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A STUDY OF THE 1971 FFA SUMMER
LEADERSHIP AND CITIZENSHIP CONFERENCE

by

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CHAPTER I

THE PROBLEM

I. INTRODUCTION

According to the 1971 Official Manual for Future Farmers, the Future Farmers of America has been since 1928 the national organization of students, between the ages of 14-21, studying vocational agriculture in public secondary schools under the provisions of the National Vocational Education Acts. The primary aim of the organization has been the development of agricultural leadership, cooperation, and citizenship. (22)

In 1959, a national leadership conference for State FFA Officers was held in Washington, D.C. This very successful activity led to the development of regional leadership conferences for state officers. During the summer of 1968, another national leadership and citizenship conference, this time for state presidents, was held in Washington D.C., and at the National FFA Center. This program was well received and the conference participants suggested that similar programs be made available to more FFA members. Based on this successful beginning, a national FFA leadership program to serve all State Associations, numerous FFA chapters, FFA advisors and State staff was initiated. (22) Since this time, similar additional leadership conferences have been held at the National FFA Center

in Washington D.C. from 1969 through 1971, and new programs have been developed on a regional and state level for FFA members. (17)

The author of this report, a teacher of vocational agriculture for one year had an interest in these leadership conferences. He served as one of the two conference counselors in the 1970 National Leadership Conference and served as director of the 1971 National Leadership Conference. These conferences were held in Washington D.C., and headquartered at the Olde Colony Motor Lodge in Alexandria, Virginia.

"The primary aim of the national FFA leadership and citizenship program is to plan, develop, promote, initiate, and evaluate activities which enhance the first specific purpose of the FFA: to develop competent, aggressive, agricultural leadership, cooperation, citizenship and foster patriotism" (22) The specific objectives of the National Leadership Conferences are:

- (1) To provide leadership and citizenship ideas, techniques, materials and programs to local chapters.
- (2) To encourage and assist State Associations in providing leadership and citizenship training for local, district and State officers.
- (3) To promote the effective use of FFA contest awards and activities.
- (4) To plan for and coordinate leadership and citizenship development activities for all State FFA officers.
- (5) To encourage and assist with the development of post-secondary agriculture student activities.

It is easily noted from these specific objectives that they correspond very closely to the primary aim of the Future Farmers of America which, as stated earlier, is the development of agricultural leadership, cooperation, and citizenship.

The different areas of instruction that were stressed at the conferences included: public speaking, conducting effective executive and chapter meetings, social etiquette, introducing others, planning a chapter program of activities, presenting awards, introducing speakers, public relations and motivating fellow FFA members. (6) (28) (30)

Besides learning more about leadership in the FFA the state officers promoted FFA and vocational agriculture to their Representatives and Senators. Individually, they visited elected leaders from their home state and distributed a packet of information about the FFA and agricultural education. (20) Tours of Washington D.C., Mount Vernon and the National FFA Center were part of the conference activities which included a visit with President Nixon.

II. STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

This study of the 1971 Summer National Leadership and Citizenship Conference was to find out the status of conference participants who attended the conference, how they were sponsored, reasons for attending, the tenure of the Chapter Advisor, method of travel used, and most important whether or not the distance of travel affected their attendance.

A more specific breakdown of the questions used included:

1. What extent did the FFA chapter sponsor the trip of the conference participant?
2. What was the Chapter ranking in the National FFA Chapter Award Program?
3. What method of travel was used?
4. Who contributed significantly to the participant's decision to attend?
5. With whom did the participant come?
6. How long had the participant's advisor been at his school?
7. How did the participant hear about the conference?
8. What was the participant's main purpose of attending?
9. What did the participant expect from the conference?
10. What was the participant's present degree status?
11. What was the participant's intended degree status?
12. How many miles did the participant travel?
13. How involved was the participant in FFA activities?
14. Had a member of the participant's chapter previously attended a conference?

III. LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY

The study was limited to the participants and advisors who attended the 1971 National Leadership Conference. Four

different leadership conferences were used in this study which were held June 14-19, June 21-26, July 5-10 and July 12-17.

Limitations of the study were:

1. The extent to which the significant factors for conference attendance were included in the study.
2. The extent to which the conference participants accurately interpreted the items on the questionnaire.
3. The extent to which each respondent was able to appraise factors accurately and without bias.
4. The extent to which the author was able to validly interpret and describe the data secured.

IV. DEFINITIONS OF TERMS USED

For the purpose of this study, certain words were set aside and given special definitions. The definitions were not necessarily those of common usage and were defined solely for the purpose of this study.

Future Farmers of America. An organization of, by and for students studying vocational agriculture having the primary aim of developing agricultural leadership, cooperation, and citizenship. It is commonly called the FFA.

Conference Participants. This includes any individual who attended one of the four conferences whether they were a chapter member, state officer, advisor or guest. Members from 50 states attended as well as representatives from the Virgin Islands, France, Scotland, New Zealand and England.

National FFA Leadership and Citizenship Conference. The primary aim of the conference was to plan, develop, promote, initiate, and evaluate activities which enhance the development of agricultural leadership and cooperation.

National FFA Center. The center was the National FFA headquarters located in Alexandria, Virginia near Washington D.C.

Gold Emblem Chapter Award. This was the highest chapter award attainable in the National Chapter Award Program.

Superior Chapter Award. The second highest FFA chapter award attainable.

Standard Chapter Award. The third highest FFA chapter award attainable.

American Farmer Degree. The degree given to one member per one thousand of the total state FFA membership.

State Farmer Degree. A degree given to two percent of the total state FFA membership.

Chapter Farmer Degree. The second highest degree that can be attained after receiving the Greenhand degree and meeting minimum qualifications.

Greenhand Degree. The first degree that can be attained by a FFA member when minimum qualifications were met and approved by the chapter members.

Distributive Education Clubs of America. A club commonly known as DECA, was a national organization, the active members of which were secondary and post-secondary school students enrolled in part-time cooperative classes in vocational distributive education.

Vocational Industrial Clubs of America. A national organization of students enrolled in secondary vocational industrial education including students in trade, industrial, or technical courses. The organization stresses professional growth, community understanding, safety, teacher recruitment, cooperation, and good public relations.

Future Business Leaders of America. A youth organization, commonly known as FBLA, was established to provide various types of activities such as leadership, recreation, and public relations for students in business and office occupations education.

Future Homemakers of America. A national youth organization, commonly known as FHA, was for home economics students in junior and senior high schools throughout the United States. FHA was an educational organization whose primary dedication was to the competency of the homemaker and to the preservation of the integrity of the family as a socioeconomic unit.

Office Education Association. Commonly known as OEA, was a voluntary association of state youth groups concerned with office education occupations. It was designed to develop leadership abilities in the American business system and competency in office occupations.

CHAPTER II

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

Upon completion of the review of related literature, the author noted there were limited references pertaining to youth leadership conferences which have been held by other youth organizations.

A search for related studies was made in Farrell Library, Kansas State University and in the Agricultural Education Office at Kansas State University. Several articles in the Agricultural Education Magazine, National Future Farmer and the American Vocational Journal were found which involved leadership development, the FFA and youth organizations, or leadership conference training. Two master's studies related to the author's subject were found in Farrell Library. A study was also made of reports by Larry H. Ebbers, Iowa State University, and Walter L. Roys, Washington State University through interlibrary loan. An "in-depth" study was made of references which were extremely instrumental in aiding the author in writing this report.

At the present time, approximately 20 million youth were taking advantage of the opportunities available in the student organizations in secondary and post secondary schools. (34) American youth were becoming involved in community activities and participated in leadership roles.

George Allen, 1970-71 National FFA Vice-President, when asked his views on FFA leadership replied, "The FFA specialized in leadership training. Not to make a president out of every member, but by providing contests, awards, recognition, and conferences to motivate students in the direction of their natural interests and abilities." Though FFA programs cover a wide range of interests, all members learned the basics for being leaders, parliamentary procedure, public speaking, committee work, and competition.

The objectives were to get members involved in chapter activities and the chapters involved in community activities. Leadership starts with getting involved.

Being a youth organization, FFA had a double stake in America's future. Not only was it the FFA's responsibility to develop future leaders in agriculture, but FFA members, along with a multitude of other youth, were America's future. (1) Other youth groups such as FHA, DECA, VICA, FBLA and OEA also developed their members through leadership training.

As a vital part of home economics education, FHA worked in many ways to help meet the needs of students--all students in whatever locale or situation, whether they were rural, urban or suburban. FHA initiated a stepped-up program to encourage the development of chapters in greater metropolitan areas, involvement of FHA youth with inner-city and disadvantaged children, and development of HERO (Home Economics Related Occupations) FHA chapters served students in vocational home economics. (11)

The development of the FHA National Program of Work through active participation of FHA members was a good example of the importance of involving youth. The 12 national officers, all youth, defined the purpose and plan. They interviewed and surveyed both youth and adults to identify the problems and concerns of youth in communities across the country and to learn what FHA'ers could do to contribute to their solution.

In the course of a year, with the help of chapter members, state executive councils, and national committee members, thousands of answers and comments were amassed. A special committee of youth representing every state, race, creed, ethnic and minority group, analyzed, organized and refined the material.

When the document was finally adopted by the members at the 1969 National Meeting, it was a program of work developed by youth, for youth, with significance for the current concerns of youth. (11)

An annual national meeting was rotated among the four regions with delegate attendance on a state membership quota basis. State and district meetings and leadership conferences were held at the discretion of the individual state associations. (26)

DECA is for self-help and leadership training. Competitive events on chapter, state, regional and national levels helped students learn that details were important for project completion. Students had an opportunity to see and watch what happened to other people when they were selected as winners in

competitive events. (7) The annual National Leadership Conference was a significant experience where regional and local winners were brought together with other delegates for the selection of final national winners. (7)

VICA-the heart of trade and industry education also held National Leadership Conferences as well as State Leadership Camps to help develop the leadership potential in their youth. (32)

FBLA built business leadership. Twenty-five hundred chapters were all doing their own type of leadership training for their schools and communities, and for preparing members for business careers. At a recent National Leadership Conference, attendance figures broke all previous records as 1,500 FBLA members met in Miami Beach to elect national officers, and to bring their year's activities to an exciting climax by participation in the national awards program and the annual awards assembly. (9)

Among the newest of vocational youth groups, the Office Education Association (OEA) was established in 1966 as an independent youth organization for students enrolled in high school and post-secondary office occupations. (21)

The OEA conducted leadership conferences where students were provided an opportunity to participate in leadership activities. These activities included various types of contests and competitive events that were designed to develop the ability of students to plan together, organize and carry out worthy civic activities. (21) (26)

It is relatively easy to detect that numerous youth organizations were developing leadership qualities in their members through the use of various National Leadership Conferences. These include FFA, FHA, DECA, VICA, FBLA and OEA. The author, through past varied experiences, also knew of other youth organizations such as 4-H, who were noted for their leadership development through conference training.

Johnson, in an article relating to the importance of youth organizations as teaching aids, thought that they helped bring about closer cooperation between other groups in the school and community. Expanding upon this, he stated, "The cooperative way of involvement in the various areas of a total program should lead to the development of the following qualities: leadership, citizenship, character, scholarship, improved agriculture, cooperation, service, thrift, patriotism and recreation....If a more concentrated effort is given to the operation of youth organizations as an integral part of the instructional program, training would be more meaningful and the organization would tend to hold students in school thus decrease the dropout problem we have today." (16) Johnson also had similar thoughts in two other articles. (14) (15) The importance of excellent leadership training was also brought out by Bender, Clark and Taylor, Wall and Phipps. (2) (33) (23)

On the other hand, Thompson indicated students were not enrolled in a specialized program long enough to make an FFA chapter effective and students objected to being identified

as farmers when they were preparing for a vocation with little contact with production agriculture. (31)

Bender and Kantner had a different feeling than Thompson when they brought out that, "The FFA has been one of the most significant developments in the history of vocational agriculture. More than anything else, the FFA has enriched the program of instruction and developed interest and pride in agriculture on the part of students." (3) Stenzel related that, "Many of today's businessmen attributed the motivating factor of their success to their membership and participation in the activities of the Future Farmers of America while in high school." (29)

Other research has been done regarding the relationship of Future Farmers of America leadership activities to participation in student activities at Iowa State University. (8)

The study involved a sample of 400 Iowa State University students. Two hundred students who had had two or more years of FFA experience were compared to 200 without FFA experience. Within each group of 200 students, 100 were enrolled in colleges other than agriculture. Each of these groups contained 50 seniors and 50 juniors. These students were surveyed with regard to their high school activities, parents' activities, university activities, academic information and other personal information.

Data indicated that students with FFA experience had a higher mean participation score (78.34) in total university activities than did those without FFA experience (58.48) as compared to a total student average of 69.26. Students with

FFA experience enrolled in the College of Agriculture had the highest total university participation score of any group. This group had a mean score of 89.25.

The highest mean score (131.96) for total high school activities was found for students with FFA experience enrolled in the College of Agriculture. The largest factor in determining an individual's total high school score was his high school activities, followed by his church score, and his community score. Those with FFA experience regardless of the college enrollment had the highest mean scores for all high school activities.

In summary, FFA participation, academic college, grade classification and home and family factors were found to influence participation in activities by students at Iowa State University.

The literature appeared to indicate that leadership was important, it could be measured, and one could expect an emphasis on additional leadership conferences in the future because of their effectiveness.

CHAPTER III

DESIGN AND PROCEDURE

I. METHOD

This study was designed to determine the status of conference participants who attended the National FFA Leadership Conferences, how they were sponsored, reasons for attending, status of chapter advisors, methods of travel, and most important whether or not the distance of travel affected their attendance. Since the leadership conferences were held in Washington D.C., there was some question as to the feasibility of the conferences for FFA members in the Pacific region.

A questionnaire was developed which covered fourteen areas relating to the leadership development of the students, their chapter environment, and the affect of the distance traveled on their attendance at the conference. These valuable comments were then summarized and the final instrument was constructed.

II. POPULATION

The population consisted of 314 conference participants including chapter members, state officers, chapter advisors or guests during the four 1971 Summer FFA Leadership and Citizenship Conferences which were held at the Olde Colony Motor Lodge in Alexandria, Virginia, on June 14-19, June 21-26, July 5-10 and July 12-17.

III. MEASUREMENT

The responses from the 314 conference participants were tabulated according to the frequency for each item on the questionnaire. Tables containing the frequency distributions of the responses for each item were prepared. An analysis of the results was prepared, and conclusions and recommendations were made.

CHAPTER IV

FINDINGS

This study of the 1971 Summer National Leadership and Citizenship Conferences was designed to obtain the status of conference participants. Information in the study included: how they were sponsored, reasons for attending, the tenure of the chapter advisor, and methods of travel.

One of the objectives of the study was to determine if the distance of travel affected the attendance of the participants. All 314 or 100% of the conference participants completed the 14 items on the questionnaires which were distributed to them during the last evening session of each of the four conferences. The author was present to administer the instrument and to clarify any questions concerning its interpretation.

The data from the questionnaires were tabulated through frequency distributions, and the results were given in numbers and percentages. A comparison was made of the attendance from the four FFA Regions of the 314 conference participants. These four regions were: Pacific, Central, Southern and North Atlantic. The total membership of 430,044 for the four regions is divided by state and by region and included on page 48 of Appendix B.

The number and percentages for attendance by participants from each of the regions are given in Table I. A comparison was made for each of the four conference sessions. The informa-

tion in Table I indicated that 181 or 58% of all conference participants were from the Central Region. The North Atlantic Region was second in the number (54) and percentage (17), followed by the Pacific Region with 50 participants for 16 percent and the Southern Region with 29 in attendance for nine

Table I. Attendance of the 314 conference participants by the four FFA Regions.

	<u>Pacific</u>		<u>Central</u>		<u>Southern</u>		<u>North Atlantic</u>		<u>Totals</u>	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Chapter Impact I	9	12*	49	64	8	11	10	13	76	100
Chapter Impact II	9	15	40	65	1	2	11	18	61	100
Leadership Conference I	12	13	61	63	9	10	13	14	95	100
Leadership Conference II	20	24	31	38	11	14	20	24	82	100
Totals	50	16	181	58	29	9	54	17	314	100

*The percentages in this study were rounded off to the nearest whole percent.

percent of the total enrollment. The Leadership Conference for July 5-10 had a total of 95 participants, the Leadership Conference, July 12-17 had 82, the Chapter Impact-June 14-19 had 76 and the Chapter Impact-June 21-26 had 61. Apparently, the FFA membership who participated in the conference preferred the Leadership Conferences over the Chapter Impact Conferences.

A comparison was also made of the number and percent who attended in relation to the number and percent of membership in the FFA Regions as shown in Table II.

Table II. Attendance of the 314 conference participants by region compared to total regional membership.

	<u>Conference Attendance</u>		<u>Regional Membership</u>		<u>Rank in Attendance</u>	<u>Rank in Membership</u>
	No.	%	No.	%		
Pacific	50	16	44,890	10	3	3
Central	181	58	132,248	31	1	2
Southern	29	9	228,421	53	4	1
North Atlantic	54	17	24,485	6	2	4
Totals	314	100	430,044	100		

As shown in Table II, the Central Region had the largest percent of conference attendance but ranked second in total membership. The North Atlantic Region ranked second in attendance but had the lowest percent of total membership. The Pacific Region ranked third in total membership and the Southern Region ranked fourth in conference attendance, but constituted 53 percent of the total membership. The Southern Region had the largest percentage of total membership but the lowest percentage of participants in attendance at the conference. The North Atlantic Region had the lowest total membership, but

had the second highest number of participants, exceeding the Pacific Region by one percent.

The membership of the Pacific Region and the North Atlantic Region are both relatively small and constituted 10 percent and six percent of the total membership respectively. Although in both regions the membership was small, each region had approximately the same number of conference participants. This indicated that traveling distance to the Washington D.C. Conferences had little affect on the attendance of conference participants. The status of the FFA Chapter probably had more influence on conference attendance than the distance traveled.

Part of the conference expenses were paid by local FFA chapters for 167 or 53 percent of the participants as indicated by the responses in Table III. Sixty-one or 19 percent of the

Table III. Method of financing the 314 conference participants.

	I*		II		III		IV		Totals	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Paid all Expenses	10	13	19	31	17	18	15	18	61	19
Paid Part of Expenses	48	63	30	50	46	48	43	52	167	53
Paid Travel Expense	10	13	7	11	15	16	11	14	43	14
Paid None of Expense	8	11	5	8	17	18	13	16	43	14
Totals	76	100	61	100	95	100	82	100	314	100

*Each numeral represented one of the four Washington Leadership Conferences.

conference participants had all their expenses paid, 43 or 14 percent of the conference participants had their travel expenses paid, and 43 or 14 percent paid their own expenses or were sponsored by some other organization such as a civic group in their community.

The conference fee for each participant was \$98 which included meals, lodging, busing on tours, leadership materials and operational expense. The type of local chapter the participants represented varied from those which received no National Chapter Award to those which received the highest ranking of Gold Emblem.

The author observed that members of Gold Emblem Chapters contributed more to the conference sessions than non-ranked chapters about their chapter activities. Several members from non-ranked chapters remarked that their chapters lacked in the area of community service and leadership. Members of Gold Emblem Chapters contributed spontaneous discussion on FFA chapter activities.

It was discovered by the replies in Table IV that 65 or 21 percent of the participants represented National Gold Emblem Chapters, 152 or 49 percent represented Superior Chapters, and 38 or 12 percent represented Standard Chapters. This indicated that 82 percent of the participants represented nationally ranked chapters.

Two methods of transportation were primarily used to attend the conference. Information in Table V indicated that

188 or 60 percent of the participants traveled by air and 79 or 25 percent traveled by private auto.

Table IV. National ranking of the 314 participant's local FFA Chapters.

	I		II		III		IV		Totals	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Gold Emblem	11	15	16	26	15	16	23	28	65	21
Superior	40	52	31	52	52	54	29	36	152	49
Standard	11	15	7	11	13	14	7	8	38	12
None of the Above	14	18	7	11	15	16	23	28	59	18
Totals	76	100	61	100	95	100	82	100	314	100

Table V. Method of transportation used by the 314 conference participants.

	I		II		III		IV		Totals	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Air	38	50	39	63	68	72	43	52	188	60
Bus	5	6	1	2	6	6	16	20	28	9
Train	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	1	0
Auto	28	38	18	30	17	18	16	20	79	25
Other	5	6	2	3	4	4	7	8	18	6
Totals	76	100	61	100	95	100	82	100	314	100

Twenty-eight or nine percent of the participants traveled by bus, 18 or six percent used other methods of travel (primarily camping units) and one or less than one percent of the participants traveled by train.

FFA Advisors significantly contributed to the decision of the participants to attend the conference. As shown in Table VI, 144 or 46 percent of the participants were influenced by their local FFA Advisors to attend, 81 or 26 percent made their own decision, 39 or 12 percent were influenced by their FFA chapter, and 32 or 10 percent were influenced by their parents.

Table VI. Factors which influenced the attendance of the 314 conference participants.

	I		II		III		IV		Totals	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
FFA Advisor	33	44	25	41	53	56	33	40	144	46
Parents	5	6	4	7	13	14	10	12	32	10
Local Civic Leaders	3	4	2	3	0	0	13	16	18	6
Local FFA Chapter	11	14	10	16	8	8	10	12	39	12
Own Decision	24	32	20	33	21	22	16	20	81	26
Totals	76	100	61	100	95	100	82	100	314	100

Local civic leaders significantly influenced the attendance of 18 or six percent of the participants. Seventy-two percent of the participants were influenced by their FFA Advisor or made their own decision to attend one of the conferences.

Almost half of the participants traveled to the conference by themselves. It was discovered in Table VII that 151 or 49 percent of the participants traveled to the conference by themselves, 89 or 28 percent came with their local advisors, and 64 or 20 percent came with a neighboring chapter representative.

Table VII. Travel sponsors of the 314 conference participants.

	I		II		III		IV		Totals	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
State Representative	0	0	1	2	0	0	8	10	9	3
Neighboring Chapter	19	24	15	24	23	24	7	8	64	20
Local Advisor	33	44	15	24	25	26	16	20	89	28
Parents	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	1	0
Yourself	24	32	29	48	47	50	51	62	151	49
Totals	76	100	61	100	95	100	82	100	314	100

The remaining nine or three percent and one or less than one percent came with state representatives and parents, respectively. Therefore, 97 percent came by themselves, with their local advisor or with a neighboring chapter.

There was little difference found in the attendance of members and the tenure of the local chapter advisors. According to Table VIII, the Chapter Advisors of 101 or 32 percent of the participants had taught in their school for 10 years or more. Eighty-one or 26 percent had taught 0-2 years, 78 or 25 percent had taught 3-5 years, and 54 or 17 percent had taught 6-9 years. The older, more established advisors influenced more participants to attend than any of the other three categories. The beginning teachers with 0-2 years experience were next.

Table VIII. Tenure of the advisors of the 314 conference participants.

	I		II		III		IV		Totals	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
0-2 Years	19	24	20	33	23	24	19	24	81	26
3-5 Years	16	23	24	39	23	24	15	18	78	25
6-9 Years	19	24	5	9	15	16	15	18	54	17
10 Years Or More	22	29	12	19	34	36	33	40	101	32
Totals	76	100	61	100	95	100	82	100	314	100

How to publicize the National Leadership Conferences has been a concern of the National FFA Staff. This study indicated that informing Local Chapter Advisors was the most beneficial method. Table IX indicated that 180 or 57 percent

of the participants heard about the conference from their advisors, 76 or 24 percent read conference brochures, and 29 or nine percent had talked to members who had attended the conference one of the two previous years. These three methods accounted for informing 90 percent of the participants.

Table IX. Methods of informing the 314 participants about the National FFA Conferences.

	I		II		III		IV		Totals	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
FFA Magazine	2	3	1	2	2	2	0	0	5	2
FFA Convention Exhibit	0	0	4	7	0	0	2	2	6	2
Brochures	17	22	18	29	25	26	16	20	76	24
State or Dist. Officer	4	5	3	5	4	4	7	8	18	6
Advisor	45	60	29	47	56	60	50	62	180	57
Past Attending Members	8	10	6	10	8	8	7	8	29	9
Totals	76	100	61	100	95	100	82	100	314	100

The other 10 percent were informed by State or District FFA Officers, National FFA Convention Exhibits, or by the National Future Farmer Magazine.

The conference participants had several purposes for attending the leadership conferences. Two hundred and sixteen or 69 percent of the participants attended the conferences for

four main reasons which included: to advance in the FFA, see Washington D.C., meet their congressional leaders, and for the leadership training in the conference program. As indicated in Table X, the remaining 31 percent had individualized purposes for attending the conferences.

Table X. Purpose for attendance at the conferences by the 314 participants.

	I		II		III		IV		Totals	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Conference Program	17	22	10	16	9	10	13	16	49	16
Meet Cong. Leaders	0	0	1	2	4	4	0	0	5	2
See Washington D.C.	5	6	2	3	4	4	3	4	14	4
Advance in the FFA	16	21	7	11	0	0	7	8	30	9
All of the Above	38	51	41	68	78	82	59	72	216	69
Totals	76	100	61	100	95	100	82	100	314	100

Forty-nine or 16 percent primarily attended for the leadership training. An additional 30 or nine percent attended to aid their advancement in the FFA, 14 or 4 percent wanted to see Washington D.C., and five or two percent attended the conference to visit their congressional leaders.

Conference participants also expected various outcomes from the conferences. A total of 194 or 62 percent expected the

conference to develop their leadership skills, assist in the development of their local FFA Chapter activities, develop more civic responsibility, and meet other young leaders in the FFA.

As indicated in Table XI, 55 or 17 percent expected to develop their leadership skills, 42 or 13 percent expected to improve their local chapter, 17 or six percent planned to meet other FFA leaders, and six or two percent intended to develop their civic responsibility.

Table XI. Expected outcomes of the 314 conference participants.

	I		II		III		IV		Totals	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Develop Lead. Skills	9	12	6	10	25	26	15	18	55	17
Assist Local FFA Chapter	8	10	10	17	13	14	11	14	42	13
Develop Civic Responsibility	2	3	2	3	0	0	2	2	6	2
Meet Other FFA Leaders	3	4	3	5	6	6	5	6	17	6
All of the Above	54	71	40	65	51	54	49	60	194	62
Totals	76	100	61	100	95	100	82	100	314	100

The Chapter Farmer Degree was held by 227 or 72 percent of the conference participants, according to data in Table XII. Sixty or 19 percent were State Farmers, 24 or eight percent were Greenhands, and three or one percent were American Farmers.

Table XII. Degree status of the 314 conference participants.

	I		II		III		IV		Totals	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
American Farmer	1	1	0	0	2	2	0	0	3	1
State Farmer	17	23	14	23	19	20	10	12	60	19
Chapter Farmer	56	73	47	77	70	74	54	66	227	72
Greenhand	2	3	0	0	4	4	18	22	24	8
Totals	76	100	61	100	95	100	82	100	314	100

The responses in Table XIII indicated that 160 or 51 percent of the participants intended to acquire the degree of State Farmer, 139 or 44 percent planned to obtain the degree of American

Table XIII. Intended degree status of the 314 conference participants.

	I		II		III		IV		Totals	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
American Farmer	38	50	26	42	34	36	41	50	139	44
State Farmer	34	45	35	58	53	56	38	46	160	51
Chapter Farmer	4	5	0	0	8	8	3	4	15	5
Greenhand	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	76	100	61	100	95	100	82	100	314	100

Farmer, and only 15 or five percent of the participants planned to attain the degree of Chapter Farmer. None of the 314 participants planned to terminate their FFA career with the Greenhand Degree. From these results, the author concluded that the degree status of these participants was above average.

Traveling distance for the 314 participants varied from less than 400 miles to over 3,000 miles. The findings in Table XIV revealed that 83 or 26 percent traveled from 400-800 miles, 76 or 24 percent traveled 1600 miles or over, 72 or 23 percent traveled 800-1200 miles, 62 or 20 percent traveled 1200-1600 miles and only 21 or seven percent traveled 0-400 miles.

Table XIV. Traveling distance of the 314 conference participants.

	I		II		III		IV		Totals	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
0-400 Miles	2	3	5	8	4	4	10	12	21	7
400-800 Miles	31	41	14	23	27	28	11	14	83	26
800-1200 Miles	22	28	16	25	19	20	15	18	72	23
1200-1600 Miles	9	12	12	20	28	30	13	16	62	20
1600 Miles or Over	12	16	14	24	17	18	33	40	76	24
Totals	76	100	61	100	95	100	82	100	314	100

It is interesting to note that the lowest percentage of the conference participants lived within 400 miles of Alexandria, Virginia, and 76 or 24 percent traveled more than 1600 miles. This indicated that traveling distance had not necessarily handicapped FFA members in the Pacific, Central and Southern Regions from attendance at the conferences. These findings tended to indicate that the attendance of the conference by participants was related to the extent of support FFA had in its region and local FFA Chapters.

The participants in attendance at the conferences were very active in FFA activities, as recorded in Table XV. Twenty activities were listed on the questionnaire and the average

Table XV. Involvement in FFA activities by the 314 conference participants.

	I	II	III	IV	Average
Number of Activities	9	8	8	9	8.5
Number in Attendance	76	61	95	82	78.5

participant was involved in 8.5 of the various listed activities. The most activities recorded by any participant was 18 and the least amount was none. This again indicated that the participants at the conferences had had varied leadership experiences.

The return rate of participants from chapters who had members attend previous conferences was relatively high. Two

hundred and twenty or 70 percent were from chapters which had previously sent members. The remaining 94 or 30 percent of the participants were the first to represent their chapter to any FFA Leadership Conference in Washington D.C., as shown in Table XVI.

Table XVI. Previous chapter representation of the 314 conference participants.

	I		II		III		IV		Totals	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Yes	52	69	44	72	67	70	57	70	220	70
No	24	31	17	28	28	30	25	30	94	30
Totals	76	100	61	100	95	100	82	100	314	100

The participants were also asked if they recommended this type of conference for chapter members in future years. All 314 participants or 100 percent answered yes. They were also given the opportunity to list strong points, weak points and suggestions for improvement. A summary of their responses is listed on pages 58 and 59 in Appendix B.

In summary, the respondents indicated that their present and intended degree status appeared quite high. Most of the participants were sponsored at least partially by their local FFA Chapter.

The participants attended for various reasons, such as advancing in the FFA, to see Washington D.C., meet their congress-

sional leaders and to develop their leadership capabilities. A majority of the participants traveled to the conference by air and planned to achieve advanced FFA Degrees. They were strongly influenced by their local advisor to attend. There was no specific pattern of the local chapter advisor's tenure. Fifty-seven percent of the advisors had either taught 0-2 years or ten or more years.

The Central Region had the highest percentage in attendance and the Southern Region had the lowest. In total regional membership, the Southern Region has the highest and the North Atlantic Region has the least. The Pacific and North Atlantic Regions both have relatively small regional membership and both had nearly equal representation at the conferences.

CHAPTER V

SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

I. SUMMARY

The 1971 National FFA Leadership Conferences were for FFA Officers, Award Winners and Advisors. The program was operated by the National FFA Organization in cooperation with the U.S. Office of Education, Department of Health, Education and Welfare in Washington D.C. The purpose of the sessions was to strengthen chapter programs and extend FFA officer leadership ability.

The primary aim of the National FFA Leadership Conferences was to plan, develop, promote, initiate, and evaluate activities which enhanced the primary purpose of the FFA. The first purpose of the FFA was to develop competent, aggressive, agricultural leadership, cooperation, citizenship and foster patriotism.

The four conferences had an attendance of 314 or an average of 78.5 FFA members and advisors which represented fifty State Charters which included Puerto Rico. All 314 or 100 percent of the conference participants completed the 14 items on the questionnaire which was distributed to them during the last evening session of each of the four conferences. The author was the director of the four leadership conferences held in Alexandria, Virginia, from June 14 to July 17, 1971.

The instrument was personally administered by the author who clarified any questions concerned with interpretation. The data from the questionnaires were tabulated by frequency distribution. The findings of this study indicated that the majority or 58 percent of the participants were representatives of the Central FFA Region. Although the Central FFA Region had the majority of the participants at the conference, its regional total membership was the second largest of the four regions.

Two hundred seventy-one or 86 percent of the conference participants had some or all of the conference expenses paid. The remaining 14 percent were sponsored by local civic groups or paid their own expenses. All chapters had a National Chapter ranking except 59 or 18 percent. The primary means of transportation to attend the conferences were by air and private auto.

Chapter advisors had a strong influence on attendance as 77 percent of the participants either came by themselves or with their local advisors. The remaining 23 percent traveled with representatives of neighboring chapters, state representatives or with parents. The Chapter Advisors of 101 or 32 percent of the participants had taught in their schools for 10 or more years. Eighty-one or 26 percent had taught 0-2 years, 78 or 25 percent had taught 3-5 years and 54 or 17 percent had taught 6-9 years. Chapter Advisors, previous conference participants and conference brochures informed 90 percent of those in attendance at the conference. The remaining 10 percent were

informed by State or District Officers, National FFA Convention Exhibits, and the National Future Farmer Magazine.

Most of the participants attended the conferences for various reasons which included advancement in the FFA, tour Washington D.C., meet their Congressional leaders, and for leadership training. Expected outcomes of the conference for 194 or 62 percent of those in attendance were: meet with FFA leaders, develop civic responsibilities and leadership skills, and develop competence in local FFA Chapter Activities. The Chapter Farmer Degree was held by 227 or 72 percent of the participants and 299 or 95 percent expected to attain the degree of State Farmer or American Farmer in the future.

The lowest percentage of the conference participants lived within 400 miles of Alexandria, Virginia. More than 1600 miles were traveled by 76 or 24 percent, 83 or 26 percent traveled 400-800 miles, 72 or 23 percent traveled 800-1200 miles, and 62 or 20 percent traveled 1200 to 1600 miles.

The participants were very active in FFA by indicating they had participated in an average of 8.5 different activities in their local chapter. Two hundred-twenty or 70 percent were members of chapters that had sent representatives the previous year to the Washington FFA Leadership Conference. The average attendance of participants per conference was 78.5.

II. CONCLUSIONS

Based upon the results of the study, the leadership capabilities displayed by the participants were superior to

the average FFA member. Most participants were members of a Nationally ranked chapter, and influenced by their local FFA Advisor to attend the conference. Approximately 95 percent of the participants had goals for attainment of advanced degrees.

A majority of the advisors of the participants were beginning teachers or well established teachers with 10 or more years experience. Traveling distance to the conference appeared to have little affect on conference attendance. The Central FFA Region had the most members in attendance at the conference. The Leadership and Citizenship Conferences were preferred over the Chapter Impact Conferences, and local FFA Chapters were the chief sponsors for all participants.

III. RECOMMENDATIONS

After the results of this study were reviewed, the author recommended that similar studies be made of participants of leadership conferences sponsored by other youth organizations. The author suggested areas for additional research as follows: (1) Influence of FFA Chapter Advisor on FFA member leadership development; (2) Affect of length of teacher tenure on the leadership development of their students; (3) Follow up study of the 1971 conference participants to determine the degree status which they attained; (4) Follow up study of the leadership attainment of the conference participants after high school graduation; and (5) Amount of emphasis placed by the four FFA

Regions on FFA members to attend the leadership conferences in Washington D.C.

The author also recommended that more leadership conferences be implemented to provide effective leadership development of students.

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APPENDIX A

_____ Advisor	Chapter _____
_____ Student	Office Held _____
_____ Visitor	National FFA Region _____
	School Classification _____
	Highest Degree Held _____

Please check the answer which most nearly describes your situation.

1. To what extent did your FFA Chapter sponsor your conference trip?
 - _____ a. Paid all expenses
 - _____ b. Paid part of conference expenses
 - _____ c. Paid travel expenses
 - _____ d. Paid none of the expenses

2. Your chapter had the following ranking in the National FFA Chapter Award Program.
 - _____ a. Gold Emblem
 - _____ b. Superior
 - _____ c. Standard
 - _____ d. None of the above

3. What method of travel did you utilize in attending the National FFA Conference?
 - _____ a. Airplane
 - _____ b. Bus
 - _____ c. Train
 - _____ d. Private Auto
 - _____ e. Other _____

4. Who contributed significantly to your decision to attend the National FFA Conference?
 - _____ a. FFA Advisor
 - _____ b. Parents
 - _____ c. Local Civic Leaders
 - _____ d. Local FFA Chapter
 - _____ e. Your Own Decision

5. How did you come to the National FFA Conference?
 - _____ a. With a state representative
 - _____ b. With a district or regional representative
 - _____ c. With a neighboring chapter representative
 - _____ d. With local advisor or chapter representative
 - _____ e. With parents
 - _____ f. By yourself

6. Your advisor has been at your school for:
 - _____ a. 0-2 years
 - _____ b. 3-5 years
 - _____ c. 6-9 years
 - _____ d. 10 years or over

7. How did you find out about the National FFA Conference?
____ a. National Future Farmer Magazine
____ b. National FFA Convention Exhibit
____ c. National Leadership Conference Brochures
____ d. State or District FFA Officer
____ e. Local advisor
____ f. Other _____
8. What was the main purpose(s) of your attendance at the National FFA Conference?
____ a. Leadership Conference program
____ b. Meet congressional leaders
____ c. See Washington, D. C.
____ d. Advance in the FFA
____ e. All of the above
9. What specific outcomes did you expect from the Conference?
____ a. To develop your leadership skills
____ b. To assist in the development of the local FFA chapter activities
____ c. To develop more civic responsibility
____ d. To meet other young leaders in the FFA
____ e. All of the above
10. Your present degree status:
____ a. American Farmer
____ b. State Farmer
____ c. Chapter Farmer
____ d. Greenhand
11. Your intended degree status
____ a. American Farmer
____ b. State Farmer
____ c. Chapter Farmer
____ d. Greenhand
12. How far did you travel to attend the National FFA Conference?
____ a. 0-400 miles
____ b. 400-800 miles
____ c. 800-1200 miles
____ d. 1200-1600 miles
____ e. 1600 miles or over
13. Indicate your involvement in FFA by checking the following activities you have participated in:
____ a. Public Speaking
____ b. Newswriting Contest
____ c. FFA Committee
____ d. Radio or TV Program
____ e. State Convention
____ f. National Convention
____ g. FFA School Assembly

- _____ h. Livestock Judging
- _____ i. Dairy Judging
- _____ j. Poultry Judging
- _____ k. Crops Judging
- _____ l. Land Judging
- _____ m. Agricultural Mechanics Contest
- _____ n. Safety Program
- _____ o. FFA...Building Our American Communities
- _____ p. Leadership Camps
- _____ q. Horticulture Contest
- _____ r. FFA Parent-member Banquet
- _____ s. Other _____
- _____ t. Other _____

_____ TOTAL NUMBER OF CHECKS

14. Has a member of your local chapter previously attended a National FFA Leadership Conference in Washington, D.C.?

_____ Yes . _____ No

APPENDIX B

BREAKDOWN OF THE 430,044 TOTAL MEMBERSHIP
ACCORDING TO STATE AND REGION

PACIFIC REGION

State	Membership
Arizona	2,238
California	15,071
Colorado	2,713
Hawaii	935
Idaho	3,424
Montana	2,204
Nevada	503
New Mexico	2,662
Oregon	4,550
Utah	3,344
Washington	5,684
Wyoming	1,562
Total	<u>44,890</u>

NORTH ATLANTIC REGION

State	Membership
Connecticut	805
Delaware	322
Maine	456
Maryland	1,953
Massachusetts	753
New Hampshire	402
New Jersey	833
New York	4,809
Pennsylvania	9,009
Rhode Island	292
Vermont	600
West Virginia	4,251
Total	<u>24,485</u>

SOUTHERN REGION

State	Membership
Alabama	24,874
Arkansas	14,763
Florida	12,016
Georgia	21,114
Louisiana	10,521
Mississippi	10,270
North Carolina	26,063
Oklahoma	16,716
Puerto Rico	1,075
South Carolina	10,940
Tennessee	17,378
Texas	48,648
Virginia	13,987
Total	<u>228,365</u>

CENTRAL REGION

State	Membership
Illinois	16,517
Indiana	9,649
Iowa	10,600
Kansas	5,947
Kentucky	13,795
Michigan	9,838
Minnesota	13,467
Missouri	12,407
Nebraska	5,315
North Dakota	3,251
Ohio	13,079
South Dakota	2,984
Wisconsin	15,399
Total	<u>132,248</u>

Complete Evaluation Tally

NATIONAL FFA CHAPTER IMPACT PROGRAMCheck OneEVALUATION FORM

_____ June 14-19 Please evaluate the following Conference
 _____ June 21-26 items by placing a circle around the appro-
 priate number; (1) Excellent, (2) Good,
 (3) Satisfactory, (4) Unsatisfactory.

PRECONFERENCEComments

- | | | |
|-------------------------------|---------|-------|
| 1. Preconference Information | 1 2 3 4 | _____ |
| _____ | | |
| 2. Preconference Registration | 1 2 3 4 | _____ |
| _____ | | |
| 3. Conference Registration | 1 2 3 4 | _____ |
| _____ | | |

CONFERENCE FACILITIES, MEALS, TRANSPORTATION

- | | | |
|------------------------------------|---------|-------|
| 1. Housing Accommodations | 1 2 3 4 | _____ |
| _____ | | |
| 2. Conference Room Facilities | 1 2 3 4 | _____ |
| _____ | | |
| 3. Hot Shoppe Meals | 1 2 3 4 | _____ |
| _____ | | |
| 4. Picnic - Fort Hunt Park | 1 2 3 4 | _____ |
| _____ | | |
| 5. Banquet Meal | 1 2 3 4 | _____ |
| _____ | | |
| 6. Bus Transportation Arrangements | 1 2 3 4 | _____ |
| _____ | | |

RECREATION

1. Swimming 1 2 3 4 _____

2. Free Time 1 2 3 4 _____

VISITATIONS

1. Alexandria 1 2 3 4 _____

2. Mt. Vernon 1 2 3 4 _____

3. FFA Center and Grounds 1 2 3 4 _____

4. FBI 1 2 3 4 _____

5. Jefferson Memorial 1 2 3 4 _____
(Torchlight Tattoo)

6. Washington and Lincoln Memorial 1 2 3 4 _____

7. National Archives 1 2 3 4 _____

8. White House 1 2 3 4 _____

9. Arlington National Cemetery 1 2 3 4 _____

10. Smithsonian 1 2 3 4 _____

11. Bureau of Printing and Engraving 1 2 3 4 _____

CHAPTER IMPACT SESSIONS

1. Home Chapter Programs in Review 1 2 3 4 _____

2. Effective Executive and Chapter Meetings 1 2 3 4 _____

3. If You're Gonna Do It, You've Gotta Plan It 1 2 3 4 _____

4. If You Wanna Sell 'Em, You Gotta Tell 'Em 1 2 3 4 _____

5. National Officer Presentations 1 2 3 4 _____

6. National FFA Officer Involvement 1 2 3 4 _____

7. Conference Staff 1 2 3 4 _____

8. Advisor Involvement 1 2 3 4 _____

SPECIAL FFA PRESENTATIONS

1. Discussion of FFA Center Operations and Programs 1 2 3 4 _____

2. FFA Building Our American Communities 1 2 3 4 _____

NEWS RELEASES

1. Photographic Procedures 1 2 3 4 _____

2. News Release Workshop 1 2 3 4 _____

GENERAL

1. Conference Opening Session 1 2 3 4 _____

2. Vespers Service 1 2 3 4 _____

3. Congressional Office Visit 1 2 3 4 _____

SPECIAL ADVISORS PROGRAM (ADVISORS AND WIVES ONLY)

1. Visit to AVA 1 2 3 4 _____

2. Luncheon at Office of Education 1 2 3 4 _____

List strong points of Conference _____

List weak points of Conference _____

Give suggestions for improvement _____

Would you recommend this type of Conference for Chapter Presidents
for future years? _____ Yes _____ No

COMPLETE EVALUATION TALLY OF THE FOUR CONFERENCES

	I	II	III	IV	TOTAL	AVERAGE*
Preconference Registration	2.87	2.23	2.02	1.92	9.04	2.26
Preconference Registration	1.58	1.66	1.62	1.70	6.55	1.64
Conference Registration	1.47	1.43	1.52	1.36	5.78	1.44
Housing Accommodations	1.25	1.32	1.24	1.28	5.09	1.27
Conference Room Facilities	1.41	1.16	1.24	1.12	4.93	1.23
Hot Shoppe Meals	2.48	2.65	2.88	2.82	10.83	2.71
Bus Transportation	1.20	1.07	1.26	1.16	4.69	1.17
Swimming	1.59	1.16	1.38	1.18	5.31	1.33
Free Time	1.78	2.10	1.68	1.46	7.02	1.75
Touring Alexandria	1.71	1.78	1.58	1.40	6.47	1.62
Mt. Vernon	1.25	1.41	1.52	1.30	5.48	1.37
FFA Center	1.56	1.27	1.50	1.26	5.59	1.40
FBI	1.73	1.32	3.54	1.40	7.99	2.00
Jefferson Memorial	----	1.20	1.22	1.02	3.44	1.14
Washington and Lincoln Memorial	1.50	1.34	1.50	1.26	5.60	1.40
National Archives	1.88	2.10	1.70	1.86	7.54	1.89
White House	2.04	3.58	2.08	1.74	9.44	2.38

(Table Continued)

*Averages were obtained by totaling the scores of the four conferences and dividing by four.

	I	II	III	IV	TOTAL	AVERAGE
Arlington Cemetery	1.36	1.43	1.50	1.24	5.53	1.38
Smithsonian	1.34	1.34	1.32	1.24	5.24	1.31
Bureau of Printing and Engraving	1.48	1.43	1.74	1.32	5.97	1.49
Home Chapter Programs	1.58	1.60	1.72	1.52	6.42	1.80
Chapter Meetings	1.48	1.47	1.56	1.50	6.01	1.50
"You've Gotta Plan It"	1.41	1.31	1.40	1.72	5.84	1.46
"You Gotta Tell 'Em	1.33	1.44	1.46	1.40	5.23	1.41
National Officer Presentations	1.33	1.04	1.14	1.24	4.75	1.19
National Officer Involvement	1.25	1.18	1.14	1.20	4.77	1.19
Conference Staff	1.10	1.18	1.04	1.10	4.42	1.10
Advisor Involvement	1.46	1.51	1.80	1.80	6.17	1.54
FFA Center Program	1.53	1.47	1.86	1.40	6.26	1.56
BOAC Program	1.36	1.20	1.54	1.28	5.38	1.34
Photographic Procedures	1.55	1.31	1.50	1.42	5.78	1.44
News Release Workshop	2.03	1.37	1.62	1.26	6.28	1.57
Opening Session	1.43	1.37	1.78	1.40	5.98	1.49
Vespers	1.38	1.48	1.35	1.42	5.63	1.41

(Table Continued)

	I	II	III	IV	TOTAL	AVERAGE
Congressional Office Visit	1.42	1.55	1.40	1.58	5.95	1.49
Advisor AVA Visit	2.36	1.80	3.00	----	7.16	2.38
Office of Education Visit	<u>2.10</u>	<u>2.10</u>	<u>2.30</u>	<u>----</u>	<u>6.50</u>	<u>2.17</u>
TOTALS	57.58	57.36	61.65	50.28	226.06	58.22
AVERAGE	1.60	1.55	1.66	1.43	6.11	1.57

(1) = Excellent
 (2) = Good
 (3) = Satisfactory
 (4) = Unsatisfactory

<u>Rating--Highest to Lowest</u>	<u>Score</u>	
1. Conference Staff	1.10	EXCELLENT+
2. Jefferson Memorial	1.14	
3. Bus Transportation	1.17	
4. National Officer Presentations	1.19	
5. National Officer Involvement	1.19	
6. Conference Room Facilities	1.23	
7. Housing Accommodations	1.27	
8. Smithsonian	1.31	
9. Swimming	1.33	
10. BOAC Program	1.34	
11. Mt. Vernon	1.37	EXCELLENT
12. Arlington Cemetery	1.38	
13. FFA Center	1.40	
14. Washington and Lincoln Memorial	1.40	
15. "You Gotta Tell 'Em"	1.41	
16. Vespers	1.41	
17. Conference Registration	1.44	
18. Photographic Procedures	1.44	
19. "You've Gotta Plan It"	1.46	
20. Opening Session	1.49	
21. Congressional Visit	1.49	
22. Bureau of Printing and Engraving	1.49	
23. Effective Executive & Chap. Meetings	1.50	EXCELLENT-
24. Advisor Involvement	1.54	GOOD+
25. FFA Center Program	1.56	
26. News Release Workshop	1.57	
27. Touring Alexandria	1.62	
28. Preconference Registration	1.64	

<u>Rating--Highest to Lowest (Continued)</u>		<u>Score</u>	
29.	Free Time	1.75	
30.	Home Chapter Programs in Review	1.80	
31.	National Archives	1.89	GOOD
32.	FBI	2.00	
33.	Office of Education	2.17	
34.	Preconference Information	2.26	
35.	White House	2.38	
36.	Advisor AVA Visit	2.38	GOOD-
37.	Hot Shoppe Meals	2.71	SATISFACTORY+

RESPONSES OF 314 PARTICIPANTS PERTAINING TO STRONG POINTS,
WEAK POINTS AND SUGGESTIONS FOR IMPROVEMENT OF THE CONFERENCES

Strong Points

1. Torchlight Tatto Program
2. Directors and National Officers
3. Group Discussions
4. Enthusiasm
5. Tours
6. Public Speaking
7. Conference Staff
8. Selection of "Leaders of the Day"
9. Addresses at Banquets by National Officers
10. Excellent Planning and Organization
11. Good Spirits of Everyone and Humor
12. Housing Facilities
13. Everyone Had a Chance to Participate
14. Excellent Leadership Material
15. Bus Drivers
16. BOAC Sessions
17. No Idle Time
18. Opportunity to Exchange Ideas
19. Meeting Congressman
20. New Friendships Made

Weak Points

1. Meals
2. Need More Leadership Sessions
3. Need More Free Time
4. Need More Time for Discussion
5. Have Extemporaneous Speaking
6. Plan Evening Sessions to End Sooner
7. Newsrelease
8. FBI Tour
9. Rushed for Time
10. Preconference Information

Suggestions for Improvement

1. More Time Needed to Prepare Speeches
2. Have Picture Taking Instructions
3. More Emphasis on Agriculture
4. Allow More Time for Discussion Among Participants
5. Visit USDA
6. Name Tags for T-Shirts
7. Have Vespers Every Night
8. Have Flag Lowering as Well as Flag Raising
9. Have Conferences on Regional Level Too
10. Bring Extra Program of Work to Exchange with Other FFA Members
11. More Individual Officer Development Sessions

(Sample Program of the 1971 Leadership Conference)

MONDAY, JULY 5
(Official Dress)

WELCOME TO THE WASHINGTON CONFERENCE

12:00 noon	Registration - Olde Colony Motor Lodge Conference Center
6:00-7:30 p.m.	Dinner - On Your Own
7:30 p.m.	Olde Colony Conference Center - Commonwealth Room, North Welcome to the Conference - H. N. Hunsicker, National Advisor Your Week in Washington - Bob Broeckelman, Conference Director Exploring Washington - Jerry Batts, Conference Counselor Conference Sessions - Dennis Engelke, Conference Counselor
8:00 p.m.	Photograph (Individual) - Arch Hardy, Official FFA Photographer An Investment in the Future - Dan Dooley, National Vice President
8:30 p.m.	Home Chapter Programs in Review
9:30 p.m.	Effective Public Speaking by FFA Members (Introduction) - Dan Dooley
10:00 p.m.	Vespers
10:15 p.m.	Advisors' Meeting

TUESDAY, JULY 6
(Dress: Conference T-Shirts)

MOUNT VERNON AREA--HOME OF THE FFA

7:15 a.m.	Flag Raising
7:30 a.m.	Breakfast - Hot Shoppe
8:30 a.m.	Impressions are Lasting - Dan Dooley Leaders of the Day - Bob Broeckelman
8:45 a.m.	Effective Executive and Chapter Meetings - Conference Center

TUESDAY, JULY 6 (Continued)

10:30 a.m.	Bus Departure
11:15 a.m.	Mount Vernon - Home of George Washington
12:45 a.m.	Lunch - Fort Hunt Park
1:45 p.m.	Bus Departure
2:00 p.m.	National FFA Center
	FFA Panorama
2:30 p.m.	Tour of Center and Grounds
3:15 p.m.	Discussion with FFA Staff
4:00 p.m.	Introductions Made Easy - Dan Dooley
4:15 p.m.	Bus Departure
5:00 p.m.	Swim - Conference Center Pool
6:30 p.m.	Dinner - Hot Shoppe
7:15 p.m.	How to Motivate Fellow FFA Members - Dan Dooley
7:30 p.m.	If You're Gonna Do It, You've Gotta Plan It
9:00 p.m.	News Release Workshop - Dennis Engelke

WEDNESDAY, JULY 7
(Official Dress)

PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE ON CAPITOL HILL

7:15 a.m.	Flag Raising
7:30 a.m.	Breakfast - Hot Shoppe
8:30 a.m.	Bus Departure - Capitol Hill
	Capitol Hill Host - Congressman Keith G. Sebelius, Kansas
9:00 a.m.	Capitol Hill Photograph - Southeast Steps of Capitol - Arch Hardy
9:30 a.m.	U. S. Capitol Tour
10:15 a.m.	Congressional Office Visit
11:45 a.m.	Capitol Hill Luncheon, B-369, Rayburn Bldg.
1:30 p.m.	Arlington National Cemetery
	Tomb of the Unknowns - Kennedy Memorial
	Iwo Jima Memorial
3:30 p.m.	Bus Departure
4:00 p.m.	Swim - Conference Center Pool

WEDNESDAY, JULY 7 (Continued)

6:30 p.m. Dinner - Hot Shoppe
 7:30 p.m. How to Present an Award - Dan Dooley
 (Turn in Votes for Leaders of the Day)
 7:45 p.m. Bus Departure
 8:30 p.m. Lincoln Memorial
 Torchlight Tattoo - Jefferson Memorial

THURSDAY, JULY 8
(Official Dress)

YOUR AMERICAN HERITAGE.

7:15 a.m. Flag Raising
 7:30 a.m. Breakfast - Hot Shoppe
 8:30 a.m. Washington Monument
 9:30 a.m. Bureau of Printing and Engraving
 11:00 a.m. White House
 12:30 p.m. Lunch - Hot Shoppe
 (Announcement of Six Leaders of the Day)
 1:00 p.m. Free - (Dress Conference T-Shirts)
 3:00 p.m. How to Introduce a Speaker - Dan Dooley
 3:15-5:15 p.m. Effective Public Speaking by FFA Members
 6:00 p.m. Dinner - Hot Shoppe
 7:30 p.m. Uniting the Past - Jay Benham, Administrative Secretary, Alumni Association
 7:45-9:45 p.m. If You Wanna Sell 'Em, You Gotta Tell 'Em
 PANEL: Use of FFA Promotional Materials - Jack Pitzer, Assoc. Editor, The National Future Farmer Magazine
Use of News Media in Promoting FFA - Dan Reuwee, Director of Information
Promotion of FFA Through Personal Contact - Jay Benham, Administrative Secretary, Alumni Association

FRIDAY, JULY 9
(Dress: Conference T-Shirts)

YOUR CHAPTER IN THE BUILDING OUR AMERICAN COMMUNITIES
PROGRAM

7:15 a.m.	Flag Raising
7:30 a.m.	Breakfast - Hot Shoppe
8:30 a.m.	FFA...Building Our American Communities - A Chapter Community Improvement Program - Coleman Harris, Assoc. Executive Secy.
10:30 a.m.	Bus Departure
11:00 a.m.	FBI Tour National Archives
12:30 p.m.	Lunch - Smithsonian Institution (On Your Own)
1:30 p.m.	Visitation of Smithsonian Institution
4:30 p.m.	Bus Departure
5:00 p.m.	Swim - Conference Center Pool
6:30 p.m.	Conference Banquet, Commonwealth Room, No.
9:00 p.m.	Conference Evaluation

SATURDAY, JULY 10 - 8:00 a.m. - Have a Safe Trip Home

SPECIAL PROGRAM - Advisors and Wives

THURSDAY, JULY 8

1:15 p.m. Visit American Vocational Assn., 1510 H St.,
N.W., Wash., D.C. - Lunch: Bull-N-Bear Cafe.

FRIDAY, JULY 9

12:15 p.m. Lunch - H. N. Hunsicker, U. S. Office of
Education, GSA Building, 7th & D Sts., S.W.,
Room 5622, Washington, D. C.

NATIONAL OFFICER

Dan Dooley, National
Vice President,
Pacific Region

CONFERENCE STAFF

Bob Broeckelman, Director
Jerry Batts, Counselor
Dennis Engelke, Counselor

A STUDY OF THE 1971 FFA SUMMER
LEADERSHIP AND CITIZENSHIP CONFERENCE

by

ROBERT J. BROECKELMAN

B. S., Kansas State University, 1970

AN ABSTRACT OF A MASTER'S REPORT

submitted in partial fulfillment of the

requirements for the degree

MASTER OF SCIENCE

College of Education

KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY
Manhattan, Kansas

1972

The purpose of this study of the 1971 Summer National FFA Leadership and Citizenship Conferences was designed to obtain the status of conference participants. Information in the study included: how they were sponsored, reasons for attending, methods of travel, and the tenure of the Chapter Advisor. One of the objectives of the study was to determine whether the distance of travel affected the attendance of the participants. The 314 participants in attendance at the four conferences were FFA members and advisors. Two of the conferences were for chapter improvement, and the other two conferences were for individual leadership development.

A questionnaire was developed which included 14 areas pertaining to the status of conference participants and their FFA Advisors. The author was present to administer the instrument. The data from the questionnaire were tabulated through frequency distributions and the results were given in numbers and percentages for all four conferences. The major findings of the study were: The Central FFA Region had 181 or 58% of the participants in attendance at the conference, followed by the North Atlantic FFA Region with 54 or 17%. The Pacific FFA Region had 50 or 16% of the participants, and the Southern FFA Region had 29 or 9% of the total attendance. The attendance at the Leadership and Citizenship Conferences exceeded the enrollment of the Chapter Impact Conferences. Local FFA Chapters were the chief sponsor for 89% of the participants.

Expected outcomes for most participants were to develop their leadership skills, assist in the development of their

local FFA Chapter activities, develop more civic responsibility, and to meet other young leaders in the FFA. Most participants attended the conferences to advance in the FFA, tour Washington, D.C., meet their Congressional leaders, and for the leadership training.

Seventy-two percent of the participants had attained the degree of Chapter Farmer, and 95% of the participants had goals to increase their present FFA degree status by attaining the State or American Farmer Degrees. Eighty-two percent of the participants were from chapters which were ranked in the National Chapter Award Program. Means of travel were by air, private auto, bus, train and camping units with the majority traveling by air.

Most participants were informed about the conference and influenced to attend by their Chapter FFA Advisor. Approximately 77% traveled to the conference alone or with their Advisor. Sixty-seven percent of the participants traveled 800 or more miles to the conferences. Traveling distance to the conference appeared to have little effect on conference attendance. The average attendance was 78.5 participants for each conference.

The author recommended that similar studies be made of participants of leadership conferences sponsored by other youth organizations. The author also recommended that additional leadership development studies be made of District and State Leadership Conferences which have been sponsored by several states.