

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.