

A STUDY OF THE NEED FOR AN AREA VOCATIONAL-TECHNICAL  
SCHOOL IN THE DICKINSON COUNTY COMMUNITY  
HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

by

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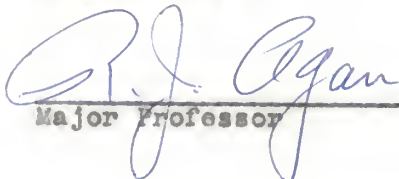
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## INTRODUCTION

In 1961 President John F. Kennedy appointed a panel to study the programs of vocational education in the nation. This panel in their report to the president after eighteen months of study indicated that twenty-six million young workers would be starting to work during the 1960-1970 decade. They also predicted that three million women would change from the status of housewife to that of employee during this same period. The panel further pointed out that these predictions were in addition to the fifty-eight million persons who were at work at the time of the report and who would continue to be employed during the decade. It was further predicted that these employees would, on the average, need to be retained or up graded in their occupations three times during their occupational careers especially in the areas of new procedure of operation and in the use of new materials.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>Education for a Changing World of Work: Report of the Panel of Consultants on Vocational Education (presented to the U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare, Office of Education, Washington D.C., 1961), p. 2.

To assist in meeting the needs for training these youth and adults mentioned in the panel's report, in the areas of accelerated automation and other technological advances the State Legislature of Kansas enacted permissive legislation to further meet these needs. The objective of the bill was stated as follows:

. . . whereby the State of Kansas in cooperation with local communities can provide facilities for training and preparation of students for productive employment as technicians and skilled workers, and to more nearly equalize educational opportunity<sup>2</sup>

At the time of this study eight locations had been approved for area vocational technical schools.

The enactment of Senate Bill No. 438 by the Legislature of the State of Kansas in 1963 provided a method of establishing "Area Vocational-Technical Schools" in areas of the state where needed. This educational identifying the interests and attitudes of the population toward the program within the area that would be served by such schools.

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<sup>2</sup>Senate Bill No. 438, Kansas Legislature 1963, p. 1.

A part of the problem of identifying the interests and attitudes of the population toward the program would be approached by the guidance counselors in the high schools who have information about interests and attitudes of the students enrolled in school. By using this information the community could arrive at the number of prospective secondary students who should have training in the area vocational-technical school.

The problem of determining the interests and needs of the people in the community who are out of school for vocational-technical training would be more difficult to solve. In order to gain knowledge of the educational services needed within the community it would be necessary to make an objective study of this out of school group.

### Statement of the Problem

The needs as presented by legislation on the State and National level created an interest among the school administrative personnel of the Dickinson County Community High School in the surveying of the local area to determine if the persons living in the immediate area shared in this felt need and were willing to participate in such a program of vocational-technical training if offered by the local school system. Various studies were reviewed as to the need from the standpoint of demand for trained employees but few were found regarding the approach to the problem from the viewpoint of the prospective student.

### The Problem

The purpose of the study. The purpose of this study was (1) to determine the present jobs and occupations of male graduates who had graduated from Dickinson County Community High School District since the year 1950 to 1964 and live within a twenty mile radius of the high school; (2) to discover what areas of additional training they felt were needed for their present job; (3) to find out how many would attend an Area Vocational-Technical School if given opportunity; (4) to discover what occupations or areas were most interesting to those who would attend; (5) to determine what seasons of the year and time of day would be most suitable for those who would attend; (6) to discover what would be the maximum time they would spend in training and the distance they would travel for such training; and (7) to find out if they would be willing to pay a reasonable tuition to attend this school.

Importance of the study. This study was designed to be helpful to the community studied in order to determine the interest and need for an Area Vocational-Technical School. It was assumed that the data would provide information which would indicate the areas to be taught in this school. The information gained could be used in a

plan for a school which would supply the needs of both the students in school and those in this study. It was assumed that this study would indicate a good procedure for future studies to be used in other communities relative to their needs for this type of education.

Limitations of the study. This study was limited to the graduates of the Dickinson County Community High School who were at the time of the study residing in the school district and/or a radius of 20 miles of the school. No attempt was made to study the needs of the high school students. The study did not include students who dropped out of school before graduation. It was the intent of this study not to include those graduates who had moved outside the area as defined or who were now attending college.

### Definitions of Terms Used

#### Dickinson County Community High School District.

This district maintains a Class A High School located at Chapman, Kansas. The district covers all of Dickinson County that is not served by other districts and has students enrolled from Geary County and other surrounding counties. The high School maintains an enrollment of approximately 500 students. The evaluation of this district is \$24,593, 492.00 and the district has a transportation system which includes fifty-two buses.

Area Vocational-Technical School. In this report the term had reference to those schools which can be established by the act of Senate Bill No. 438 if approved by the state board for vocational education and the local communities.

Full time farmer. This term was referred to several times in the data and is defined as those who indicated this as their only occupation when returning their questionnaire.

Part time farmer. This refers to all persons returning the questionnaire who indicated their occupation as farming plus at least one other occupation.

College student and Armed Service. For the purposes of the study the categories of college student and Armed Service were classed as one job title in the data and refers to all returning their questionnaire who listed this as their occupation. The two occupations were grouped since both are presently moved out of the area sampled and all responses were negative to attending the Area School.

Unemployed and disabled. In each case the person returning the questionnaire was suffering from a physical disease which made it impossible for him to benefit from this school.

Professional occupations. In this study the professional occupations included a minister, doctor, barber and teachers.

Out of school. The out of school group referred to the graduates from Dickinson County Community High School selected for this study. Those dropping out of high school before graduating were not contacted in this study. The drop out percentage for this high school had been less than five per cent from 1950 to 1964.

Job title and occupations. In this study the responses to the questionnaire were grouped into twenty job titles and occupations. This has been done so that jobs of similar nature could be compared in their responses.

## Procedures and General Information

Selection of the group studied. The male graduates of Dickinson County Community High School from the classes of 1950 to 1963 inclusive were selected as the source from which the population was taken for this study. The names of the population studied were available from the alumni files of the high school. There were 453 male graduates in the original list of graduates.

The population for this study was secured by locating the graduates who maintained their permanent residence within a twenty mile radius of Chapman, Kansas. There were 244 graduates located within the twenty mile radius.

Procedure for studying the group selected. The information in this study was secured by means of a questionnaire which was sent to the 244 graduates selected for study. A cover letter and a stamped self-addressed envelope was sent with the questionnaire.

The questionnaires and cover letter were mailed on February 10, 1964. A follow-up letter was sent on March 2, 1964 to all persons in the study who had not replied. On March 16, 1964 there had been 148 or 60.5 per cent of the questionnaires returned.

A copy of the cover letter, questionnaire, and follow-up letter may be found in the appendix.

## Review of the Literature

A search was made of studies on Vocational Education in an effort to locate previous studies of this kind. Several studies were found which were related in nature but none which were specifically a study of the needs and interests of students concerning area vocational-technical schools.

In Kansas studies have been conducted on the occupational status of former vocational agriculture students. Carpenter, in attempting to determine the extent to which State Farmer degree members from 1929 to 1950 engaged in farming found that 62.6 per cent were in full time farming and 7 per cent were farming part time. He also found that 26 per cent were engaged in occupations related to agriculture.<sup>1</sup>

Gehlbach, in a study of the occupational status of Kansas high school graduates having completed two or more units of vocational agriculture found, 48.8 per cent of the 1941 graduates and 42.3 per cent of the 1948 graduates were farming.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>Frank Robert Carpenter, "A Study of the Occupational Status of State Farmer Degree Members in Kansas" (unpublished Master's thesis, Kansas State University, Manhattan, 1951) p. 33.

<sup>2</sup>Walter Roy Gehlbach, "A Study of the Present Occupational Status of 1941 to 1948 Kansas High School Graduates Having Completed Two or More Units of Vocational Agriculture" (unpublished Master's report, Kansas State University, Manhattan, 1955) p. 39.

Bradley, in an occupational status study of 1959 Kansas high school graduates majoring in vocational agriculture with four or more units found that 30.1 per cent of the graduates living in the central one-third of the state were farming during the period 1960 to 1963. He also found for the period 1960 to 1963 inclusive there were 9.3 per cent of these graduates in agriculture related occupations.<sup>3</sup>

Agan, in a study to locate and identify non-farm agricultural occupations in Kansas, used selected businesses. He found the need would continue to be large, for employees in agricultural businesses studied. The 495 employers interviewed indicated a demand for 2823 new employees plus 1475 employees that would be needed due to growth and turnover in a twelve month period. This study showed that the employers welcomed the concept of training men for these occupations and recognized the needs.<sup>4</sup>

Makostrow, in discussing the training needs of youth for employment reported that:

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<sup>3</sup>Howard R. Bradley, "Occupational Status of 1959 Kansas High School Graduates Majoring in Vocational Agriculture" (non-thesis study, Kansas State University, Manhattan, 1964) p. 6.

<sup>4</sup>Dr. Ray Agan, "A Study of Non-Farm Agricultural Occupations in Kansas" (a cooperative study, Kansas State University and Kansas Board for Vocational Education, Manhattan, 1964)

In larger communities vocational schools and departments train about 20 per cent of the youth to comparatively few wage earning occupations and another 20 per cent to enter college. The remaining 60 per cent, or as much as 80 per cent of the students in smaller communities, are not receiving the life adjustment training they need. Real equality of opportunity in education awaits the solution of this problem.<sup>5</sup>

Struck, in discussing vocational education for a changing world, indicates that there was evidence that the demand for technical training at the semi-professional level far exceeded the demand at the professional level. He pointed out that experience has revealed that it was desirable to train persons for many kinds of occupations of a technical nature.<sup>6</sup>

McLure was of the opinion that we must correctly assess the social and economic trends before planning vocational and technical education. He felt that one important economic factor in favor of Area Vocational-Technical schools is the potential increase in the consumptive level of our nation as the workers now employed below the level of their capacity are educated for more

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<sup>5</sup> Clarence Edward Wakestraw, Training High School Youth for Employment (Chicago: American Technical Society, 1947) pp. 1-25.

<sup>6</sup> Theodore F. Struck, PH.D., Vocational Education for a Changing World (New York: John Wiley and Sons, Inc., 1947) p. 484.

effective production at higher incomes.<sup>7</sup>

Keppel, in his address to the 1963 American Vocational Association Convention said:

Walter Arnold, assistant commissioner of vocational and technical education at the Office of Education, sees broad horizons for Vocational Education. He says it has implications for almost everyone. It must extend into lives of working people who have left school and into all high schools. It must offer the variety and quality of training that will insure us against future generations of unemployables, and insure today's workers against the unemployment caused by job obsolescence. The shaping of Vocational Education programs to meet the anticipated developments in the employment areas becomes a matter for each and every community to explore.<sup>8</sup>

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<sup>7</sup>William P. McLure, "The Future of Vocational and Technical Education" American Vocational Journal, XXXVI (March, 1961) pp. 7-9.

<sup>8</sup>Francis Keppel, "Vocational Education a Promise for Tomorrow", American Vocational Journal, XXXIX (February, 1964) pp. 15-17.

## PRESENTATION OF THE DATA

This section of the report deals with the presentation of information collected and interpreted from the questionnaires received.

The data was classified and presented in nine areas.

1. Job titles and occupations of the population responding.
2. Areas of additional training needed for present jobs.
3. Numbers and per cents of population who would attend an Area Vocational-Technical School.
4. Occupations of highest interest for those who would attend.
5. Seasons they would attend.
6. Times of day they could best attend.
7. Maximum times they would spend in training.
8. Distances they would travel.
9. Attitudes toward paying tuition.

### Job titles and occupations of the population responding.

The 244 graduates were asked to list their present job or occupation in order to determine present status and its relationship to desire for training and need for upgrading.

In Table I is shown the number and per cent of the questionnaires returned according to each job title. The 148 questionnaires returned were grouped into twenty job

titles or occupations shown in the first column of this table. This response represented the 60.5 per cent of those who were mailed the questionnaire and who returned them.

Full time farmers returned 31.1 per cent of the replies received. This figure compares with Bradley's study of 1959 Vocational Agriculture graduates in Kansas in which he found 30.1 per cent of those in Central Kansas, on the average, were farming for the previous four years.

The population for the study had jobs and occupations which were closely connected with agriculture. Those connected directly with farming who responded to this study made up 41.2 per cent of the replies. It was also shown in this table that 21 or 14.2 per cent of the graduates who returned the questionnaire were in jobs dealing with mechanics or machinery.

The remaining occupations, not related directly to agriculture equaled 44.6 per cent of those who replied.

TABLE I  
OCCUPATIONAL STATUS OF THE POPULATION

Job title or occupation	Number returned per job title	Per cent returned per job title
Full time farmer	46	31.1
General laborer	13	8.8
Part time farmer	12	8.1
Mechanic and general welding	10	6.8
Construction work	9	6.1
Machinist	8	5.4
Electrical repair and maintenance	8	5.4
Professional occupations	7	4.7
College student or Armed Service	7	4.7
Engineers aid	6	4.0
Heavy equipment operator	3	2.0
Farm laborer	3	2.0
Salesman	3	2.0
Killing and food manufacturing	3	2.0
Accounting and banking	3	2.0

TABLE I (continued)

Job title or occupation	Number returned per job title	Per cent returned per job title
Retail proprietor	2	1.4
Unemployed and disabled	2	1.4
Draftsman	1	.7
Rural mail carrier	1	.7
Farm implement employee	1	.7
Totals	148	100.0%

Areas of additional training needed for present jobs

It was assumed to be important to the planning of area vocational-technical schools to know the felt need of the prospective students as to the areas in which more training was believed to be of benefit for assistance in present employment. The workers were asked to list a first, second and third choice as to their needs for more training. The responses were varied as to areas where the population felt more training would help them in their present job. In Table II it is shown that 132 choices of areas were listed in which more training was needed for the present jobs. This was 89.14 per cent of the 148 which returned the questionnaire who felt that they needed more training. The number of choices listed on the questionnaire varied from one or .68 per cent to thirty-five or 23.6 per cent of those who indicated they needed more training.

It was assumed from the response that the graduates questioned felt a need for many areas of training. The job titles were grouped into twenty areas while this same group of respondents listed thirty-two areas of additional training needed.

It may be noted that 35 of the 148 replying listed a need for farm management and accounting in their present job. This was 23.6 per cent of those responding.

In studying Table II it should be understood that the total response on all choices in the right hand column is a total for the first three columns. The totals for each of the first three columns shows the number and per cent of the 148 replying who listed first choice, second choice, or third choice responses.

TABLE II

OCCUPATIONAL AREAS NEEDING  
ADDITIONAL TRAINING

Areas needed for present job	First choice response			Second choice response			Third choice response			Response on all choices		
	No.	Per cent	No.	Per cent	No.	Per cent	No.	Per cent	No.	Per cent	No.	Per cent
Farm management and accounting	17	11.50	12	8.10	6	4.00	35	23.6				
Drafting	3	2.00	5	3.40	1	.68	9	6.2				
Business administration	7	4.70	1	.68	0	0.00	8	5.4				
Auto mechanics	4	2.70	3	2.00	0	0.00	7	4.7				
Welding	1	.68	3	3.00	3	2.00	7	4.7				
Electronics and electricity	4	2.70	1	.68	1	.68	6	4.0				
Animal nutrition	2	1.40	2	1.40	2	1.40	6	4.0				
General mechanics	3	2.00	0	0.00	3	2.00	6	4.0				
Machinist	1	.68	0	0.00	4	2.70	5	3.4				
Mathematics	2	1.40	1	.68	2	1.40	5	3.4				

TABLE II (continued)

Areas needed for present job	First choice response			Second choice response			Third choice response			Response on all choices		
	No.	Per cent	Per cent	No.	Per cent	Per cent	No.	Per cent	Per cent	Total No.	Per cent	Per cent
Selling practices	1	.68		3	2.00		1	.68		5	3.40	
Blue print reading	1	.68		0	0.00		2	1.40		3	2.00	
Heavy Equipment operator	0	.00		3	2.00		0	0.00		3	2.00	
Appliance service and repair	0	.00		1	.68		2	1.40		3	2.00	
Science	1	.68		1	.68		0	0.00		2	1.40	
Radio TV repair	0	.00		2	1.40		0	0.00		2	1.40	
Machine design	1	.68		1	.68		0	0.00		2	1.40	
Mechanical engineer	1	.68		0	0.00		0	0.00		1	.68	
Metallurgy	1	.68		0	0.00		0	0.00		1	.68	
College education	1	.68		0	0.00		0	0.00		1	.68	
Spelling	1	.68		0	0.00		0	0.00		1	.68	
Fencing	1	.68		0	0.00		0	0.00		1	.68	

TABLE II (continued)

Areas needed for present job	First choice response		Second choice response		Third choice response		Response on all choices	
	No. : cent :	Per :	No. : cent :	Per :	No. : cent :	Per :	Total : No. :	Total : Per :
Metal trades	0	0.00	1	0.68	0	0.00	1	.68
Care of tools	0	0.00	1	0.68	0	0.00	1	.68
English	0	0.00	1	0.68	0	0.00	1	.68
Soil testing	0	0.00	1	0.68	0	0.00	1	.68
Disease control	0	0.00	1	0.68	0	0.00	1	.68
Operation of office machine	0	0.00	1	0.68	0	0.00	1	.68
Woodworking	0	0.00	1	0.68	0	0.00	1	.68
Farm implement and sales service	1	0.68	0	0.00	0	0.00	1	.68
Landscaping	0	0.00	0	0.00	1	0.68	1	.68
Public relations	0	0.00	0	0.00	1	0.68	1	.68
Posting dead animals	0	0.00	0	0.00	1	0.68	1	.68
Basic engineering	0	0.00	0	0.00	1	0.68	1	.68
Livestock production	0	0.00	0	0.00	1	0.68	1	.68
Totals	54	36.56	46	31.14	32	22.54	132	89.14

Numbers and per cents of population who would attend  
Area Vocational-Technical School

Those selected for the study were asked to check whether they would or would not attend an Area Vocational-Technical School if they could get more money from their job.

Table III shows the response of the 148 who returned the questionnaire. These responses were tabulated according to the same job title or occupation as used in Table I.

It was found that 106 of the 148 responding indicated they would attend the area school. There were 28 who would not attend and 14 who were undecided in their answers to the question. It was assumed that the 71.64 per cent of the sample who indicated they would attend showed interest toward this kind of education.

Those who indicated they would not attend made up 26.36 per cent of the responses. The tabulation showed that 18.82 per cent would not attend and 9.54 per cent were undecided. All per cents shown in Table III were figured from the 148 who returned the questionnaire.

The farm people in the study showed interest for this training indicated by the fact that 31.7 per cent of those included in the study were farmers or farm labors who would attend a school of this type. Four per cent of this group indicated that they would not attend, and they were all classified under the job title of full time farmer.

The job titles or occupations in which all graduates responding indicated they would attend an Area Vocational-Technical School were; electrical repair and maintenance, farm laborer, salesman, retail proprietor, draftsman, rural mail carrier, and farm implement employee.

TABLE III

OCCUPATIONAL STATES OF THOSE WHO WOULD ATTEND  
AREA VOCATIONAL-TECHNICAL SCHOOL

Job title or occupation	Will attend		Will not attend		Undecided	
	Per		Per		Per	
	No.	cent	No.	cent	No.	cent
Full time farmer	35	22.3	8	4.00	7	4.70
General laborer	10	6.8	3	2.00	0	0.00
Part time farmer	11	7.4	0	0.00	1	.68
Mechanic and general welding	9	6.1	0	0.00	1	.68
Construction work	6	4.0	1	0.68	2	1.40
Machinist	7	4.7	0	0.00	1	.68
Electrical repair and maintenance	8	6.4	0	0.00	0	0.00
Professional occupations	4	2.7	3	2.00	0	0.00
College student or Armed Service	0	0.0	7	4.70	0	0.00
Engineers aid	3	2.0	3	2.00	0	0.00
Heavy equipment operator	2	1.4	1	0.68	0	0.00
Farm laborer	3	2.0	0	0.00	0	0.00
Salesman	3	2.0	0	0.00	0	0.00
Milling and feed manufacturing	0	0.0	1	0.68	2	1.40

TABLE III (continued)

Job title or occupation	Will attend		Will not attend		Undecided	
	: Per		: Per		: Per	
	No.	cent	No.	cent	No.	cent
Account and banking	2	1.40	1	0.68	0	0.00
Retail proprietor	2	1.40	0	0.00	0	0.00
Unemployed and disabled	0	0.00	2	1.40	0	0.00
Draftsman	1	0.68	0	0.00	0	0.00
Rural mail carrier	1	0.68	0	0.00	0	0.00
Farm implement employee	1	0.68	0	0.00	0	0.00
Totals	106	71.64%	28	18.82%	14	9.54%

Occupations of highest interest for those who would attend

Each person included in this study was asked to check one occupation from a list which was of greatest interest to him or to list such an occupation in the blank provided if none were checked on the list. Twenty-two of those responding to the questionnaire checked more than one item on the check list failing to follow the prescribed instruction.

This data was tabulated only for the 106 replying who indicated they would attend an Area Vocational-Technical School. Those who would not attend and those who were undecided were discontinued in the tabulation at this point even though they completed the questionnaire.

In Table IV is shown the occupations checked by the respondents of highest interest to them. There were 84 of the 106 who indicated they would attend, who listed one occupation. A study of the table will show the frequency with which each occupation was checked and the per cent of the 84 who checked this occupation once.

This data, it was believed, would reveal the occupations that those attending an Area Vocational-Technical School would probably want to study. This could be used in planning the courses that should be offered in the Dickinson County Community High School community.

The table shows that thirty-four or 40.4 per cent showed interest for farming and ranching as their occupation of highest interest.

In Table V is shown the occupations of greatest interest listed by the graduates who would attend Area Vocational-Technical School but listed more than one interest on the questionnaire. It was felt to be necessary to tabulate these twenty-two people separate from those who responded in Table IV in order to be more specific in analysis of the data.

Table V indicated that this group were undecided as to their choice of occupation since many more choices were listed. This table shows more variety of occupations when compared to Table IV. Forty-one or 48.8 per cent of the respondents checked agricultural related occupations as that of greatest interest.

Even though the information in Table V is not as specific as in Table IV it can be used in planning for the interests and needs of the community, because it indicates the occupations in which prospective students desire training.

TABLE IV  
OCCUPATIONAL STATUS RELATED TO SINGLE  
INTEREST PREFERENCE

Occupations	Times checked	Per cent checking one response
General farming	27	32.1
Electrical or electronics	8	9.4
Wrenching	7	8.3
Automobile mechanics	6	7.1
Machinist	4	4.7
Farm implement sales and service	3	3.6
Air conditioner and refrigerator mechanic	3	3.6
Draftsman	3	3.6
Radio and TV service repair	3	3.6
Farm and heavy equipment operator	2	2.4
Finance, insurance and real estate	2	2.4
Clerical Worker	2	2.4
Body and fender repair	2	2.4
Cabinet and furniture maker	2	2.4
Veterinary assistant	1	1.2
Irrigation technician	1	1.2
Metal trades	1	1.2
Pastorial leadership	1	1.2

TABLE IV (continued)

Occupations	Times checked	Per cent checking one response
Truck driving	1	1.2
Airplane pilot	1	1.2
Forester or game protection	1	1.2
Livestock specialist	1	1.2
Auctioneer	1	1.2
Law enforcement	1	1.2
	84	100.0%

TABLE V  
OCCUPATIONAL STATUS RELATED TO  
MULTIPLE INTEREST PREFERENCE

Occupations	Times checked	Per cent checking more than one response
Electronics or electrical	10	45.4
Radio and TV service and repair	8	36.4
Automobile mechanic	8	36.4
General farming	6	27.3
Draftsman	6	27.3
Farm and heavy equipment operator	5	22.7
Machinist	5	22.7
Hancing	4	18.2
Air conditioning and refrigerator mechanic	4	18.2
Appliance service and repair	4	18.2
Farm record and analysis specialist	3	13.6
Soil conservation technician	3	13.6
Veterinary Assistant	3	13.6
Metal trades	3	13.6
Fertilizer technician	2	9.1
Farm implement sales and service	2	9.1
Transportation	2	9.1
Finance, insurance and real estate	2	9.1

TABLE V (continued)

Occupations	Times checked	Per cent checking more than one response
Cabinet and furniture	2	9.1
Feed salesman	1	4.5
Clerical work	1	4.5
Medical assistant	1	4.5
Photographer	1	4.5

A comparison was made from the data to show the occupations of highest interest for the job titles. Those grouped as college students and armed forces, and unemployed and disabled did not reply so they were not included in this tabulation. Table VI shows the occupation which was listed as the one of highest interest. The data has been tabulated according to each of eighteen job titles or occupations. The number responding for each job title and indicating that occupation as the one of greatest interest are shown in this table. Each job title shows the percent of interest by that group in the occupation rated highest.

The responses revealed that 45.6 per cent of the full time farming group were most interested in general farming and ranching. This table showed that most of the job titles were interested in occupations similar to their present job. Five of the eighteen job titles showed more interest in occupations not related to their present job.

TABLE VI  
OCCUPATION OF HIGHEST INTEREST BY JOB

Job title or occupation	Occupation of highest interest	Number responding	Per cent each job title responding
Full time farming	General farming and ranching	21	45.6
General laborer	Machinist	2	15.4
Part time farmer	General and specialized farming	6	60.0
Mechanic and general welding	Auto mechanics	6	60.0
Construction worker	Electrical and air conditioning mechanics	2	22.2
Machinists	Machinists	2	25.0
Electrical maintenance and repair	Electronics	2	25.0
Professional occupations	General farming and ranching	2	28.5
Engineers and	Draftsman and furniture making	2	33.3

TABLE VI (continued)

Job title or occupation	Occupation of highest interest	Number responding	Per cent each job title responding
Farm laborer	General farming and trucking	2	66.6
Milling and feed manufacturing	General farming and ranching	2	66.6
Accounting and banking	Finance insurance real estate and clerical work	2	66.6
Heavy equipment operator	Implement sales and service	1	33.3
Salesman	Airplane pilot	1	33.3
Retail proprietor	Finance insurance real estate	1	30.0
Draftsman	Electronics	1	100.0
Rural mail carrier	Cabinet and furniture making	1	100.0
Farm implement employee	Farm implement and sales	1	100.0

### Seasons they could attend

The graduates were asked in Table VII to show the seasons that each of the job titles or occupations could attend Area Vocational-Technical School. The responses of only the 106 who indicated they would attend were used to arrive at this data.

The totals of this table show that those studied would prefer to attend classes in the winter. The replies show 76.28 per cent indicating they could attend in the winter. The study also showed that 12 or 11.3 per cent could attend classes all seasons and 24 graduates indicated they would attend more than one season.

There was evidence shown in this area of the study that the Area Vocational-Technical School in this community would be quite seasonal for the post high school group, as shown by those who preferred to attend during the winter.

TABLE VII  
SEASONS PREFERRED FOR ATTENDING CLASSES

Job title or occupation	Could attend classes in spring			Could attend classes in summer			Could attend classes in fall			Could attend classes in winter			Could attend classes all seasons		
	No.:	Per : cent :	Per : cent :	No.:	Per : cent :	Per : cent :	No.:	Per : cent :	Per : cent :	No.:	Per : cent :	Per : cent :	No.:	Per : cent :	Per : cent :
Full time farming	3	2.80	0	0.00	8	7.50	36	34.0	0	0.00			0	0.00	
General laborer	0	0.00	1	.94	1	.94	3	2.8	5	4.70					
Part time farming	1	.94	1	.94	0	0.00	9	8.5	1	.94					
Mechanic and General welding	1	.94	1	.94	2	1.90	7	6.6	0	0.00					
Construction work	0	0.00	0	0.00	1	.94	6	5.7	2	1.90					
Machinist	2	1.90	0	0.00	0	0.00	3	2.8	1	.94					
Electrical repair and maintenance	0	0.00	0	0.00	2	1.90	5	4.7	1	.94					
Professional occupations	1	.94	2	1.90	0	0.00	2	1.9	0	0.00					
College student and Armed service	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.0	0	0.00					
Engineers aid	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	3	2.8	0	0.00					

TABLE VII (continued)

Job title or occupation	Could attend classes in spring		Could attend classes in summer		Could attend classes in fall		Could attend classes in winter		Could attend classes all seasons	
	No.	Per cent	No.	Per cent	No.	Per cent	No.	Per cent	No.	Per cent
Heavy equipment operator	1	.94	0	0.00	0	0.00	1	.94	0	0.00
Farm laborer	0	0.00	1	.94	0	0.00	1	.94	1	.94
Salesman	0	0.00	0	0.00	1	.94	2	1.90	0	0.00
Killing and feed manufacturing	0	0.00	1	.94	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
Accounting and banking	0	0.00	0	0.00	1	.94	1	.94	0	0.00
Retail proprietor	1	.94	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	.94	1	.94
Unemployed and disabled	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
Draftsman	0	0.00	0	0.00	1	.94	1	.94	0	0.00
Rural mail carrier	0	0.00	0	0.00	1	.94	1	.94	0	0.00
Farm implement employee	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	1	.94	0	0.00
Totals	10	17.90	7	6.60	13	16.94	23	78.28	12	11.30

Times of day they could best attend

It was felt to be essential to the planning of an Area Vocational-Technical School to know the preference of prospective students as to the times of day they could best attend. This area of the study asked the students to indicate the best time of day for them to attend Area Vocational-Technical School. The numbers and per cent of those responding are listed according to job title or occupation on Table VIII.

There was a definite response toward selecting 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. as the best time to attend. Table VIII shows that 99 or 93.32 per cent of those who indicated they would attend selected 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. as their choice. There were 6.6 per cent who would attend from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon and 4.7 per cent who could attend from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

The data in Table VIII indicated that it would be difficult to have classes for post high school students from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

TABLE VIII

TIME PREFERRED FOR ATTENDING CLASSES IN THE  
ANEA VOCATIONAL-TECHNICAL SCHOOL

Job title or occupation	9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon		1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.		7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.	
	: Per :		: Per :		: Per :	
	No.	cent	No.	cent	No.	cent
Full time farmer	0	0.00	3	2.6	31	29.2
General laborer	1	0.94	0	0.0	8	7.5
Part time farmer	2	1.90	2	1.9	11	10.4
Mechanic and general welding	0	0.00	0	0.0	9	8.5
Construction work	0	0.00	0	0.0	7	6.6
Machinist	1	0.94	0	0.0	6	4.7
Electrical repair and maintenance	0	0.00	0	0.0	8	7.5
Professional occupations	1	0.94	0	0.0	4	3.8
College student or armed service	0	0.00	0	0.0	0	0.0
Engineers aid	0	0.00	0	0.0	3	2.8
Heavy equipment operator	0	0.00	0	0.0	2	1.9
Farm laborer	1	0.94	0	0.0	2	1.9
Salesman	1	0.94	0	0.0	2	1.9
Milling and feed manufacturing	0	0.00	0	0.0	0	0.0

TABLE VIII (continued)

Job title or occupation	9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon		1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.		7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.	
	: Per :		: Per :		: Per :	
	No.	cent	No.	cent	No.	cent
Accounting and banking	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	1.90
Retail proprietor	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	1.90
Unemployed and disabled	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.00
Draftsman	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	.94
Rural mail carrier	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	.94
Farm implement employee	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	.94
Totals	7	6.6	5	4.7	99	93.32

Maximum time they would spend in training.

To help in planning the course of instruction for the area school it was felt that we should know more about the time they could attend. It was the intent of this part of the study to show the maximum time that the job titles replying could attend an Area Vocational-Technical School. The responses were checked by those returning the questionnaire as shown in Table IX. Only the 106 who replied that they would attend were tabulated.

It was noted that 43 or 40.66 per cent of those who would attend felt that the maximum time they could spend for training was 10 to 16 weeks. There were 27.4 per cent who checked 3 to 9 weeks and 11.28 per cent who listed their choice as 17 to 23 weeks. Eight of the response or 7.54 per cent would attend 24 to 30 weeks and the remaining 10 or 9.46 per cent showed they could attend 31 weeks or more. Four of those who said they would attend failed to select the maximum time they would attend.

From this data it would indicate that the information gained from Table VII on seasons they would attend is somewhat paralleled here. Just as the previous table showed the response to be seasonal on attendance, this table shows the weeks selected to compare with the length of the seasons. There were 87.26 per cent who selected attendance in the winter season and 51.94 per cent who indicated they would

prefer to attend from 10 to 23 weeks.

It could be assumed here that the length of the time the majority would attend is shorter than might be needed for adequate training in some areas for an Area Vocational-Technical School.

TABLE IX  
MAXIMUM TIME INDICATED FOR TRAINING

Job title or occupation	3 to 9 weeks		10 to 16 weeks		17 to 23 weeks		24 to 30 weeks		31 or more weeks	
	No.	Per cent.	No.	Per cent.	No.	Per cent.	No.	Per cent.	No.	Per cent.
Full time farmer	14	13.20	13	12.30	3	2.80	2	1.90	0	0.00
General laborer	0	0.00	4	3.80	0	0.00	1	0.94	4	3.80
Part time farmer	2	1.90	7	6.60	1	0.94	1	0.94	0	0.00
Mechanic and general welding	4	3.80	3	2.80	1	0.94	1	0.94	0	0.00
Construction work	2	1.90	0	0.00	1	0.94	1	0.94	2	1.90
Machinist	1	0.94	4	3.80	0	0.00	0	0.00	1	0.94
Electrical repair and maintenance	1	0.94	4	3.80	1	0.94	1	0.94	0	0.00
Professional occupations	1	0.94	1	0.94	2	0.90	0	0.00	0	0.00
College student or Armed service	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
Engineers aid	1	0.94	1	0.94	1	0.94	0	0.00	0	0.00

TABLE IX (continued)

Job title or occupation	3 to 9 weeks		10 to 16 weeks		17 to 23 weeks		24 to 30 weeks		31 or more weeks	
	No.	Per : cent:	No.	Per : cent:	No.	Per : cent:	No.	Per : cent:	No.	Per : cent:
Heavy equipment operator	0	0.00	0	0.00	1	0.94	1	0.94	0	0.00
Farm laborer	1	0.94	2	1.90	0	0.00	0	0.00	1	0.94
Salesman	0	0.00	2	1.90	0	0.00	0	0.00	1	0.94
Milling and feed manufacturing	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	1	0.00
Accounting and banking	1	0.94	0	0.00	1	0.94	0	0.00	0	0.00
Retail proprietor	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	1	0.94
Unemployed and disabled	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
Draftsman	0	0.00	1	0.94	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
Rural mail carrier	0	0.00	1	0.94	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
Farm implement employee	1	.94	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
Totals	29	27.40	43	40.66	12	11.28	8	7.54	10	9.46

### Distances they would travel

It was felt that information on how far the population would travel to attend Area Vocational-Technical School would be of value in determining where to locate the facilities for this school.

The sample was given five choices of distance, ranging from less than 10 miles to 31 miles or over, that they would be willing to travel. Only those who would attend were tabulated in Table X.

Information gained from Table X shows that 45 of the 106 who would attend selected 10 to 19 miles as the distance they would be willing to travel to attend. This was 42.44 per cent of the response. There were 26 or 24.5 per cent who would travel 20 to 25 miles. From this data it can be assumed that the majority would travel 20 miles to attend. This distance of 20 miles corresponds with the 20 mile radius suggested by the Kansas State Board for Vocational Education in the promotion of Area Vocational-Technical Schools.

Other selections of distance they would travel were as follows: 26 to 30 miles was checked by 13.24 per cent, 31 miles or over was the choice of 7.58 per cent, while 9.44 per cent would travel less than 10 miles.

TABLE X

MAXIMUM DISTANCE INDICATED FOR  
TRAVEL TO ATTEND CLASSES

Job title or occupation	Less than 10 miles		10 to 19 miles		20 to 25 miles		26 to 30 miles		31 miles or over	
	No.	Per cent	No.	Per cent	No.	Per cent	No.	Per cent	No.	Per cent
Full time farmer	1	0.94	17	16.00	8	7.50	6	5.70	0	0.00
General laborer	1	0.94	3	2.80	2	1.90	1	0.94	2	1.90
Part time farmer	2	1.90	3	2.80	4	3.80	1	0.94	1	0.94
Mechanic and general welding	2	1.90	4	3.80	1	0.94	2	0.90	0	0.00
Construction work	0	0.00	1	0.94	3	2.80	0	0.00	2	1.90
Machinist	0	0.00	6	5.70	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
Electrical repair and maintenance	1	0.94	4	3.80	2	1.90	1	0.94	0	0.00
Professional occupations	0	0.00	1	0.94	2	1.90	1	0.94	0	0.00
College student Armed service	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
Engineers aid	0	0.00	2	1.90	1	0.94	0	0.00	0	0.00

TABLE X (continued)

Job title or occupation	: Less than : 10 miles		10 to 19 miles		20 to 25 miles		26 to 30 miles		31 miles or over	
	No. :	Per : cent :	No. :	Per : cent :	No. :	Per : cent :	No. :	Per : cent :	No. :	Per : cent :
Heavy equipment operator	0	0.00	0	0.00	2	1.90	0	0.00	0	0.00
Farm laborer	1	0.94	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	2	1.90
Salesman	0	0.00	0	0.00	1	0.94	1	0.94	1	0.94
Milling feed manufacturing	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
Accounting and banking	0	0.00	1	0.94	0	0.00	1	0.94	0	0.00
Retail proprietor	1	0.94	1	0.94	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
Unemployed and disabled	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
Draftsman	0	0.00	1	0.94	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
Rural mail carrier	0	0.00	1	0.94	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
Farm implement employee	1	0.94	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
Totals	10	9.44	45	42.44	26	24.50	14	13.24	8	7.58

### Attitudes toward paying tuition

It has been proposed by the action of Senate Bill Number 438, for establishing Area Vocational-Technical Schools in Kansas, that post high school students be charged tuitions and fees. For this reason this section of the report was included in the study.

The term "reasonable tuition" was not defined in this study. It was left up to the population studied to determine what was reasonable. The graduates in the study were asked to check if they would or would not be willing to pay reasonable tuition.

Table XI shows that 94 or 88.56 per cent of those who would attend were willing to pay reasonable tuition. In this tabulation only the 106 who would attend were used. It was found that 8 or 7.52 per cent did not feel that they should pay tuition. Four or 3.78 per cent of the replies were not checked and were tabulated as undecided about tuition.

TABLE XI  
WILLINGNESS TO PAY A TUITION

Job title or occupation	: Will pay : reasonable : tuition		Will not pay tuition		Undecided about tuition	
	:		:		:	
	: No.	: Per : cent	: No.	: Per : cent	: No.	: Per : cent
Full time farmer	22	25.4	3	2.80	2	1.90
General laborer	9	8.5	0	0.00	1	0.94
Part time farmer	10	9.4	1	0.94	0	0.00
Mechanic and general welding	9	8.5	0	0.00	0	0.00
Construction work	6	5.7	0	0.00	0	0.00
Machinist	4	3.8	2	1.90	1	0.94
Electrical repair and maintenance	8	7.5	0	0.00	0	0.00
Professional occupations	3	2.8	1	0.94	0	0.00
College student Armed service	0	0.0	0	0.00	0	0.00
Engineers aid	3	2.8	0	0.00	0	0.00
Heavy equipment operator	2	1.9	0	0.00	0	0.00
Farm laborer	3	2.8	0	0.00	0	0.00
Salesman	3	2.8	0	0.00	0	0.00
Milling and feed manufacturing	0	0.0	0	0.00	0	0.00

TABLE XI (continued)

Job title or occupation	: Will pay		Will not		Undecided	
	: reasonable		pay tuition		about tuition	
	: tuition					
	: No.	: Per :	: No.	: Per :	: No.	: Per :
		cent :		cent :		cent:
Accounting and banking	2	1.90	0	0.00	0	0.00
Retail proprietor	1	0.94	1	0.94	0	0.00
Unemployed and disabled	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
Draftsman	1	0.94	0	0.00	0	0.00
Rural mail carrier	1	0.94	0	0.00	0	0.00
Farm implement employee	1	0.94	0	0.00	0	0.00
Totals	94	88.56	8	7.52	4	3.78

## CONCLUSIONS

1. Those connected directly with farming made up 41.2 per cent of the replies to the questionnaire. This included 31.1 per cent full time farmers, 8.1 per cent part time farmers, and 210 per cent farm laborers.

2. Thirty-five of the 148 who returned their questionnaires that listed farm management and accounting as the area that would help them in their present job. This was 23.6 per cent of those who responded.

3. One hundred six of the 148 who returned the questionnaire would attend an Area Vocational-Technical School if it were available. This number was 71.64 per cent of all replying to the questionnaire.

4. There were 18.82 per cent returning the questionnaire who would not attend the Area Vocational-Technical School and 9.54 per cent who were undecided.

5. Forty and four-tenths per cent of those who would attend the area school selected farming and ranching as their occupation of highest interest.

6. The response to occupations of highest interest showed that most of the people studied were interested in occupations similar to their present jobs.

7. A large majority indicated they could best attend this type school from 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. This time was checked by 93.32 per cent of those who would attend

8. Most of those studied who would attend preferred classes in the winter. Seventy-eight and twenty-eight hundred per cent could best attend during the winter season.

9. Sixty-seven and ninety-four per cent of those who would attend Area Vocational-Technical Schools would travel 10 to 25 miles to attend.

10. Eighty-eight and fifty-six hundreds per cent of those who wished to attend would be will to pay tuition.

### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Acknowledgment is due Dr. Raymond Agan, Professor, School of Education, Kansas State University, for his valuable assistance as major instructor.

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APPENDIX

## DICKINSON COUNTY COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL

CHAPMAN, KANSAS

February 10, 1964

Dear

It has been several years since you graduated from Dickinson County Community High School. We are still interested in you and appreciate hearing from you. We hope that we may continue to offer any educational services you need.

We have selected you to help us in a follow-up study to find out your interest and needs for training in an Area Vocational-Technical School. These schools are being established in Kansas under the provisions of the Senate Bill No. 438, enacted by the Legislature of the State of Kansas. The purpose of this school is to more nearly equalize educational opportunity and provide training and preparation of students for productive employment as technicians and skilled workers. The information you give us is needed to see if this Area Vocational-Technical School is needed in our area.

Please take a few minutes of your time today to answer the enclosed questionnaire and return it in the stamped, self addressed envelope. A study of this type loses its effectiveness unless all participate. Please help us make it successful.

Your name will not be used in any reports made from this inquiry.

Sincerely yours,

*Duane A. McCune*

Duane A. McCune  
Vocational Agriculture Instructor

DICKINSON COUNTY COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL  
Confidential Survey of Graduates

Directions: Please use a few words to describe the information asked for in the blanks, or check (x) whenever possible in the line preceding the answer you choose.

ALL YOUR ANSWERS ARE CONFIDENTIAL. YOUR NAME WILL BE USED ONLY TO IDENTIFY YOUR QUESTIONNAIRE.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Last) (First) (Middle)

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Street) (City) (County) (State)

1. Present Employment \_\_\_\_\_  
(Kind of Employment)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Location of Employment)

2. Describe your present job \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. Is your wife presently employed? Check (x) Yes or No

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes

\_\_\_\_\_ No

4. If yes, describe your wifes employment \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

5. In what areas do you feel you could use more training to help you in your job? (List your first, second, and third choice of areas in which you could use more training in the blanks below)

First choice \_\_\_\_\_

Second choice \_\_\_\_\_

Third choice \_\_\_\_\_

6. Would you attend an Area Vocational-Technical School in this area if you could get more money from your job and opportunity for employment in a better job of your choice? Check (x) Yes or No

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes

\_\_\_\_\_ No

7. Please check (x) in one blank preceding the occupation which most interests you or write in one occupation other than those listed.

\_\_\_\_\_ General Farming

\_\_\_\_\_ Ranching

\_\_\_\_\_ Landscaping

\_\_\_\_\_ Farm and Heavy Equipment Operator

\_\_\_\_\_ Fertilizing Technician

\_\_\_\_\_ Farm Implement Sales and Service

\_\_\_\_\_ Farm Records and Analysis Specialist

\_\_\_\_\_ Soil Conservation Technician

\_\_\_\_\_ Veterinary Assistant

\_\_\_\_\_ Nursery Workers

\_\_\_\_\_ Irrigation Technician

\_\_\_\_\_ Feed Salesman

\_\_\_\_\_ Transportation

\_\_\_\_\_ Finance, Insurance and Real Estate

\_\_\_\_\_ Clerical Worker

\_\_\_\_\_ Traffic Engineer

\_\_\_\_\_ Service Station Attendant

\_\_\_\_\_ Air Conditioner and Refrigerator Mechanic

\_\_\_\_\_ Appliance Service and Repair

\_\_\_\_\_ Automobile Mechanic

\_\_\_\_\_ Body and Fender Repair

\_\_\_\_\_ Cabinet and Furniture Maker

- ☐ Commercial Artist
- ☐ Cook and Baker
- ☐ Dental Assistant
- ☐ Draftsman
- ☐ Electrical or Electronics
- ☐ Laboratory Assistant
- ☐ Machinist
- ☐ Medical Assistant
- ☐ Metal Trades
- ☐ Nurse Aide
- ☐ Photographer
- ☐ Printer
- ☐ Radio and TV Service and Repair
- ☐ Tailor and Garment Worker
- ☐ Upholsterer

List one occupation below if none is checked (x) above:

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8. Which seasons of the year would it be easiest for you to attend Area Vocational-Technical School? Check (x) on the line preceding the seasons you could attend.

- ☐ Spring
- ☐ Summer
- ☐ Fall
- ☐ Winter
- ☐ All Seasons of the Year

9. What do you consider to be the best time for you to attend classes in the Area Vocational-Technical School? Check (x) in one or more of the lines preceding the times.

\_\_\_\_\_ 9:00 A.M. to 12:00 Noon

\_\_\_\_\_ 1:00 P.M. to 4:00 P.M.

\_\_\_\_\_ 7:00 to 10:00 P.M.

10. What do you consider the maximum time you could afford to spend in training at an Area Vocational-Technical School? Check (x) in the line preceding the time selected.

\_\_\_\_\_ 3 to 9 weeks

\_\_\_\_\_ 10 to 16 weeks

\_\_\_\_\_ 17 to 23 weeks

\_\_\_\_\_ 24 to 30 weeks

\_\_\_\_\_ 31 weeks or more

11. What is the maximum distance you would be willing to travel to attend an Area Vocational-Technical School? Check (x) in one of the lines preceding the miles.

\_\_\_\_\_ less than 10 miles

\_\_\_\_\_ 10 to 19 miles

\_\_\_\_\_ 20 to 25 miles

\_\_\_\_\_ 26 to 30 miles

\_\_\_\_\_ 31 miles or over

12. Would you be willing to pay a reasonable tuition for training in an Area Vocational-Technical School? Check (x) Yes or No

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes

\_\_\_\_\_ No

## DICKINSON COUNTY COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL

CHAPMAN, KANSAS

March 2, 1964

Dear

About two weeks ago you received a confidential questionnaire asking about your present employment and your interest in an Area Vocational-Technical School in this area. The response to this letter has been good, but we do need your response to make this study successful. It is very important that we hear from those who are not interested and would not attend as well as those who would attend this type of school.

Would you please take a few minutes to mark this questionnaire and return it in the self addressed stamped envelope which accompanied it? Your help and cooperation in getting this returned as soon as possible will be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

*Duane A. McCune*

Duane A. McCune  
Vocational Agr. Inst.  
Chapman, Kansas

A STUDY OF THE NEED FOR AN AREA VOCATIONAL-TECHNICAL  
SCHOOL IN THE DICKINSON COUNTY COMMUNITY  
HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

by

DUANE A. MCCUNE

B.S. Kansas State University, 1949

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AN ABSTRACT OF A MASTER'S REPORT

submitted in partial fulfillment of the

requirements for the degree

MASTER OF SCIENCE

School of Education

KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY  
Manhattan, Kansas

1964

This study was conducted in Kansas to determine the feasibility of establishing an Area Vocational-Technical School in the Dickinson County Community High School District. The intent of the study was to determine the interest and need for this school and to establish data which could indicate the areas which might be taught.

The study was limited to male graduates residing in the school district and/or a radius of twenty miles of the school. No attempt was made to reach graduates outside this area or students who had dropped out of school before graduation.

Information was gathered and tabulated from 148 persons responding to questionnaires which were sent to 244 male graduates of the Dickinson County Community High School from the classes of 1950 to 1963 inclusive. There were 60.5 per cent of those mailed questionnaires who returned them for tabulation.

The study grouped the employment of those responding into twenty job titles or occupations to compare their responses. The data was classified and presented in the following nine areas: (1) job titles of those responding (2) areas of additional training needed (3) those who would attend area school (4) occupations interesting those who would attend (5) seasons they would attend (6) times of

day they would attend (7) maximum time they would spend in training (8) distances they would travel and (9) attitudes toward paying tuition.

It was found that 41.2 per cent of those replying were directly connected with farming and 31.1 per cent were full time farmers.

The graduates who returned the questionnaire listed 132 areas of additional training needed for their present jobs, of this number 23.6 per cent indicated a need for farm management and accounting.

This study showed that 71.64 per cent of those responding indicated they would attend an Area Vocational-Technical School if it were available. It was found that 18.82 per cent would not attend and 9.54 per cent were undecided.

The interest in farming and ranching was shown by the 40.4 per cent replying who checked this as the occupation of greatest interest.

Those who preferred to attend classes during the winter made up 79.28 per cent of the returned questionnaires. The data showed that 93.32 per cent could attend best from 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

It was found that 51.94 per cent felt the maximum time they could attend would be from 19 to 23 weeks. It was assumed from the data that the majority preferred a maximum travel distance of 10 to 25 miles for attending an Area Vocational-Technical School.

The study showed that 88.60 per cent were willing to pay tuition to attend the area school.

It was recommended that further studies to include a larger population be made in this community and also additional studies be made in other areas of the state to see what additional need and interest could be found for vocational-technical training.

It was further recommended that a study be made to determine the interest and needs of students in high school toward training in the Area Vocational-Technical School.