

A COMPARISON STUDY OF TEACHERS OF
VOCATIONAL AGRICULTURE WHO HAD PERSEVERED
AND THOSE WHO HAD LEFT THE FIELD OF
TEACHING IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN KANSAS
DURING 1971-1975

by

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B. S., Kansas State University, 1970

A MASTER'S REPORT

submitted in partial fulfillment of the

requirements for the degree

MASTER OF SCIENCE

Agricultural Education
College of Education

KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY
Manhattan, Kansas

1976

Approved by:


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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The researcher wishes to extend his gratitude to the Agricultural Education graduates of Kansas State University who contributed their time and suggestions to this study.

A very special note of appreciation is expressed to Dr. James J. Albracht, the researcher's major advisor, for his valuable guidance and assistance. Grateful acknowledgment is given to Professor Howard R. Bradley and Professor Paul N. Stevenson who served on the researcher's supervisory committee.

A special thank you is given to the researcher's wife, Diane, for her assistance and encouragement. Appreciation is also extended to the researcher's two and a half year old daughter, Tammy, for her patience and understanding.

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

As a teacher of vocational agriculture for four years, the author became interested in the problem of teaching tenure during his relatively brief teaching experience. Vocational agriculture was one of the few remaining fields which report a shortage of teachers. The annual survey of "Supply and Demand of Teachers of Vocational Agriculture" revealed that 120 teachers were still needed nationwide in 1971, but efforts were unsuccessful in filling these positions. (Woodin, 1971, Table 1) By 1972 there were 134 unfilled positions, but the big jump came in 1973 when 273 positions went unfilled. In 1974 the figure rose again with 292 unfilled positions. (Sollenberger, 1975, p. 16.)

In 1971 a record-breaking 1,743 new persons were qualified for teaching vocational agriculture, the largest number in any of the past seven years. At the same time, however, the percentage of those qualified who entered teaching decreased. Only 49.6 percent of newly qualified persons entered vocational agriculture teaching. A nation-wide normal for the profession. (Woodin, 1972, p. 251.) In 1974 the annual turnover rate had increased to about 12 percent among active vocational agriculture teachers, somewhat higher than among teachers in general. (Sollenberger, 1975, p. 16.)

Because of the increasing demand for vocational agriculture