnic Institute, Degrees Conferred. The addresses of the graduates were obtained from the alumni office files. The author prepared a questionnaire to obtain the desired information. A copy of the questionnaire was mailed to each of the graduates. There were 179 (73.1 percent) of the graduates who completed and returned the questionnaire in time to be included in this study. The information thusly obtained was summarized as follows:

A. Employment record of the graduates.

1. The occupations of the 179 reporting graduates were classified into four fields of employment. These were

agricultural education; nonagricultural education; agricultural, noneducational; and nonagricultural, noneducational. Of the 179 reporting graduates, 134 (74.9 percent) began employment in the agricultural education field; 9 (5 percent) began employment in the nonagricultural education field; 16 (8.9 percent) began employment in the agricultural, noneducational field; and 20 (11.4 percent) began employment in the nonagricultural, noneducational field.

2. There were 96 (53.6 percent) of the reporting graduates who were employed in the agricultural education field in 1970. Twenty-two (12.3 percent) of the graduates were employed in the nonagricultural education field in 1970. In the same year there were 28 (15.6 percent) of the graduates employed in the agricultural, noneducational field and 33 (18.4 percent) in the nonagricultural, noneducational field.

B. Mobility of the graduates.

1. The 179 reporting graduates had made an average of 1.01 changes per graduate in occupations during their careers.

2. The 104 (58.1 percent) graduates who reported that they had changed occupations listed 39 reasons for changing occupations.

3. The graduates had made an average of 1.05 changes per graduate in their geographical locations during

their careers.

4. There were 63 (35.2 percent) of the graduates who began employment within 50 miles of their childhood home town. In 1970, 77 (43 percent) were employed within 50 miles of their childhood home town.

C. Curriculum suggestions.

1. Courses in animal production were listed most frequently by graduates as more valuable than any other courses taken in undergraduate studies. Physical science courses were listed as the least valuable.

2. The graduates also reported that they felt a need for more courses in business and management.

3. There were twenty-seven suggestions for the improvement of the agricultural education curriculum at Virginia Polytechnic Institute, some of which were listed by several graduates.

4. The graduates indicated they believed the agricultural education department at Virginia Polytechnic Institute should provide more training which would help graduates to teach the specialized areas of the agricultural education curriculum.

D. Financial advancement of the graduates.

1. The average annual beginning salary of the 169 graduates who reported this information was \$5,650.00.

2. The average annual beginning salary of the 129 graduates who began employment in the agricultural education

field was \$5,600.00.

3. The average 1970 annual salary of the 170 graduates reporting this information was \$9,439.00.

4. The 93 graduates who were employed in the agricultural education field in 1970 had an average salary of \$8,441.00. The graduates who were employed in each of the other 3 fields in 1970 received higher average salaries than the graduates employed in agricultural education.

5. The 1970 average annual salary for the 116 graduates who held only the Bachelor of Science degree was \$8,723.00.

6. The 1970 average annual salary for the 37 graduates who held either a Master of Science, Master of Arts, or Master of Education degree was \$9,815.00.

7. The 3 graduates who held either a Doctor of Philosophy degree or a Doctor of Education degree in 1970, and reported salary information, received an average annual salary of \$10,664.00.

E. Educational advancement of the graduates.

1. There were 5 (2.8 percent) of the graduates who had received the Doctor of Philosophy degree or the Doctor of Education degree.

2. There were 41 (22.9 percent) of the graduates who held either the Master of Science, Master of Arts, or Master of Education degree.

3. There were 125 (69.8 percent) of the graduates who had received some college credit beyond the Bachelor of Science degree.

F. Other achievements of graduates.

1. Of the 179 reporting graduates, 110 (61.5 percent) listed special achievements they had made.

2. There were fifty-four awards won by these 110 graduates.

3. The graduates also reported that they had been officers seventy times in twenty-four different organizations.

4. The graduates held 396 memberships in 84 organizations.

Conclusions

On the basis of the data obtained in this study, the following conclusions seem justified:

1. Graduates of the agricultural education department at Virginia Polytechnic Institute are employed in many occupations upon graduating from college.

2. More graduates begin employment in the agricultural education field than in either of the other three fields investigated in this study.

3. The agricultural education curriculum at Virginia Polytechnic Institute seems to prepare graduates for employment in occupations other than agricultural education

occupations.

4. Those graduates who begin employment in the agricultural education field seem to move equally into each of the other employment fields investigated as the time from graduation increases.

5. The graduates studied were mobile. The reporting graduates made an average per graduate of 1.01 changes in geographical locations.

6. The graduates felt a need for more courses in business and management.

7. The graduates indicated a need for more training to enable them to teach the specialized areas of the agricultural education curriculum.

8. The salaries of graduates employed in the agricultural education field are lower than salaries received by graduates employed in the other fields investigated.

9. Graduates who held advanced degrees beyond the Bachelor of Science degree were receiving higher salaries than graduates with only the Bachelor of Science degree.

10. Most of the graduates (69.8 percent) had received college credit in 1970 beyond the Bachelor of Science degree.

11. The graduates were very active in many civic, church, and educational activities.

Recommendations

The following recommendations are made as a result of the data gathered in this study.

1. The agricultural education department at Virginia Polytechnic Institute should continue to offer a curriculum which will prepare students to enter many occupations.

2. The agricultural education curriculum at Virginia Polytechnic Institute should be broadened to include more courses in business and management, and more courses designed to prepare people to teach the specialized areas in the agricultural education curriculum.

3. A follow-up study of the agricultural education graduates from Virginia Polytechnic Institute should be made at regular intervals of time in the future. These studies should be made in a manner that would allow comparison of the data gathered thusly with the data from other follow-up studies.

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APPENDIX A

QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Name _____
2. Address _____
3. Please give the following employment information for each job you have had from graduation to the present. In column one list the jobs you have held in order of employment. In column two, please classify the jobs by writing in one of the following classifications: Agricultural Education, Education (non-Agricultural), Agricultural related (non-Educational) and non-Agricultural (non-Educational). In column three give the reasons for changing jobs. Indicate in column four the city and state where the job was located. In column five please give the approximate miles from the job location to your childhood home town.

<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>
<u>Occupation</u>	<u>Classi-</u>	<u>Reason for</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Distance</u>
	<u>fication</u>	<u>Changing Jobs</u>	<u>Of Job</u>	<u>From Home</u>
Example:				<u>Town</u>
Feed	Ag. relat-	Poor working	Blacksburg,	
Salesman	ed non-Ed.	hours	Va.	150

- a.
- b.
- c.
- d.

4. Respond to the following for courses taken at V.P.I. (use descriptive titles: ex. Soils Course):
List courses which were most valuable.

List courses which were least valuable.

List courses needed but not provided.

5. Please list suggestions for improvement of the Agricultural Education curriculum at V.P.I..
 - 1.
 - 2.
6. Please list your beginning monthly salary. \$ _____ per month.
7. Please list your average monthly salary for the last 3 months. \$ _____ per month.
8. Please indicate the number of quarter hours of credit received beyond the highest degree. Note: 1 semester hr. = $1\frac{1}{2}$ quarter hrs.
B.S.+ _____ quarter hrs.
M.S. or M.A.+ _____ quarter hrs.
Ph.D. or Ed.D.+ _____ quarter hrs.
9. Please list outstanding achievements, awards won, and memberships in organizations. example: Teacher of Teachers Award.
 - 1.
 - 2.
 - 3.
 - 4.
 - 5.
10. Check here if you would like a summary of the findings.

Please mail your completed form to me in the enclosed self-addressed and stamped envelope.

Thank you.

APPENDIX B

ACCOMPANYING LETTER

January 26, 1970

Dear Fellow Alumni,

I am undertaking a study of persons receiving the B.S. degree in Agricultural Education from V.P.I. from 1959-1969. I feel that this study will be of value to the Agricultural Education Department at V.P.I.. It is also believed that the findings of this study may be of value to you, as well.

The purpose of this study is to secure information from these graduates concerning: 1. Occupations, 2. Effectiveness of Training, 3. Financial Advancement, 4. Educational Advancement, 5. Outstanding Achievements and 6. Mobility.

Your cooperation in taking time out from your busy schedule to complete the enclosed questionnaire will be appreciated. Please keep in mind that all responses will be kept confidential as only summaries of responses and not individual responses will be reported.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

LeRoy A. Michael

LAM:gm

Enclosures: 2

APPENDIX C

ENDORSEMENT LETTER

Virginia Polytechnic Institute
Agricultural Education Department
Blacksburg, Virginia
January 26, 1970

To: Former Students of Agricultural Education Who Received
Bachelor of Science Degrees From Virginia Polytechnic
Institute.

The findings of the study being made by Mr. LeRoy
Michael, are expected to assist the staff in evaluating, and
perhaps revising, the Agricultural Education curriculum at
V.P.I.. Each Agricultural Education graduate can, and we
hope will, supply important information based on his exper-
ience. It will be appreciated if you will give this matter
your careful attention.

Sincerely,

B. C. Bass
Associate Professor
Agricultural Education
Virginia Polytechnic Institute

BCB:gm

APPENDIX D

FOLLOW-UP LETTER

February 20, 1970

Dear Fellow Alumni,

On January 26, 1970, a questionnaire was sent to those graduates receiving the B.S. Degree from Virginia Polytechnic Institute from 1959-1969. However, I have not received your reply. The information requested will be very helpful to the Agricultural Education Department at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and to myself. We would appreciate hearing from you soon. In the event that you have not received a copy or have misplaced your copy, I am enclosing another questionnaire.

The returns have been good, but we would like to have you return your reply also in the enclosed self-addressed and stamped envelope, so that our survey will be more representative. If you have already sent in your reply, please disregard this letter.

Your prompt attention to this matter will be deeply appreciated.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

LeRoy A. Michael

LAM:gm

APPENDIX E

REGISTER OF GRADUATES RECEIVING THE BACHELOR OF SCIENCE DEGREE
IN AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION FROM
VIRGINIA POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE

1959-1969

* Indicates graduates who did not return the questionnaire

Name Of Graduates

Occupations And Addresses In 1970

1959 Graduates

Assistant State Agricultural
Education Supervisor

Banker

Agriculture Teacher

Unknown

Banker

Agriculture Teacher

Unknown

Unknown

Unknown

Systems Specialist

Director of Transportation

School Teacher

Unknown

Quality Control Supervisor

Soil Conservationist

Business Manager

Unknown

Extension Agent

Agriculture Teacher

A.S.C.S. Office Manager

Unknown

Farmer

Salesman

Military Service

Unknown

Unknown

Callao, Va.

Charlottesville, Va.

South Hill, Va.

Jarratt, Va.

Manakin Sabot, Va.

Rocky Mount, Va.

Ararat, Va.

Bedford, Pa.

Roanoke, Va.

Charlotte, N.C.

Hamilton, Va.

Steamboat Springs, Colo.

Three Rivers, N.J.

Danville, Va.

Pamplin, Va.

Richmond, Va.

Lewisburg, W. Va.

Meadowview, Va.

Abingdon, Va.

Drakes Branch, Va.

Rockbridge Bath, Va.

Gretna, Va.

Daleville, Va.

College Station, Tx.

Parksley, Va.

Richmond, Va.

Name Of Graduate

Occupations And Addresses In 1970

1960 Graduates

Territorial Manager	Winchester, Va.
Engineer	Richmond, Va.
Military Service	Ellicott City, Md.
High School Principal	Emporia, Va.
Agriculture Teacher	Danville, Va.
Assistant Principal	Bedford, Va.
Unknown	Laurinburg, N.C.
Unknown	Dublin, Va.
Unknown	Wytheville, Va.
Wildlife Biologist	Ripplemead, Va.
Visiting Teacher	Willis, Va.
Agriculture Teacher	Broadway, Va.
Extension Agent	Fincastle, Va.
Agriculture Teacher	Amelia, Va.
Unknown	Bland, Va.
Military Service	McGuire AFB, N.J.
High School Teacher	Roanoke, Va.
Minister	Floyd, Va.
Extension Agent	Dillwyn, Va.
Farm Equipment Dealer	Fredericksburg, Va.
Unknown	Patrick Springs, Va.
Unknown	Walkerville, Md.
Unknown	Stephens City, Va.
Drug Salesman	Richmond, Va.
Conservationist	Manassas, Va.
Agriculture Teacher	Damascus, Va.
Unknown	Richmond, Va.

Name Of Graduates

Occupations And Addresses In 1970

1961 Graduates

Unknown	Chatham, Va.
Agriculture Teacher	Strasburg, Va.
Agriculture Teacher	Blacksburg, Va.
Agriculture Teacher	Smithfield, Va.
Virginia A.B.C. Board Member	Kinsale, Va.
Merchandising Executive	Medford, Oregon
Assistant Manager	Mount Sidney, Va.
Graduate Student	Raleigh, N.C.
High School Teacher	Riner, Va.
Unknown	Churchville, Va.
Unknown	Virginia Beach, Va.
Agriculture Teacher	Harrisonburg, Va.
Farm Manager	Galax, Va.
Agriculture Teacher	Mount Solon, Va.
Agriculture Teacher	Winchester, Va.
Unknown	Independence, Va.
Agriculture Teacher	Chilhowie, Va.
Unknown	Oak Hall, Va.
Unknown	Orlando, Fla.
Agriculture Teacher	Sugar Grove, Va.
Unknown	Christiansburg, Va.
Unknown	Powhatan, Va.
Military Service	Pensacola, Florida

Name Of Graduates

Occupations And Addresses In 1970

1962 Graduates

Assistant Professor
Extension Agent
Extension Agent
Farm Operator
Agriculture Teacher
Agriculture Teacher
Agriculture Teacher
Military Service
Banker
Manager
Unknown
Agriculture Teacher
Unknown
Extension Agent
Military Service
Graduate Assistant
Assistant Executive Secretary
Unknown
Unknown
Unknown
Agriculture Teacher
Unknown
Farmer
Agriculture Teacher
Unknown

East Lansing, Mich.
Chatam, Va.
Wytheville, Va.
Whitethorne, Va.
McGaheysville, Va.
Sharpsburg, Md.
Millboro, Va.
Boyce, Va.
Raleigh, N.C.
Harrisonburg, Va.
Charlotte Ct. Hse. Va.
Iwing, Va.
Waynesboro, Va.
Emporia, Va.
Quantico, Va.
State College, Pa.
Chester, Va.
Orange, Va.
Staunton, Va.
Harrisonburg, Va.
Dryden, Va.
Dillwyn, Va.
Powhatan, Va.
Staunton, Va.
Leesburg, Va.

Name Of Graduates

Occupations And Addresses In 1970

1963 Graduates

Unknown	Dublin, Va.
Pilot	Roanoke, Va.
Unknown	Rustburg, Va.
Agriculture Teacher	Abingdon, Va.
High School Principal	Lawrenceville, Va.
Job Corps Coordinator	Pisgah Forest, N.C.
Military Service	San Francisco, Calif.
Unknown	Charlotte, N.C.
Unknown	Galax, Va.
Military Service	Redlands, Calif.
Life Insurance Salesman	Blacksburg, Va.
Probation Officer	Madison, Va.
Agriculture Teacher	Suffolk, Va.
Agriculture Teacher	Quirton, Va.
Business Vice President	Charlottesville, Va.
Unknown	Vancouver, B.C.
Unknown	Alexandria, Va.
Quality Control Manager	Charlotte, N.C.
Agriculture Teacher	Keezletown, Va.
Dairy Inspector	King George, Va.
Assistant Professor	Rural Retreat, Va.
Unknown	Independence, Va.
Sales Manager	Goodview, Va.
Criminal Investigator	Baltimore, Md.
Unknown	Marion, Va.
Unknown	St. Stephens Ch., Va.
Maintenance Supervisor	Salem, Va.
Production Supervisor	Christiansburg, Va.
Unknown	Appomattox, Va.
High School Principal	Burgess, Va.

Name Of Graduates

Occupations And Addresses In 1970

1964 Graduates

Production Engineer	Richmond, Va.
Unknown	Blacksburg, Va.
Assistant Professor	Westerville, Ohio
Military Service	Barksdale AFB, La.
Agriculture Teacher	Hillsville, Va.
Graduate Student	Blacksburg, Va.
Unknown	Cumberland, Va.
Principal	Tazewell, Va.
Agriculture Teacher	Brookneal, Va.
Banker	Galax, Va.
Agriculture Teacher	Wytheville, Va.
Pilot	Nassawadox, Va.
Utility Sales Representative	Bridgewater, Va.
Production Supervisor	Ramseur, N.C.

Name Of Graduates

Occupations And Addresses In 1970

1965 Graduates

Unknown	Dillwyn, Va.
Unknown	Sugar Grove, Va.
Agriculture Teacher	Winchester, Va.
Unknown	Abingdon, Va.
Graduate Student	Knoxville, Tenn.
Research Associate	Athens, Ga.
Agriculture Teacher	Wytheville, Va.
Forester	Cullen, Va.
Agriculture Teacher	Clintwood, Va.
Agriculture Teacher	Bedford, Va.
Agriculture Teacher	Appomattox, Va.
Graduate Student	Raleigh, N.C.
Agriculture Teacher	Fredericksburg, Va.
Store Manager	Blacksburg, Va.
Agriculture Teacher	Elkton, Va.
Agriculture Teacher	Berryville, Va.
Dairy Inspector	Cleveland, Va.
Farmer	Columbia, Va.
Agriculture Teacher	New Kent, Va.
Agriculture Teacher	Courtland, Va.
Unknown	Shawsville, Va.

Name Of Graduates

Occupations And Addresses In 1970

1966 Graduates

ASCS Office Manager	Wytheville, Va.
High School	Mineral, Va.
Agriculture Teacher	Daleville, Va.
Unknown	Rural Retreat, Va.
Agriculture Teacher	Winchester, Va.
Banker	Clarksville, Va.
Banker	Madison, Va.
Unknown	Lexington, Va.
Agriculture Teacher	Blairs, Va.
Agriculture Teacher	Sutherland, Va.
Agriculture Teacher	Danville, Va.
Unknown	Danville, Va.
Agriculture Teacher	Wytheville, Va.

Name Of GraduatesOccupations And Addresses In 19701967 Graduates

Unknown	Cumberland, Va.
Military Service	Tucson, Ariz.
Agriculture Teacher	Saltville, Va.
Agriculture Teacher	Wytheville, Va.
Unknown	Claudville, Va.
Agriculture Teacher	Abingdon, Va.
Agriculture Teacher	Goodview, Va.
Agriculture Teacher	Brookneal, Va.
Agriculture Teacher	Staunton, Va.
Farmer	Chunkatuck, Va.
Agriculture Teacher	Heathsville, Va.
Unknown	Woodlawn, Va.
Agriculture Teacher	Round Hill, Va.
High School Teacher	Longwood, Fla.
High School Teacher	Richmond, Va.
Agriculture Teacher	Meadows of Dan, Va.
Military Service	Del Rio, Tx.
Agriculture Teacher	Hot Springs, Va.
Industrial Arts Teacher	Bealeton, Va.

Name Of Graduates

Occupations And Addresses In 1970

1968 Graduates

Agriculture Teacher	Marion, Va.
Unknown	Ararat, Va.
Agriculture Teacher	Woodlawn, Va.
Agriculture Teacher	Blackstone, Va.
Agriculture Teacher	Amelia, Va.
Vocational Teacher	Sutherland, Va.
Unknown	Bedford, Va.
Agriculture Teacher	Rural Retreat, Va.
Unknown	New Castle, Va.
Earth Science Teacher	Alexandria, Va.
Unknown	Fries, Va.
Agriculture Teacher	Chilhowie, Va.
Agriculture Teacher	Driver, Va.
Engineering Representative	Mechanicsville, Va.
Agriculture Teacher	Bastian, Va.
Agriculture Teacher	Rocky Mount, Va.
Unknown	Broad Run, Va.
Store Supervisor	Blacksburg, Va.

Name Of Graduates

Occupations And Addresses In 1970

1969 Graduates

Agriculture Teacher	Danville, Va.
Agriculture Teacher	Mathews, Va.
Agriculture Teacher	Fishersville, Va.
Agriculture Teacher	Dryden, Va.
Graduate Student	Blacksburg, Va.
Agriculture Teacher	Broadway, Va.
Agriculture Teacher	King George, Va.
Agriculture Teacher	Bedford, Va.
Military Service	Ruther Glen, Va.
High School Teacher	Dillwyn, Va.
Unknown	Castlewood, Va.
Agriculture Teacher	Honaker, Va.
Agriculture Teacher	Bena, Va.
Agriculture Teacher	Emporia, Va.
Agriculture Teacher	Damascus, Va.
Military Service	Spotswood, Va.
Agriculture Teacher	Wilsons, Va.
Agriculture Teacher	Ford, Va.
Agriculture Teacher	Winchester, Va.
Agriculture Teacher	Leesburg, Va.
Medical Student	Clintwood, Va.
Agriculture Teacher	Blacksburg, Va.
College Instructor	Shawville, Va.
Agriculture Teacher	Pearisburg, Va.
Fuel Oil Deliveryman	Fredericksburg, Va.
High School Teacher	Mount Sidney, Va.
Agriculture Teacher	Glade Springs, Va.
Agriculture Teacher	Fairfield, Va.
Agriculture Teacher	Harrisonburg, Va.

ABSTRACT

A FOLLOW-UP STUDY OF GRADUATES RECEIVING THE BACHELOR OF SCIENCE DEGREE IN AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION FROM VIRGINIA POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE 1959-1969

LeRoy Arnold Michael

Problem

The problem for this study was to determine the occupations entered by graduates of the agricultural education department at Virginia Polytechnic Institute from 1959-1969, their advancements, and the effectiveness of their training.

Purposes

The specific purposes of the study were to determine: the employment record of the graduates, their mobility, the effectiveness of their training, their financial advancement, their educational advancement, and certain of their other achievements.

Method

The study was based on data secured by mailing a questionnaire to the 245 graduates. The questionnaire was

completed and returned by 179 (73.1 percent) of the graduates.

Findings

There were 134 (74.9 percent) of the reporting graduates who began employment in the agricultural education field. In 1970 there were 96 (53.6 percent) of the reporting graduates who were still employed in the agricultural education field. The 104 (58.1 percent) of the graduates who reported that they had changed occupations listed 39 reasons for changing occupations.

The graduates reported a need for more courses in business and management. The graduates also reported a need for more training in the specialized areas of the agricultural education curriculum. The average beginning salary for the reporting graduates was \$5,650.00. The average 1970 salary was \$9,439.00. There were 41 (22.9 percent) of the graduates who held advanced degrees beyond the Bachelor of Science degree. There were 110 (61.5 percent) of the graduates who reported special achievements.