

A COMPARISON OF THE RESPONSES OF VOCATIONAL AGRICULTURE AND  
NON-VOCATIONAL AGRICULTURE STUDENTS AS TO FACTORS  
INFLUENCING THEM TO BECOME FARMERS

by

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## CHAPTER I

### THE PROBLEM AND DEFINITION OF TERMS USED

At the time of this study the author observed that the number of high school vocational agriculture graduates who entered the business of farming had decreased, while at the same time the need for a more highly trained farmer had steadily increased. The identification of the student, early, who has the capabilities of becoming a successful farmer and to encourage him to prepare for a career in farming was one of the most pressing problems of the vocational agriculture teacher. Studies had been carried out to determine why vocational agriculture students did not go into farming, but none had been conducted in recent years to determine the factors involved in a youth entering the business of farming. In this study the author attempted to identify the reasons why the farmers in the Frankfort and Vermillion communities entered into the business of farming.

### THE PROBLEM

Statement of the problem. It was the purpose of this study (1) to determine if the development of interest in farming was different for the vocational agriculture graduate and the non-vocational agriculture high school graduate; (2) to determine if any relationship existed between the type of training taken and

the entry into farming; (3) to determine if the method of entry into farming differed between vocational agriculture and non-vocational agriculture students.

Importance of the study. The farmer of today must be a highly trained technician in livestock production, crop production, soil management, machinery management, as well as a shrewd business man with a knowledge of sound business practices. Agriculture will, somehow, need to select, encourage, and train the most able youth that can be found to fill this need. Vocational agriculture teachers, in the past, have largely stressed training in production agriculture with the result that most graduates were prepared to enter the business of farming. The contemporary vocational agriculture department placed stress on training for the occupations related to the business of farming as well as on production agriculture. With less time devoted to production agriculture, it was especially important to identify the potential future farmer early in his high school career and counsel him into a training program for this demanding occupation. This study compared the graduates taking two or more years of vocational agriculture with graduates of a high school which did not offer a program of vocational agriculture. An attempt was made to identify the factors directly related to vocational agriculture, which encouraged and assisted the farmer to become established in the business of farming.