

FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH LONGEVITY  
OF TEXAS YOUNG FARMER CHAPTERS

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## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

Since the Smith-Hughes Act was passed in 1917, vocational agriculture teachers have been responsible for young and adult farmer education as well as education of in-school youth. Young and adult farmer education is an integral part of the vocational agriculture program.

Educational programs for adult farmers had been conducted by progressive vocational agriculture teachers prior to the formation of young farmer chapters in Texas. As young farmer interest spread across the nation, the concepts and ideas of young farmer education were stressed by teacher educators and area supervisors as being important to a successful vocational agriculture program. With the formation of the State Association of Young Farmers of Texas in 1954, young farmer education began to occupy an important role in the total vocational agriculture program in Texas.

Farmers had particular post-secondary educational needs to be met to provide for the changing technological advancement of agriculture. These changes have also created a need for development of greater knowledge and skills in the areas of agricultural production, marketing, management, and mechanization. The Texas Young Farmer's Association was tailor-made to meet the needs of post-secondary farmers and ranchers.

The State Association of Young Farmers of Texas is a non-political association organized for educational purposes and incorporated under

the laws of the State of Texas. The state is divided into ten area associations which coincide with the boundaries of the ten vocational agriculture areas set up for the administration and supervision of vocational agriculture in the public high schools.

The local chapter is the hub around which all young farmer activities revolve. The chapter may be organized by a single school district or two or more school districts may unite to form a single chapter. Where one school is involved, that vocational agriculture teacher serves as the advisor. In chapters where members are drawn from two or more school districts, the vocational agriculture teachers in the sponsoring schools usually work out a plan among themselves for rotation of advisor duties. While local chapters are organized primarily for educational purposes, local chapter programs are based on four separate divisions--education, recreation, rural leadership, and cooperative community service (27).

The Texas Young Farmer Association began with three chapters chartered in 1954. The increase was slow for the first five years with only 29 chapters chartered by 1959. At that point, the organization grew rapidly to a peak of 289 chapters chartered by 1966. A decline of 159 chapters occurred with only 130 chapters being active in 1970. Indications are that stabilization of chapter numbers began at that point since 132 chapters were active in 1972 and 143 chapters were active in 1974.

While there was a 49 percent decrease in numbers of chapters from 1966 through the fiscal year 1973-74, it was important to note that 54 percent of the 143 active chapters in 1973-74 had endured ten years or more. It was felt that a definite need existed for investigation of the enduring young farmer chapters to determine salient characteristics of enduring chapters. Information obtained could prove beneficial to

teacher educators, area supervisors, local young farmer advisors, local young farmer chapters, state young farmer officers, and the state young farmer secretary.

#### Statement of the Problem

With the organizational structure of the Young Farmer Association of Texas, it would seem that there would be continual expansion of chapters and numbers of young farmer members to take advantage of the post-secondary adult education opportunities. This was true for the young farmer organization from 1954 through 1966. At that point, a sharp decline of organized young farmer chapters began and continued through the fiscal year 1970-71. Chapter numbers remained almost constant 1972 through 1974.

Through this period of time, some chapters began and continued with a strong, lasting organization. However, the majority of the young farmer chapters operated, some very strongly, for one to five years and then completely ceased operation. This investigation attempted to determine why the outstanding chapters continued operation for ten years or longer in Texas. It seemed reasonable to assume that once the salient characteristics of enduring chapters were known and evaluated, guidelines could be established which could benefit young farmer chapters yet to be organized, established chapters needing assistance, and chapters which may be reorganized in the future.

#### Purpose of the Study

The primary purpose of this study was to determine salient characteristics common to successful Texas young farmer chapters with ten or

more years of continuing activity.

### Objectives of the Study

In order to accomplish the purpose of this study, the following objectives were formulated:

1. To determine selected characteristics common to enduring young farmer programs as identified by advisors.
2. To determine selected characteristics common to advisors of enduring young farmer chapters as identified by young farmer advisors.
3. To determine selected practices common to enduring young farmer programs as identified by advisors.
4. To determine selected practices and procedures common to enduring young farmer chapters as identified by young farmer members and advisors.
5. To identify and classify certain non-directed responses from young farmer members and advisors common to enduring young farmer chapters.
6. To determine the possible association of selected demographic data to selected characteristics common to enduring young farmer members and advisors.

### Significance of Results

This study should give some indication as to the salient characteristics contributing to the operation of successful and enduring young farmer chapters in Texas. This would prove beneficial to the state young farmer secretary, area supervisors, teacher educators, and vocational agriculture teachers for implementation and continuation of

successful young farmer chapters.

#### Definition of Terms

Young Farmer Organization: An organized series of educational, leadership, recreational, and community service activities for post-secondary young adult farmers and agri-business personnel.

Young Farmer: For purposes of holding district and state offices and receiving individual awards, a man under 36 years of age who is actively engaged in the business of farming or related agri-business is eligible in the state of Texas. There are no restrictions or age requirements at the local chapter level.

Continuing, Enduring, Longevity: For the purpose of this study, these terms are used synonymously having reference to young farmer chapters in Texas that have been chartered and active for ten years or more.

#### Scope and Limitations of the Study

This study was limited to vocational agriculture teachers who were advisors of young farmer chapters which had endured ten or more years in the state of Texas and to three young farmer members from each of those 77 chapters selected at random.

#### Assumptions Basic to the Study

The following assumptions were accepted by the investigator:

1. That six major objectives would yield pertinent information for determining salient characteristics of enduring young farmer chapters.
2. That a vocational agriculture teacher's response would be essential to the objectives set forth.

3. That teacher responses are valid and reliable.
4. That young farmer member responses are essential to the objectives set forth.
5. That young farmer responses are valid and reliable.
6. That data obtained from advisors and members could be utilized by teacher educators, vocational agriculture teachers, area supervisors, and other state staff for developing stronger, lasting young farmer chapters.

## CHAPTER II

### REVIEW OF LITERATURE

The purpose of this chapter is to present background information for this investigation. Involved were research studies, related developments pertinent to this study, and opinions of authorities in the young farmer area. The major areas covered are the history and development of the young farmer organization, selected characteristics of vocational agriculture teachers as identified by previous studies concerning successful young farmer chapters, and characteristics contributing to the successful operation of a young farmer chapter.

#### The History and Development of the Young Farmer Organization

The act making young and adult farmer programs available to farmers and related agri-businessmen was the Smith-Hughes Act of 1917. Upon implementation of adult farmer education, it became apparent that most of the people attending the special programs were former vocational agriculture students and Future Farmer of America members. A need was established to develop an organization to exist between the Future Farmers of America and adult farmer education. Returning young veterans from World War II especially felt the need for additional training specifically suited for their age group.

Ekstrom and McClelland (9) reported that the first young farmer

chapter to be organized was in Ohio in 1921 with others soon following in other states. They reported that the first state association of young farmers was in California in 1936.

Several states had organized state associations for young farmers by the late 1930's and 1940's. Ekstrom and McClelland (9) reported that Utah, New Jersey, Arkansas, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, and Hawaii had organized by 1949.

The young farmer chapters organized had a common purpose of continuing education in agriculture, leadership development, community service and family recreation. The young farmer organization provides an opportunity for farmers and agri-businessmen to remain current on technical advances plus additional information available in the field of agriculture (26).

The basic purpose of the Young Farmer Association is to provide educational programs designed to meet the particular needs of the young men in the community who have begun careers in farming and ranching.

Additional purposes of the Young Farmer Association are as follows:

1. To provide organized recreation for rural families.
2. To provide leadership training and experiences needed in the development of rural leaders and good citizens.
3. To provide an organization which will fill the void in the lives of young agriculturalists between high school age and the time they normally actively participate in an adult farm organization.
4. To provide an awards and recognition program suitable for honoring individuals and chapters for outstanding achievements or public service.
5. To encourage the expansion of the farm business through the purchasing of land or leasing of additional land on a sound basis.

6. To cooperate with other organizations and agricultural agencies in programs benefiting agriculture.
7. To cooperate with various youth organizations in their activities (1, p. 1).

Educational programs are emphasized because the complexity of current agriculture demands that young farmers remain current in their knowledge of their particular type of farming. Young farmers need continuing education because of these things:

1. Farming has become increasingly complicated due to rapid technological advancements.
2. The intensification of the cost-price squeeze demands higher operational efficiency.
3. The increase of the size of farming operations has caused a tremendous increase in the amount of capital required.
4. Of the loss of a dependable source of farm labor.
5. The extensive mechanization of farming operation has caused an increase in the amounts of maintenance and repair work required.
6. Foreign policy affects agriculture in such a way that production and marketing of farm products is influenced.
7. Of the involvement of the government in supply management and acreage contracts.
8. The application of social security programs to farmers and farm employees necessitates accurate record keeping.
9. Of the development of synthetics to compete with natural fibers.
10. Of the market demands and consumer preference (27, p. 2).

With the organization of state associations, it was assumed by educators that a national organization would be implemented as the organization grew. Ekstrom and McClelland (9) reported that the Agricultural

Education Section of the American Vocational Association discussed a national organization of young farmers and appointed committees to discuss the issue. Naughtner (18) reported that 40 supervisors and teachers met in Kansas City, Missouri, on October 14, 1949, to discuss forming a national young farmer association. The national association of young farmers was never organized although a recommendation that the situation be kept under advisement for further study and possible future consideration evolved from the 1949 meeting.

A National Young Farmer Institute is held annually bringing young farmers together for educational programs and exchanges of ideas to strengthen each state association. The following are some of the conclusions taken from the conference report:

1. The need for a program of continuing education for young farmers is greater than ever today.
2. Recruitment of young men leaving high school and/or entering agricultural occupations is essential to program growth and enhances the economic and social development of those being recruited.
3. A functional organizational structure greatly enhances the value of educational programs for young farmers.
4. One of the greatest deterrents to program development in young farmer education is the shortage of well-prepared teaching personnel.
5. There is a need for more cooperation among states on the preparation of educational materials to minimize duplication of effort.
6. Program effectiveness can be greatly improved through cooperation with other agricultural and community agencies interested in young farmer education.
7. Additional research is needed to gain knowledge concerning critical factors involving young farmer education.
8. Well-designed pilot programs are badly needed to

test new "systems," approaches, and new technological devices employed in young farmer education.

9. Attention should be given to developing more realistic approaches to evaluating the effectiveness of young farmer educational programs (6, p. 121).

Conclusions such as these are invaluable for continuation of the state young farmer associations. Although young farmer education has not spread as anticipated, approximately 15 states have state associations of young farmers. The Texas Association of Young Farmers was organized in 1954 and is operating at the present time. A cooperative effort will be necessary if the state associations continue to survive.

#### Selected Characteristics of Vocational

#### Agriculture Teachers Concerning

#### Successful Young Farmer

#### Chapters

To determine characteristics of successful young farmer chapters operating for ten years or more in Texas, an investigation of selected characteristics of vocational agriculture teachers should be included.

Vocational agriculture teachers are the key people involved in the implementation and continuation of successful young farmer chapters (11). The young farmer chapter has been one of the duties of a vocational agriculture teacher since the Smith-Hughes Act of 1917. Hart (11) stated that most responsibility rests on the shoulders of vocational agriculture teachers if the young farmer chapter continues to operate.

#### Attitude

The attitude of vocational agriculture teachers must be favorable

toward young farmer education and adult education if he is to be successful in adult and young farmer work. The proper attitude may be obtained by past experience with adult education, young farmer education being emphasized on the student teaching level, young farmer education being emphasized by teacher trainers, or favorable exposure from other sources (15). Pritchard (22) in a study of 32 beginning teachers of vocational agriculture in Oklahoma reported 22 favorable teacher attitude responses to adult education. He indicated that this could be due to their perception of a need for adult education.

### Personality

Price (21) implied that the occurrence of young farmer organizations was due to a strong motivating force, extroverted personality, or initiative of the vocational agriculture teacher. Myers (17) felt that a good vocational agriculture teacher radiated enthusiasm, enjoyed his work, was a wise counselor, and did much teaching by precept and example. The teacher must have the type of personality that commands respect by the adult faction with which he must work. A study conducted in Texas hits the main points of the successful teacher's personality. Jackson (12) stated that superintendents of schools rated successful vocational agriculture teachers high in the following 14 categories: (1) willingness to work, (2) dedication to work, (3) character and morals, (4) dependability, (5) cooperation, (6) sincerity, (7) determination, (8) determination, (9) attitude toward fellow workers, (10) enthusiasm, (11) initiative, (12) judgement and common sense, (13) promptness, and (14) sense of humor.

### Age

Price (21) in a study of Oklahoma and Pennsylvania young farmer organizations, found no significant difference in the ages of teachers with successful young farmer organizations and those without organizations. Keisling (15) reported the average age of vocational agriculture teachers with young farmer programs, in western Oklahoma, was 28 years old. At the Texas State Young Farmer Conventions each year, young farmer advisors range from the very young to retirement age. The advisor of the Outstanding Young Farmer Chapter of Texas in 1972-73 had served 30 years teaching vocational agriculture (23). Webb (26) reported that the age of advisors was not significantly associated with the level of performance.

### Tenure

Price (21) reported that there was no association between tenure of the vocational agriculture teacher and the occurrence of young farmer chapters. Advisor's age and tenure would seem to be significant in organizing young farmer chapters. Webb (26) reported that the level of performance at which young farmer chapters were related in Texas was not significantly associated with the number of years teachers had served as advisors to young farmer chapters or the number of years they had taught vocational agriculture at the school where they were located at the time of the study.

### Grades

Price (21) considered undergraduate grades as a possible factor of

significance; however, the investigation revealed no significant difference between teachers and their honor grade point average in relation to their involvement in young farmer education.

#### Graduate Work

Price (21) found that graduate work of vocational agriculture teachers and their association with young farmer education was a significant factor. Webb (26) reported, from a different viewpoint, that the number of graduate hours was not significantly associated with the level of performance at which chapters were rated.

#### Extra-Curricular Activities

Undergraduate extra-curricular activities had been suggested as a factor in building competence in a teacher. Price (21) determined that teachers with more experience in extra-curricular activities as undergraduates were teaching in departments offering young farmer programs.

### Characteristics Contributing to the Successful Operation of a Young Farmer Chapter

Extensive work on identification of characteristics contributing to the success of young farmer chapters needs to be done. Determination of characteristics of successful chapters could provide invaluable information.

Webb (26) completed a study of characteristics contributing to the success of young farmer chapters. It identified the successful characteristics through comparisons of the very strong to the weaker young

farmer chapters in Texas. These chapters were categorized by the area supervisors. The study was designed to determine what characteristics enabled the strong chapters to perform at a more successful level.

The significant characteristics, reported by Webb (26), of young farmer chapters operating at a high level of performance, in contrast to young farmer chapters operating at a low level of performance, was the teacher's attitude toward young farmer education. Other factors of a high level of performance in operational young farmer chapters were younger members, a larger membership who had completed high school or one college degree, a greater number of members who were employed full-time in agricultural occupations other than production agriculture, chapters that conducted more educational and social meetings, chapters with large memberships, chapters that conducted more community service activities, and chapters that conducted educational programs taught by resource teachers. Another high level performance factor was correlation of a high level performance and multiple teacher departments.

No correlation of high level performance and age, tenure, or years of teaching vocational agriculture was found. Visits to young farmers' individual situations, methods of planning meetings, time schedules for meetings, methods of notifying members of meetings, attitude of school administrators, and sources of agricultural income or other civic clubs in the community had no significant effect or correlation to a high level of performance in young farmer chapters.

Webb's investigation (26) shows clearly differences in high and low rated chapters; however, some of the highly rated chapters operated at the high level for only a short period of time and then fell to a low rating or discontinued. The continuation of a strong program is of the

essence. We seek, through the young farmer program, to offer continuing education for a very complex and fast changing profession that guarantees nothing as far as income is concerned.

The Texas Young Farmer Manual presents the characteristics of outstanding chapters as follows:

1. Program of work covering a 12-month period is carefully planned by a committee of young farmers and submitted to chapter membership for approval.
2. Educational activities are based on need and interest and set up on a seasonal basis.
3. Service or resource personnel for programs are requested months in advance of meeting dates.
4. Requests for assistance of resource personnel are sent out by young farmers and not by the advisor.
5. The president, officers and committees accept responsibilities and provide leadership in the chapter. The advisor remains in the background and provides assistance as needed.
6. Responsibilities for chapter activities are divided among committees. Each committee plans and carries out assigned activities.
7. At least one short course is sponsored during the year under the Vocational Agriculture Specialist Program.
8. Educational programs include two or more tours or demonstration type activities.
9. The chapter is represented at Young Farmer workshops, field day programs, area meetings, and state conventions.
10. Meeting notices are mailed out in advance of each chapter meeting.
11. An aggressive membership and attendance committee is functioning. Each member is reminded of each meeting in person by telephone.
12. Young Farmer activities are publicized regularly via news media.

13. At least six social or recreational events are held each year.
14. Families of Young Farmers participate in at least two chapter activities during the year.
15. The chapter sponsors at least one community service project during the year.
16. Refreshments are served at each meeting.
17. Nonmembers, including key community leaders, are invited to selected Young Farmer chapter activities.
18. Awards are provided to honor members for outstanding achievement.
19. Awards are presented at a banquet attended by Young Farmer families and by special guests.
20. The chapter participates in the awards program of the area and state.
21. Exchange visits are arranged with neighboring chapters.
22. Committees are appointed to study and make recommendations on important problems to eliminate long, drawn-out business sessions.
23. Business sessions are short and held after conclusion of the educational program.
24. The chapter is well financed through one or more fund-raising activities per year.
25. Members share in responsibilities of various chapter activities through committee work.
26. Appropriate steps are taken to secure the participation of school administration in selected Young Farmer activities (27, pp. 36-37).

Characteristics of successful chapters have been rated as well as listed. These factors are important to the continuation of a young farmer chapter. The missing element not included was "pride." Tatum (23) stated that the instillation of pride in all the members may be the most important characteristic. This is best accomplished by the young

farmer chapter excelling in any activity it may undertake. Anything worth doing is worth doing right. The Fredricksburg Young Farmer Chapter has been in operation for 25 years utilizing the element of pride.

#### Summary

The literature reviewed covered three areas pertinent to the study. The purpose of the review was to supply available information pertinent to the study.

The history of the young farmer organization has been a slow evolutionary process from an original young farmer chapter organization in Ohio in 1921 to 15 state associations at the present time. There is no national organization, although studies were made as to the feasibility of such an organization. A National Young Farmer Institute is held annually and is attended by young farmer members from all states desiring to attend.

The Smith-Hughes Act of 1917 was the format for placing the responsibility of advising young farmer chapters with the vocational agriculture teacher. The teacher or teachers are the "key" to a successful young farmer chapter. Upon examination of the individual teacher, the determination was made that attitude and personality were the strongest motivating forces responsible for successful young farmer advisors with age, tenure, and undergraduate grades having no significance. Graduate work and undergraduate extra-curricular activities were found to be significant to involvement with young farmer chapters.

Although characteristics of successful young farmer chapters were listed, none listed dealt with the continuation of operation of young farmer chapters in a state association. Pride was one essential

characteristic documented by a chapter that has operated 25 years and is now at its peak.

This study is concerned with salient characteristics considered to be pertinent by advisors and members of chapters which have operated ten years or longer in the state of Texas. History, selected characteristics of vocational agriculture teachers identified from previous studies and characteristics contributing to the successful operation of a young farmer chapter provided the background for this investigation.

## CHAPTER III

### DESIGN AND METHODOLOGY

The primary purpose of this study was to identify salient characteristics associated with the longevity common to successful young farmer chapters in Texas. Six specific objectives were formulated and served as guidelines for the design and conduct of the investigation.

The objectives were as follows:

1. To determine selected characteristics common to enduring young farmer programs as identified by advisors.
2. To determine selected characteristics common to advisors of enduring young farmer chapters as identified by young farmer advisors.
3. To determine selected practices common to enduring young farmer programs as identified by advisors.
4. To determine selected practices and procedures common to enduring young farmer chapters as identified by young farmer members and advisors.
5. To identify and classify certain non-directed responses from young farmer members and advisors common to enduring young farmer chapters.
6. To determine the possible association of selected demographic data to selected characteristics common to enduring young farmer chapters as identified by young farmer members and advisors.

In order to collect and analyze data pertaining to the purpose and

objectives developed for guidance of the study effort, it was necessary to accomplish the following tasks:

1. Determine the population of the study.
2. Develop the instrument for data collection.
3. Develop a procedure for data collection.
4. Select methods of data analysis.

#### The Study Population

The population for this study consisted of selected young farmer members and advisors in the state of Texas. From information obtained from the secretary of the State Young Farmer's Association of Texas, it was determined that 77 young farmer chapters had endured ten years or longer. A questionnaire was mailed to one advisor of each of the total group of 77 chapters. Utilizing a table of random numbers, three young farmer members from each of the 77 chapters were selected. A total of 231 members were mailed a modified questionnaire. The ten year period of longevity considered for this study was from the fiscal year 1963-64 through the fiscal year 1973-74.

The proportions of instrument return for this study were 68 of the 77 young farmer advisors, which represents 88.31 percent, while the young farmer members returned 87 of the 231 questionnaires mailed or 37.66 percent. Three mailings were necessary to acquire the responses from advisors and two mailings were used to obtain member responses.

#### Development of the Instrument

In formulating the statements used in the questionnaire, the investigator reviewed related literature and instruments developed by other

researchers. Personal suggestions from teacher educators, vocational agriculture teachers, and state staff were given strong consideration.

The instrument was developed in three parts. The first and second parts of the instrument were given the headings Form R and Form T for identification and reference purposes. The third part consisted of three open-ended statements for obtaining non-directed responses. The young farmer advisors were mailed all three parts of the instrument. The members were mailed Form T and the open-ended statements.

Part One (Form R) contained two sections to which advisors were to respond. Part A of Form R consisted of questions requiring general information and demographic data. The questions were obtained by reviewing instruments developed by other researchers as well as state staff and teacher trainer guidance. Part B of Form R contained questions that required "Yes" or "No" answers. The questions for Part B were formulated by reviewing operational procedures of the outstanding young farmer chapters in Texas each year for the past ten years.

Part Two (Form T) contained opinion statements selected primarily from a list of suggested activities in the Texas Young Farmer Manual. A Likert scale was applied to the opinion statements in Form T. Statements 4, 9, and 19 of Form T were inserted by the investigator after review of other research instruments to obtain advisor and member responses to additional statements deemed important by the investigator.

Part Three, or the non-directed responses, were formulated after much deliberation and consultation with state staff, teacher educators, and non-participating young farmer advisors. Three statements were formulated for advisor and member response.

After formulation, the instrument was reviewed by the Agricultural

Education Staff, Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, Oklahoma; the Agricultural Education Staff, Texas Tech University, Lubbock, Texas; non-participating young farmer members in Texas; and Texas State Staff members. Corrections were made and the instrument was pre-tested by graduate student classes at Oklahoma State University, non-participating young farmer members in Texas, and non-participating young farmer advisors in Texas. Advisors and members reported no problem with interpreting and responding to the instrument.

#### Collection of the Data

The instruments were mailed to the 77 advisors and 231 young farmer members in Texas on July 5, 1974. By July 21, 1974, 39 young farmer advisors and 31 young farmer members had responded. A follow-up letter was mailed July 22, 1974. Twenty-one additional returns were received from young farmer advisors and 49 young farmer members responded. The third mailing to young farmer advisors was made on August 16, 1974. Eight additional responses were received from young farmer advisors. All instruments mailed contained letters of introduction as well as stamped, self-addressed envelopes. A cut-off date of September 12, 1974 was established due to the time limitation for completing the study.

#### Analysis of the Data

Part One (Form R) was administered only to young farmer advisors. Ranges, item counts, means, and percentages were computed for Form R, Part A. Statements were analyzed separately and grouped under the appropriate objective. In Form R, Part B, item counts, percentages, and ranks were utilized. The responses to the 14 questions were stated and ranked

by the total advisor responses.

A seven point Likert scale was used to collect and evaluate data for Part Two (Form T). Part Two was mailed to both advisors and members. The categories for response were "Agree Very Strongly," "Agree Strongly," "Agree," "No Opinion," "Disagree," "Disagree Strongly," and "Disagree Very Strongly." Values of 7, 6, 5, 4, 3, 2, and 1 were assigned from "Agree Very Strongly" to "Disagree Very Strongly." Item counts, percentages, and ranks were used to show response from both young farmer members and advisors. An average mean score response was calculated for each response from advisors and young farmer members. A total average mean score response was calculated for both groups for ranking. The items were placed from one to 19 in order of the total rank of the average mean score response of both advisors and members. The total average was calculated by averaging the mean score response of advisors and members to each opinion statement. Items were also placed from one to 19 by rank for advisors displaying ranks, means, item counts, and percentages. The same procedure was utilized for member responses. Mean scores below four indicated disagreement to the statement and those above four were considered as indicating agreement to the statement.

Data secured from Part Three of the instrument, or the non-directed responses, were tabulated and ranked using the total responses for ranking from first to last. Item counts and ranks were used to complete the categories.

## CHAPTER IV

### PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS OF DATA

The primary purpose of this chapter was to present and analyze data secured concerning characteristics associated with young farmer chapters continuing ten years or more in Texas. To accomplish this purpose, the following specific objectives were formulated:

1. To determine selected characteristics common to enduring young farmer programs as identified by advisors.
2. To determine selected characteristics common to advisors of enduring young farmer chapters as identified by young farmer members.
3. To determine selected practices common to enduring young farmer programs as identified by advisors.
4. To determine selected practices and procedures common to enduring young farmer chapters as identified by young farmer members and advisors.
5. To identify and classify certain non-directed responses from young farmer members and advisors common to enduring young farmer chapters.
6. To determine the possible association of selected demographic data to selected characteristics common to enduring young farmer chapters as identified by young farmer members and advisors.

Data presented in this chapter represent 68 responses from young farmer advisors and 87 responses from young farmer members. The advisor

responses were 88.31 percent of the population of 77 and the member responses were 39.37 percent of the randomly selected population of 221 members.

Of the 77 chapters selected, the following combinations were recorded concerning responses from advisors and members:

|                              | <u>Chapter Responses</u> |                |
|------------------------------|--------------------------|----------------|
|                              | <u>Number</u>            | <u>Percent</u> |
| Both member and advisors     | 51                       | 66.23          |
| Members not advisors         | 5                        | 6.49           |
| Advisors not members         | 17                       | 22.08          |
| Neither advisors nor members | <u>4</u>                 | <u>5.19</u>    |
|                              | 77                       | 100.00         |

Selected Characteristics Common to  
Young Farmer Programs

As inspection of the data presented in Table I reveals, there were 143 young farmer chapters active in the fiscal year 1973-74. Of these, 77 chapters (53.85 percent) had endured for ten years or more. Almost a third of the chapters, 38 (26.57 percent), had existed for five years or less. It was on the 77 chapters enduring for 10 years or more which this study effort concentrated. Of the 68 chapters from which data were secured, it was found that 39 (57.35 percent) were from school districts having more than 300 students enrolled in high school. Only 12 chapters (17.65 percent) were in schools having under 100 students. The mean enrollment for all high schools was 485.91. A vocational agriculture enrollment of more than 100 students was reported from 26 chapters (38.24 percent). An almost equal number of chapters, 24 (35.29 percent)

indicated vocational agriculture enrollments of from 50 to 99 students.  
The mean enrollment for all vocational agriculture departments was 85.90.

TABLE I  
COMPARISON OF SELECTED FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH  
CONTINUING YOUNG FARMER CHAPTERS

| Factors  | Number | Distribution |         |
|--|--------|--------------|---------|
|  |        |              | Percent |
| <u>High School Enrollment</u>                  |        |              |         |
| Under 100                                      | 12     |              | 17.65   |
| 100 to 299                                     | 17     |              | 25.00   |
| 300 and over                                   | 39     |              | 57.35   |
| Total  | 68     |              | 100.00  |
| <u>Vocational Agriculture Enrollment</u>       |        |              |         |
| 1 to 49  | 18     |              | 26.47   |
| 50 to 99                                       | 24     |              | 35.29   |
| 100 and over                                   | 26     |              | 38.24   |
| Total  | 68     |              | 100.00  |
| <u>No. of Vo-Ag Teachers per Department</u>    |        |              |         |
| 1  | 23     |              | 33.82   |
| 2  | 22     |              | 32.85   |
| 3  | 17     |              | 25.00   |
| 4  | 2      |              | 2.94    |
| Combined County                                | 4      |              | 5.88    |
| Total  | 68     |              | 100.00  |
| <u>Yrs. Continuous Operation as Organized</u>  |        |              |         |
| <u>Young Farmer Chapter</u>                    |        |              |         |
| 5 or less                                      | 38     |              | 26.57   |
| 6 to 9   | 28     |              | 19.58   |
| 10 or more                                     | 77     |              | 53.85   |
| Total  | 143    |              | 100.00  |
| <u>Young Farmer Chapters by No. of Members</u> |        |              |         |
| 8 to 15  | 19     |              | 27.94   |
| 16 to 30                                       | 28     |              | 41.18   |
| 31 and over                                    | 21     |              | 30.88   |
| Total  | 68     |              | 100.00  |

TABLE I (CONTINUED)

| Factors                                     | <u>Distribution</u> |         |
|---|---------------------|---------|
|   | Number              | Percent |
| <u>Young Farmer Members by Age Category</u> |                     |         |
| Under 24                                    | 344                 | 18.10   |
| 25 to 35                                    | 1139                | 59.92   |
| 36 and over                                 | 418                 | 21.98   |
| Total                                       | 1501                | 100.00  |

As could be surmised from vocational agriculture enrollment findings, most young farmer chapters were connected with multiple teacher programs. It was discovered that 41 of the departments had two or more teachers. Specifically, two departments (2.94 percent) had four teachers; 17 (25.0 percent) had three teachers; and 22 departments (32.35 percent) had two teachers of vocational agriculture.

Certain comparisons were made as to the number and age of young farmer chapter members. It was found that 21 chapters (30.88 percent) had 31 or more members while the largest group of chapters, 28 (41.18 percent), had from 16 to 30 members. Age-wise, 418 (21.98 percent) were 36 years or older while the largest group of members, 1139 (59.92 percent), were from 25 to 35 years of age.

The investigation revealed that the 68 enduring chapters reported 446 college graduates for an average of 6.6 per chapter. The range was from 0 to 37 college graduates for the chapter responding.

Distance from a city of 30,000 or more was important to the study for availability of resource personnel for presenting educational

programs. The average distance from a city of that size was 48 miles with a range of 0 to 17 miles. This indicated that the chapters investigated had resource personnel available for educational programs within reasonable driving distances.

#### Selected Characteristics Common to Young Farmer Advisors

Although questionnaires were mailed to only one vocational agriculture teacher in each department, the instrument requested information concerning each vocational agriculture teacher in the 77 departments enduring ten years or more. From those 77 departments, 68 responses represented a total of 133 young farmer advisors.

As inspection of the data in Table II reveals, 133 young farmer advisors were represented. Age-wise, 40 (30.07 percent) were 46 years old or older and 35 (26.32 percent) were 31 to 45 years of age. The largest number, 58 (43.61 percent), were 21 to 30 years of age.

Certain comparisons were made concerning the years of experience as a young farmer advisors and the years of experience at the present school. Only 11 (8.27 percent) had been young farmer advisors 16 years or more, 59 (44.36 percent) had six to 15 years of experience, and 63 (47.37 percent) had one to five years of experience. Thirty-two advisors (24.06 percent) had 16 years of teaching experience or more at their present schools. The largest number of teachers, 66 (49.62 percent), had one to five years of experience. The remaining 35 (26.32 percent) had six to 15 years of experience. Young teachers in multiple teacher departments constitute the majority of teachers in the one to five year category.

Of the 133 advisors investigated 77 (57.87 percent) held the Master

Degree while 56 (42.11 percent) held a Bachelor Degree.

TABLE II  
SELECTED CHARACTERISTICS OF ADVISORS OF  
YOUNG FARMER CHAPTERS

| Characteristic                                 | Number | Distribution |         |
|--|--------|--------------|---------|
|  |        |              | Percent |
| <u>Age of Advisors</u>                         |        |              |         |
| 21 to 30                                       | 58     |              | 43.61   |
| 31 to 45                                       | 35     |              | 26.32   |
| 46 and over                                    | 40     |              | 30.07   |
| Total  | 133    |              | 100.00  |
| <u>Yrs. Experience as Young Farmer Advisor</u> |        |              |         |
| 1 to 5   | 63     |              | 47.37   |
| 6 to 15  | 59     |              | 44.36   |
| 16 and over                                    | 11     |              | 8.27    |
| Total  | 133    |              | 100.00  |
| <u>Years at Present School</u>                 |        |              |         |
| 1 to 5   | 66     |              | 49.62   |
| 6 to 15  | 35     |              | 26.32   |
| 16 and over                                    | 32     |              | 24.06   |
| Total  | 133    |              | 100.00  |
| <u>Highest Degree Earned</u>                   |        |              |         |
| B.S.   | 56     |              | 42.11   |
| M.S.   | 77     |              | 57.87   |
| Total  | 133    |              | 100.00  |

### Organizational Characteristics and Practices

#### Common to Young Farmer Programs

It was determined that enduring chapters held an average of 11

educational meetings each fiscal year with a range of three to 24 educational meetings each fiscal year.

Newspapers 50 (73.53 percent), telephone 46 (67.65 percent), and post cards 41 (60.29 percent) were the most common methods of informing members of young farmer functions. Almost two thirds of all chapters reporting used these three methods of informing members of young farmer functions. Two other methods used frequently were radio 33 (48.53 percent) and newsletters 23 (33.82 percent). The sum will not total 100 percent because many chapters used several of the methods listed in Table III.

The investigation revealed three preferred meeting nights of the week. Monday 26 (38.24 percent), Tuesday 18 (26.47 percent), and Thursday 21 (30.88 percent) nights were the most common meeting nights for enduring chapters. Four chapters (5.88 percent) reported conflicts in scheduling specific nights of the week. The sum again will not total 100 percent because some chapters met more than one time each month on different nights of the week.

The specific week or weeks of the month enduring chapters met were most commonly during the first, 19 (27.94 percent); second, 20 (29.41 percent); and third, 20 (29.41 percent) weeks. Fewer chapters met during the fourth week, 11 (16.18 percent). The three chapters not expressing a specific week of the month to meet cited conflicts in scheduling for being unable to specify a week of the month.

For further details and for clarification on organizational characteristics and practices common to young farmer programs, see Table III.

TABLE III  
 ORGANIZATIONAL CHARACTERISTICS AND PRACTICES  
 ASSOCIATED WITH YOUNG FARMER PROGRAMS

| Characteristic/Practice                                       | Number | <u>Distribution</u><br>Percent |
|---|--------|--------------------------------|
| <u>Methods of Informing Members of Young Farmer Functions</u> |        |                                |
| Newsletter  | 23     | 33.82                          |
| Postcard  | 41     | 60.29                          |
| Newspaper   | 50     | 73.53                          |
| Radio   | 33     | 48.53                          |
| Television  | 2      | 2.94                           |
| Telephone   | 46     | 67.65                          |
| Personal Contact  | 9      | 13.24                          |
| <u>Specific Meeting Day</u>                                   |        |                                |
| Monday  | 26     | 38.24                          |
| Tuesday   | 18     | 26.47                          |
| Wednesday   | 1      | 1.47                           |
| Thursday  | 21     | 30.88                          |
| Friday  | 0      | 0                              |
| None  | 4      | 5.88                           |
| <u>Week of the Month for Meetings</u>                         |        |                                |
| First   | 19     | 27.94                          |
| Second  | 20     | 29.41                          |
| Third   | 20     | 29.41                          |
| Fourth  | 11     | 16.18                          |
| None  | 3      | 4.41                           |

Advisor Responses with Regard to Selected  
 Practices and Procedures

The 68 advisor responses in Table IV were divided into a group of 55 chapters (80.88 percent) enduring ten to 15 years and a group of 13 chapters (19.12 percent) enduring 16 years and over. The items were

ranked and listed according to the total number of "Yes" responses from both groups as follows:

1. Utilize local resource people for educational purposes.
2. Young farmer chapters are an asset to your total program.
3. Open regular meetings to the general public.
4. Promote young farmer education.
5. Affiliated and active at the present time.
6. Had an area officer.
7. Designate September as membership month.
8. You or other department advisors helped organize your chapter.
9. Chapter sponsors the local livestock show.
10. Helped organize new chapter.
11. Had a state officer.
12. Helped reorganize a chapter.
13. Stop meeting during the summer months.
14. Chapter had been reorganized since its original charter.

Data inspection revealed a very close agreement between responses from the ten to 15 year longevity group and the group enduring 16 years or more. The first five items ranked very closely even though the small representation from the 16 years or more group of advisors produced tied ranks in Table IV.

To Item 6, "Had an area officer," (having a total rank of six), the advisors of the ten to 15 year group reported 51 (75.00 percent) as opposed to the 16 years or more group which reported 12 (92.31 percent). The rank is almost identical with six compared to 5.5, but the percentages are quite different with 75.00 compared to 92.31 percent for a difference of 17.31 percent.

TABLE IV

RANKINGS OF SELECTED PRACTICES AND PROCEDURES EMPLOYED IN OPERATION AND  
CONDUCT OF YOUNG FARMER CHAPTERS AS INDICATED BY ADVISORS

| Practice/Procedure   | Use and Rankings by Young Farmer Chapter Groups |       |      |  |        |      |  |       |      |
|--|---|-------|------|--|--------|------|--|-------|------|
|  | Chapters<br>Continuing 10-15<br>Years or More   |       |      | Chapters<br>Continuing 16<br>Years or More |        |      | All Chapters<br>Continuing 10<br>Years or More |       |      |
|  | N   | %     | Rank | N  | %      | Rank | N  | %     | Rank |
| 1. Utilize local resource people for educational purposes        | 54  | 98.18 | 1.0  | 13   | 100.00 | 2.5  | 67   | 98.53 | 1    |
| 2. Young farmer chapter an asset to your total program           | 53  | 96.35 | 2.0  | 13   | 100.00 | 2.5  | 66   | 97.06 | 2    |
| 3. Open regular meetings to the general public                   | 52  | 94.55 | 3.5  | 13   | 100.00 | 2.5  | 65   | 95.59 | 3    |
| 4. Promote young farmer education                                | 52  | 94.55 | 4.0  | 12   | 92.31  | 5.5  | 64   | 94.12 | 4    |
| 5. Affiliated and active at the present time                     | 50  | 90.90 | 5.0  | 13   | 100.00 | 2.5  | 63   | 92.65 | 5    |
| 6. Had an area officer   | 39  | 70.91 | 6.0  | 12   | 92.31  | 5.5  | 51   | 75.00 | 6    |
| 7. Designate September as membership month                       | 37  | 67.27 | 7.0  | 5  | 30.46  | 11.5 | 42   | 61.76 | 7    |
| 8. You or other department advisor(s) help organize your chapter | 32  | 58.18 | 8.0  | 8  | 61.54  | 8.5  | 40   | 58.82 | 8    |
| 9. Chapter sponsor the local livestock show                      | 31  | 56.36 | 9.0  | 5  | 38.46  | 11.5 | 36   | 52.94 | 9    |
| 10. Helped organize new chapters                                 | 26  | 47.27 | 10.0 | 9  | 69.23  | 7.0  | 35   | 51.47 | 10   |
| 11. Had a state officer  | 18  | 32.73 | 12.0 | 8  | 61.54  | 8.5  | 26   | 38.24 | 11   |
| 12. Helped organize a chapter                                    | 16  | 29.09 | 14.0 | 6  | 46.15  | 10.0 | 22   | 32.35 | 12   |
| 13. Stop meeting during the summer months                        | 20  | 36.36 | 11.0 | 1  | 7.70   | 14.0 | 21   | 30.88 | 13   |
| 14. Chapter been re-organized since its original charter         | 17  | 30.90 | 13.0 | 3  | 23.08  | 13.0 | 20   | 29.41 | 14   |

A large percentage difference was noted concerning Item 7 (23.30 percent), "Designate September as membership month." The ten to 15 year group responded with 42 (61.76 percent) as opposed to the 16 years and over group which responded with five (38.46 percent). The ten to 15 year group ranked the item as number seven and the 16 and over group ranked the item as number 11.5. The total rank was seven.

With regard to Item 9, "Chapters sponsor the local livestock show," 31 (56.36 percent) of the ten to 15 year group ranked the item as number nine with five (38.46 percent) of the 16 years and over group responding with a rank of 11.5. A percentage difference of 17.90 and a ranked difference of five was determined.

A percentage difference of 23.30 percent in Item 11, "Had a state officer," was noted. The ten to 15 year group responded with 18 (32.73 percent) and ranked it as 12, and the 16 years and over group responded with eight (61.54 percent) and ranked it 8.5.

Item 13, "Stop meeting during the summer months," is ranked 13 totally. The nature of the question caused the low rank. The majority of continuing chapters do not stop meeting during the summer months. Since the items were ranked according to the "Yes" answers, Item 13 was assigned a low rank. The ten to 15 year group responded with 20 (36.36 percent) or over one third of the respondents not meeting during the summer months. The rank was 11 for this group. The 16 years and over group responded with one (7.70 percent) and ranked it 14 which indicates that meeting during the summer months is an important aspect of the chapters which were established for long periods of time.

Item 14, "Chapter been reorganized since its original charter," was assigned a rank of 13 by both groups. The ten to 15 year group responded

with 17 (30.90 percent) as compared to three (23.08 percent) from the 16 years and over group. A percentage difference of 7.82 percent was calculated.

Distribution of Total Advisor and Member  
Responses to Selected Practices  
and Procedures

Both young farmer members and young farmer advisors responded to Form T of the instrument. Each response was counted and categorized utilizing a seven point Likert scale. The Likert scale was given a value of "Agree Very Strongly," 7; "Agree Strongly," 6; "Agree," 5; "No Opinion," 4; "Disagree," 3; "Disagree Strongly," 2; and "Disagree Very Strongly," 1.

Table V reveals the total average mean score response for advisors and members ranked from highest to lowest and the corresponding 19 items placed in order of the total average mean score response from one to 19. The rank and average mean response for both advisors and members are shown individually opposite each item for comparative purposes. The total average mean response was calculated by determining the sum of the average mean responses for both advisors and members for each item and obtaining an average of the two scores. Analysis of the data revealed that all responses to the 19 items were "Agree" responses. An average mean score response of below four would have indicated a "Disagree." The following items were ranked and listed in order of the total average mean score responses:

1. Develop pride.
2. Hold one or more meetings involving families.

3. Establish a challenging program of work.
4. Work closely with FFA-related activities.
5. Advisors are the key to chapter success.
6. Utilize state specialists when available.
7. Sponsor one or more community service activities.
8. Serve refreshments at educational meetings.
9. Hold one educational program each month.
10. Make extensive use of resource instructors.
11. Sponsor one recreational program each year.
12. Organize own short courses if specialists are not available.
13. Advisors stay in background in advisory role.
14. Hold special program for membership night.
15. Keep administration informed of young farmer functions.
16. Conduct a local young farmer field day each year.
17. Sponsor an awards banquet each year.
18. Attend area and state field days.
19. Apply for area and state awards each year.

Tables V and VI were included to present the rank, average mean score responses, item counts, and percentages recorded for each statement applied to the Likert scale for both advisors (Table V) and members (Table VI). The items were placed in order of rank according to the average mean score response from highest to lowest for Items one through 19.

Inspection of the data presented in Table VII reveals close agreement of advisors and members to the total rank for the first four items. Item 5, "Advisors are the key to chapter success," reveals a difference in rank.

TABLE V

ADVISOR'S RANKINGS OF PRACTICES/PROCEDURES ASSOCIATED  
WITH CONTINUING YOUNG FARMER CHAPTERS

| Items   | Distribution of Responses by Category |       |                           |       |              |       |                |       |                 |       |                              |      |                                       |      |     |      | Total<br>Re-<br>sponse | Mean<br>Re-<br>sponse | Rank |
|---|---------------------------------------|-------|---------------------------|-------|--------------|-------|----------------|-------|-----------------|-------|------------------------------|------|---------------------------------------|------|-----|------|------------------------|-----------------------|------|
|   | <u>Agree Very<br/>Strongly</u>        |       | <u>Agree<br/>Strongly</u> |       | <u>Agree</u> |       | <u>Neutral</u> |       | <u>Disagree</u> |       | <u>Disagree<br/>Strongly</u> |      | <u>Disagree<br/>Very<br/>Strongly</u> |      |     |      |                        |                       |      |
|   | N                                     | %     | N                         | %     | N            | %     | N              | %     | N               | %     | N                            | %    | N                                     | %    |     |      |                        |                       |      |
| 1. Develop pride  | 32                                    | 47.05 | 24                        | 35.29 | 10           | 14.71 | 2              | 2.94  | 0               | 0.00  | 0                            | 0.00 | 0                                     | 0.00 | 426 | 6.26 | 1.0                    |                       |      |
| 2. Hold one or more meetings involving families             | 35                                    | 51.47 | 17                        | 25.00 | 14           | 20.59 | 1              | 1.47  | 1               | 1.47  | 0                            | 0.00 | 0                                     | 0.00 | 424 | 6.24 | 2.0                    |                       |      |
| 3. Establish a challenging program of work                  | 29                                    | 42.65 | 19                        | 27.94 | 15           | 22.06 | 3              | 4.41  | 2               | 2.94  | 0                            | 0.00 | 0                                     | 0.00 | 410 | 6.03 | 3.0                    |                       |      |
| 4. Serve refreshments at educational meetings               | 27                                    | 39.70 | 15                        | 22.06 | 21           | 30.88 | 4              | 5.88  | 1               | 1.47  | 0                            | 0.00 | 0                                     | 0.00 | 403 | 5.93 | 4.0                    |                       |      |
| 5. Work closely with FFA-related activities                 | 21                                    | 30.88 | 24                        | 35.29 | 19           | 27.94 | 0              | 0.00  | 4               | 5.88  | 0                            | 0.00 | 0                                     | 0.00 | 398 | 5.85 | 5.0                    |                       |      |
| 6. Utilize state specialists when available                 | 27                                    | 39.70 | 18                        | 26.47 | 14           | 20.59 | 2              | 2.94  | 7               | 10.29 | 0                            | 0.00 | 0                                     | 0.00 | 396 | 5.82 | 6.5                    |                       |      |
| 7. Advisors stay in background in advisory role             | 25                                    | 36.76 | 22                        | 32.35 | 13           | 19.12 | 2              | 2.94  | 5               | 7.35  | 0                            | 0.00 | 1                                     | 1.47 | 396 | 5.82 | 6.5                    |                       |      |
| 8. Make extensive use of resource instructors               | 26                                    | 38.24 | 14                        | 20.59 | 20           | 29.41 | 3              | 4.41  | 5               | 7.35  | 0                            | 0.00 | 0                                     | 0.00 | 393 | 5.78 | 8.0                    |                       |      |
| 9. Sponsor one recreational activity each year              | 22                                    | 32.35 | 17                        | 25.00 | 21           | 30.88 | 5              | 7.35  | 2               | 2.94  | 1                            | 1.47 | 0                                     | 0.00 | 389 | 5.72 | 9.5                    |                       |      |
| 10. Advisors are the key to chapter success                 | 27                                    | 39.70 | 14                        | 20.59 | 17           | 25.00 | 4              | 5.88  | 4               | 5.88  | 1                            | 1.47 | 1                                     | 1.47 | 389 | 5.72 | 9.5                    |                       |      |
| 11. Hold one educational program each month                 | 32                                    | 47.05 | 11                        | 16.18 | 13           | 19.12 | 0              | 0.00  | 9               | 13.24 | 1                            | 1.47 | 2                                     | 2.94 | 386 | 5.68 | 11.0                   |                       |      |
| 12. Keep administration informed of young farmer functions  | 23                                    | 33.82 | 9                         | 13.24 | 24           | 35.29 | 5              | 7.35  | 7               | 10.29 | 0                            | 0.00 | 0                                     | 0.00 | 376 | 5.53 | 12.5                   |                       |      |
| 13. Sponsor one or more community service activities        | 17                                    | 25.00 | 17                        | 25.00 | 25           | 36.76 | 3              | 4.41  | 6               | 8.82  | 0                            | 0.00 | 0                                     | 0.00 | 376 | 5.53 | 12.5                   |                       |      |
| 14. Organize own short courses if specialists not available | 25                                    | 36.76 | 22                        | 32.35 | 13           | 19.12 | 2              | 2.94  | 5               | 7.35  | 0                            | 0.00 | 1                                     | 1.47 | 396 | 5.82 | 14.0                   |                       |      |
| 15. Hold special program for membership night               | 13                                    | 19.12 | 13                        | 19.12 | 21           | 30.88 | 14             | 20.59 | 6               | 8.82  | 1                            | 1.47 | 0                                     | 0.00 | 350 | 5.15 | 15.0                   |                       |      |
| 16. Attend area and state field days                        | 11                                    | 16.18 | 11                        | 16.18 | 27           | 39.70 | 5              | 7.35  | 13              | 19.12 | 1                            | 1.47 | 0                                     | 0.00 | 339 | 4.99 | 16.5                   |                       |      |
| 17. Sponsor an awards banquet each year                     | 14                                    | 20.59 | 12                        | 17.65 | 15           | 22.06 | 13             | 19.12 | 14              | 20.59 | 0                            | 0.00 | 0                                     | 0.00 | 339 | 4.99 | 16.5                   |                       |      |
| 18. Apply for area and state awards each year               | 17                                    | 25.00 | 10                        | 14.71 | 15           | 22.06 | 10             | 14.71 | 12              | 17.65 | 3                            | 4.41 | 1                                     | 1.47 | 337 | 4.96 | 18.0                   |                       |      |
| 19. Conduct a local young farmer field day each year        | 12                                    | 17.65 | 6                         | 8.82  | 23           | 33.82 | 12             | 17.65 | 13              | 19.12 | 1                            | 1.47 | 1                                     | 1.47 | 325 | 4.78 | 19.0                   |                       |      |

TABLE VI  
MEMBER'S RANKINGS OF PRACTICES/PROCEDURES ASSOCIATED  
WITH CONTINUING YOUNG FARMER CHAPTERS

| Items  | Distribution of Responses by Category |       |                   |       |       |       |         |       |          |       |                      |      |                              |      | Total<br>Re-<br>sponse | Mean<br>Re-<br>sponse | Rank |
|--|---------------------------------------|-------|-------------------|-------|-------|-------|---------|-------|----------|-------|----------------------|------|------------------------------|------|------------------------|-----------------------|------|
|  | Agree Very<br>Strongly                |       | Agree<br>Strongly |       | Agree |       | Neutral |       | Disagree |       | Disagree<br>Strongly |      | Disagree<br>Very<br>Strongly |      |                        |                       |      |
|  | N                                     | %     | N                 | %     | N     | %     | N       | %     | N        | %     | N                    | %    | N                            | %    |                        |                       |      |
| 1. Develop pride   | 55                                    | 63.22 | 18                | 20.69 | 13    | 14.94 | 1       | 1.15  | 0        | 0.00  | 0                    | 0.00 | 0                            | 0.00 | 562                    | 6.46                  | 1    |
| 2. Hold one or more meetings involving families                | 37                                    | 42.53 | 24                | 27.58 | 19    | 21.83 | 2       | 2.30  | 4        | 4.60  | 0                    | 0.00 | 1                            | 1.15 | 519                    | 5.97                  | 2    |
| 3. Work closely with FFA-related activities                    | 27                                    | 31.03 | 25                | 28.79 | 29    | 33.33 | 6       | 6.90  | 0        | 0.00  | 0                    | 0.00 | 0                            | 0.00 | 508                    | 5.84                  | 3    |
| 4. Advisors are the key to chapter success                     | 37                                    | 42.53 | 17                | 19.54 | 20    | 22.99 | 7       | 8.05  | 4        | 4.60  | 1                    | 1.15 | 1                            | 1.15 | 504                    | 5.79                  | 4    |
| 5. Establish a challenging program of work                     | 28                                    | 32.18 | 14                | 16.09 | 39    | 44.83 | 4       | 4.60  | 1        | 1.15  | 0                    | 0.00 | 1                            | 1.15 | 495                    | 5.69                  | 5    |
| 6. Sponsor one or more community service activities            | 25                                    | 28.74 | 21                | 24.14 | 28    | 32.18 | 7       | 8.05  | 6        | 6.90  | 0                    | 0.00 | 0                            | 0.00 | 487                    | 5.60                  | 6    |
| 7. Hold one educational program each month                     | 28                                    | 32.18 | 21                | 24.14 | 16    | 18.39 | 3       | 3.45  | 18       | 20.69 | 1                    | 1.15 | 0                            | 0.00 | 470                    | 5.40                  | 7    |
| 8. Hold special program for membership night                   | 19                                    | 21.84 | 20                | 22.99 | 31    | 35.63 | 7       | 8.05  | 9        | 10.34 | 0                    | 0.00 | 1                            | 1.15 | 464                    | 5.33                  | 8    |
| 9. Organize own short courses if specialists are not available | 11                                    | 12.64 | 26                | 29.89 | 36    | 41.38 | 8       | 9.20  | 6        | 6.90  | 0                    | 0.00 | 0                            | 0.00 | 463                    | 5.32                  | 9    |
| 10. Utilize state specialists when available                   | 15                                    | 17.24 | 25                | 28.74 | 29    | 33.33 | 10      | 11.49 | 6        | 6.90  | 2                    | 2.30 | 0                            | 0.00 | 462                    | 5.31                  | 10   |
| 11. Sponsor one recreational program each year                 | 23                                    | 26.44 | 13                | 14.94 | 29    | 33.33 | 11      | 12.64 | 10       | 11.49 | 0                    | 0.00 | 1                            | 1.15 | 459                    | 5.28                  | 11   |
| 12. Make extensive use of resource instructors                 | 13                                    | 14.94 | 20                | 22.99 | 32    | 36.78 | 16      | 18.39 | 5        | 5.75  | 1                    | 1.15 | 0                            | 0.00 | 452                    | 5.19                  | 12   |
| 13. Conduct a local young farmer field day each year           | 15                                    | 17.24 | 21                | 24.14 | 26    | 29.89 | 11      | 12.64 | 14       | 16.09 | 0                    | 0.00 | 0                            | 0.00 | 447                    | 5.14                  | 13   |
| 14. Serve refreshments at each educational meeting             | 16                                    | 18.39 | 12                | 13.79 | 37    | 44.83 | 13      | 14.94 | 6        | 6.90  | 0                    | 0.00 | 1                            | 1.15 | 440                    | 5.05                  | 14   |
| 15. Apply for area and state awards each year                  | 19                                    | 21.84 | 8                 | 9.20  | 32    | 36.78 | 12      | 13.79 | 15       | 17.24 | 1                    | 1.15 | 0                            | 0.00 | 436                    | 5.01                  | 15   |
| 16. Keep administration informed of young farmer functions     | 9                                     | 10.34 | 17                | 19.54 | 32    | 36.78 | 17      | 19.54 | 11       | 12.64 | 0                    | 0.00 | 1                            | 1.15 | 427                    | 4.90                  | 16   |
| 17. Sponsor an awards banquet each year                        | 19                                    | 21.84 | 11                | 12.64 | 24    | 27.59 | 15      | 17.24 | 13       | 14.94 | 3                    | 3.45 | 2                            | 2.30 | 426                    | 4.89                  | 17   |
| 18. Attend area and state field days                           | 10                                    | 11.49 | 8                 | 9.20  | 41    | 47.13 | 18      | 20.69 | 10       | 11.49 | 0                    | 0.00 | 0                            | 0.00 | 425                    | 4.88                  | 18   |
| 19. Advisors stay in background in advisory role               | 16                                    | 18.39 | 13                | 14.94 | 34    | 39.08 | 5       | 5.75  | 10       | 11.49 | 2                    | 2.30 | 7                            | 8.05 | 421                    | 4.83                  | 19   |

Advisors ranked Item 5 at 9.5 (5.72 average mean response) as compared to the member rank of four (5.79 average mean response) for a difference of 5.5 in rank and 0.07 difference in average mean response. Advisors did not indicate agreement to the statement as strongly as did the members.

Item 6, "Utilize state specialists when available," received an advisor rank of 6.5 (5.82 average mean response) and a member rank of ten (5.31 average mean response) for a rank difference of 3.5 and an average mean score response difference of 0.51. Advisors agreed more strongly than the members to Item 6.

Item 7, "Sponsor one or more community service activities," was ranked 12.5 (5.53 average mean response) by advisors and ranked six (5.60 average mean response) by members. A difference of 6.5 in rank was revealed and 0.06 in average mean response was determined. A higher member rank was recorded.

Item 8, "Serve refreshments at educational meetings," received a large difference in rank with advisors ranking the item fourth (5.93 average mean response) and members ranking the item 13th (5.17 average mean response). A rank difference of nine and an average mean response difference of 0.76 was calculated. Advisors ranked Item 8 higher than did members.

Item 9, "Hold one educational program each month," received an advisor rank of 11 (5.68 average mean response) and a member rank of seven (5.40 average mean response) for a difference in rank of four and 0.28 average mean response. Members placed more importance on Item 9 than did advisors.

TABLE VII

ADVISOR AND MEMBER RANKINGS OF PRACTICES/PROCEDURES ASSOCIATED  
WITH CONTINUING YOUNG FARMER CHAPTERS

| Practices/Procedures  | <u>Teachers</u>       |      | <u>Members</u>        |      | <u>Total</u>          |      |
|---|-----------------------|------|-----------------------|------|-----------------------|------|
|   | Mean<br>Re-<br>sponse | Rank | Mean<br>Re-<br>sponse | Rank | Mean<br>Re-<br>sponse | Rank |
| 1. Develop pride  | 6.26                  | 1.0  | 6.46                  | 1    | 6.36                  | 1.0  |
| 2. Hold one or more meetings involving families                 | 6.24                  | 2.0  | 5.97                  | 2    | 6.11                  | 2.0  |
| 3. Establish a challenging program of work                      | 6.03                  | 3.0  | 5.59                  | 5    | 5.86                  | 3.0  |
| 4. Work closely with FFA-related activities                     | 5.85                  | 5.0  | 5.84                  | 3    | 5.85                  | 4.0  |
| 5. Advisors are the key to chapter success                      | 5.72                  | 9.5  | 5.79                  | 4    | 5.76                  | 5.0  |
| 6. Utilize state specialists when available                     | 5.82                  | 6.5  | 5.31                  | 10   | 5.57                  | 6.5  |
| 7. Sponsor one or more community service activities             | 5.53                  | 12.5 | 5.60                  | 6    | 5.57                  | 6.5  |
| 8. Serve refreshments at educational meetings                   | 5.93                  | 4.0  | 5.17                  | 13   | 5.55                  | 8.0  |
| 9. Hold one educational program each month                      | 5.68                  | 11.0 | 5.40                  | 7    | 5.54                  | 9.0  |
| 10. Make extensive use of resource instructors                  | 5.78                  | 8.0  | 5.25                  | 12   | 5.52                  | 10.0 |
| 11. Sponsor one recreational program each year                  | 5.72                  | 9.5  | 5.28                  | 11   | 5.50                  | 11.0 |
| 12. Organize own short courses if specialists are not available | 5.43                  | 14.0 | 5.39                  | 8    | 5.41                  | 12.0 |
| 13. Advisors stay in background in advisory role                | 5.82                  | 6.5  | 4.84                  | 19   | 5.33                  | 13.0 |
| 14. Hold special program from membership night                  | 5.15                  | 15.0 | 5.33                  | 9    | 5.24                  | 14.0 |
| 15. Keep administration informed of young farmer functions      | 5.53                  | 12.5 | 4.91                  | 16   | 5.22                  | 15.0 |
| 16. Conduct a local young farmer field day each year            | 4.79                  | 18.0 | 5.14                  | 14   | 4.97                  | 16.0 |
| 17. Sponsor an awards banquet each year                         | 4.99                  | 16.5 | 4.90                  | 17   | 4.95                  | 17.0 |
| 18. Attend area and state field days                            | 4.99                  | 16.5 | 4.86                  | 18   | 4.93                  | 18.0 |
| 19. Apply for area and state awards each year                   | 4.96                  | 19.0 | 5.01                  | 15   | 4.89                  | 19.0 |

Item 10, "Make extensive use of resource instructors," was ranked eight (5.78 average mean response) by advisors and 12 (5.52 average mean response) by members. A rank difference of four and an average mean response difference of 53 was calculated. More importance was assigned to Item 10 by advisors than by members.

Item 11, "Sponsor one recreational program each year," was ranked 9.5 (5.72 average mean response) by advisors and 11 (5.28 average mean response) by members. Only 1.5 difference in rank was determined, but the average mean response difference was 0.44. A very similar response was received for Item 11 for advisors and members.

Item 12, "Organize own short courses if specialists are not available," was ranked 14 (5.43 average mean response) by advisors and eight (5.32 average mean response) by members. The difference in rank was six with a small average mean response difference of 0.04. Advisors ranked the state short courses much higher than organization of local short courses, 6.5 for state specialist short courses as compared to 14 for the local short course. Members ranked Item 12 much higher than did advisors.

Inspection of the data revealed a rather large difference in rank, 12.5 and also average mean response, 0.98 concerning Item 13. Advisors ranked Item 13, "Advisors stay in the background in an advisory role," 6.5 (5.82 average mean response) and members 19 (4.84 average mean response). Advisors agreed to the statement much more strongly than members.

Item 14, "Hold special program for membership night," was ranked 15 (5.15 average mean response) by advisors and nine (5.33 average mean response) by members. A rank difference of six and an average mean response

difference of 0.18 was calculated. Members ranked Item 14 higher than did advisors.

Item 15, "Keep administration informed of young farmer functions," was ranked 12.5 (5.53 average mean response) by advisors and 16 (4.91 average mean response) by members. The rank difference was 3.5 with an average mean response difference of 0.62 for Item 15. Here, advisors scored the item higher than members.

Item 16, "Conduct a local young farmer field day each year," was ranked 18 (4.79 average mean response) by advisors and 14 (5.14 average mean response) by members. A difference in rank of four was calculated and a difference of 0.35 for average mean response. The members ranked Item 16 higher than did advisors.

Item 17, "Sponsor an awards banquet each year," received a very similar response from advisors and members. Only 0.5 difference in rank and 0.09 difference in average mean response was calculated. The advisor rank was 16.5 (4.99 average mean response) and the member rank was 17 (4.90 average mean response).

Item 18, "Attend area and state awards each year," was ranked 19 (4.96 average mean response) by advisors and 15 (5.01 average mean response) by members. The difference in rank was four and the average mean response difference was 0.05. Data indicates members placed more importance on awards than did advisors.

#### Non-Directed Responses From

#### Advisors and Members

It was deemed necessary to the study by the investigator to obtain non-directed responses from young farmer members and advisors. The

investigator felt, with regard to freedom of response, that respondents would include pertinent information necessary for determining salient characteristics of enduring chapters.

Three statements were included to obtain the non-directed responses. They were the following:

1. Please give your honest opinion as to why your young farmer chapter has continued operation for ten years or more.
2. Please share specific things your members have done to contribute to the success of your chapter.
3. If you have suggestions for improving the Texas Young Farmer's Association, please include such suggestions.

Results of Statement 1 are included in Table VIII, Statement 2 in Table IX, and Statement 3 in Table X. The number of respondents answering these questions varied. Almost half of the advisors (49.51 percent) responded to at least one of the statements. Statement 3 received less response from both advisors and members.

The investigator did not ask for ranks or priorities, but the responses were ranked by counting repeat responses from the items reported.

The items for each table are ranked according to the total number of repeat responses from highest to lowest for both advisor and member responses. The individual advisor and member response to each item is shown opposite the total rank and total number for each item for comparative purposes.

Table VIII is a compilation of data concerning Statement 1 (Please give your honest opinion as to why your young farmer chapter has continued ten years or longer). The following items are shown ranked from one to 22 by total response from both advisors and members:

1. Interesting educational programs.
2. Hard working advisors.
3. Interested members.
4. Family socials.
5. Work closely with FFA.
6. Strong officers.
7. Community service activities.
8. State specialist's program.
9. Pride in the young farmer program.
10. Meal with educational program.
11. Keep chapter members informed.
12. Many prospective members.
13. Involve as many members as possible.
14. Utilize available resource personnel.
15. Apply for area and state awards.
16. Special cookout with membership drives.
17. Local awards banquet.
18. No age limit.
19. Local farm tours.
20. Refreshments at each meeting.
21. Apply for area and state offices.
22. Develop a good program of work.

Inspection of the data reveals that advisors and members agree to the total rank very closely for the first nine items. Item 1, "Interesting educational programs," was ranked one (31 advisors) by advisors and members two (20 members) by members. Item 2, "Hard working advisors," was ranked one by members (34 members) and two by advisors (17

TABLE VIII

RANKING OF NON-DIRECTED RESPONSES FROM ADVISORS AND MEMBERS AS TO WHY YOUNG  
FARMER CHAPTERS CONTINUE OPERATIVE 10 YEARS OR MORE

| Response                                   | <u>Teacher Responses</u> |      | <u>Member Responses</u> |      | <u>Total Response</u> |      |
|--|--------------------------|------|-------------------------|------|-----------------------|------|
|  | N                        | Rank | N                       | Rank | N                     | Rank |
| 1. Interesting educational programs        | 31                       | 1    | 20                      | 2.0  | 51                    | 1.5  |
| 2. Hard working advisors                   | 17                       | 2    | 34                      | 1.0  | 51                    | 1.5  |
| 3. Interested members                      | 12                       | 3    | 22                      | 3.0  | 34                    | 3.0  |
| 4. Family socials                          | 10                       | 4    | 12                      | 4.0  | 22                    | 4.0  |
| 5. Work closely with FFA                   | 9                        | 5    | 11                      | 5.0  | 20                    | 5.0  |
| 6. Strong officers                         | 8                        | 6    | 9                       | 6.0  | 17                    | 6.0  |
| 7. Community service activities            | 7                        | 7    | 5                       | 8.5  | 12                    | 7.0  |
| 8. State specialists program               | 5                        | 10   | 6                       | 7.0  | 11                    | 8.0  |
| 9. Pride in the young farmer program       | 5                        | 10   | 5                       | 8.5  | 10                    | 9.0  |
| 10. Meal with educational program          | 3                        | 15   | 4                       | 10.0 | 7                     | 10.0 |
| 11. Keep chapter members informed          | 5                        | 10   | 1                       | 14.5 | 6                     | 11.0 |
| 12. Many prospective members               | 5                        | 10   | 0                       | 0.0  | 5                     | 13.0 |
| 13. Involve as many members as possible    | 5                        | 10   | 0                       | 0.0  | 5                     | 13.0 |
| 14. Utilize available resource personnel   | 5                        | 10   | 0                       | 0.0  | 5                     | 13.0 |
| 15. Apply for area and state awards        | 3                        | 15   | 1                       | 14.5 | 4                     | 15.0 |
| 16. Special cookout with membership drives | 3                        | 15   | 0                       | 0.0  | 3                     | 16.5 |
| 17. Local awards banquet                   | 2                        | 18   | 1                       | 14.5 | 3                     | 16.5 |
| 18. No age limit on local members          | 2                        | 18   | 0                       | 0.0  | 2                     | 20.5 |
| 19. Local farm tours                       | 2                        | 18   | 0                       | 0.0  | 2                     | 20.5 |
| 20. Refreshments at each meeting           | 0                        | 0    | 2                       | 11.5 | 2                     | 20.5 |
| 21. Apply for area and state offices       | 0                        | 0    | 2                       | 11.5 | 2                     | 20.5 |
| 22. Develop a good program of work         | 0                        | 0    | 1                       | 14.5 | 1                     | 22.0 |

advisors). The total for the first two items revealed a tied rank of 1.5 for both items indicating agreement to Items 1 and 2.

Item 3, "Interested members"; Item 4, "Family socials"; Item 5, "Work closely with the FFA"; Item 6, "Strong officers" received identical ranks for advisors and concurred exactly with the total rank. The number responding to each item was slightly different because of the difference in numbers of advisors and members responding.

Item 7, "Community service activities," ranked seven (12 members and advisors) totally with advisors responding with a rank of seven (seven advisors) and members responding with a rank of 8.5 (five members). A difference of only 1.5 in rank resulted with advisors ranking Item 7 more strongly than members.

Item 8, "State specialist program," was the first item ranked that did not apply strictly to the local program. Although this program exists on a request and rotational basis, a total rank of eight was assigned from responses of advisors and members. Individually, advisors ranked the item ten (five advisors) and members seven (six members). Item 8 was assigned a higher rank by members, three higher than advisors.

Many tied ranks resulted in Items 9 through 22 with no more than five advisors or members repeating the items. All the responses were included and ranked regardless of the number of repeat responses. Items ranked as important by advisors were, in some cases (Items 12, 13, 14, 16, 18, and 19) not included by members. Advisors did not include Items 20, 21, and 22 listed by members.

Table IX is the result of data tabulation from Statement 2 (Please share specific things your members have done to contribute to the success of your chapter). The following items are shown ranked from one to 22

from the highest total number of repeat responses to the lowest for advisors and members:

1. Members plan and perform community service activities.
2. Members secure educational programs.
3. Members work closely with FFA.
4. Members secure area and state offices.
5. Members sponsor workshops and short courses.
6. Members sponsor membership night with cookout.
7. Members plan and complete recreational and social activities.
8. Members sponsor local farm tours and field days.
9. Members serve meal at educational meetings.
10. Members attend state convention.
11. Members apply for area and state awards.
12. Members keep media informed of activities.
13. Members keep other members and prospects informed.
14. Members plan regular meetings nights and attend.
15. Members sponsor local awards banquet.
16. Members develop challenging program of work.
17. Members serve refreshments at each meeting.
18. Members become involved in committee work.
19. Members form close-knit community and work well together.
20. Members develop pride in their young farmer chapter.
21. Members are willing to work.
22. Members open meetings to the public.

Data inspection reveals that advisors and members agree on the first three items listed. The rank assigned to advisor responses agrees exactly with the total rank and the members indicate the same except for

TABLE IX  
RANKING OF NON-DIRECTED RESPONSES FROM ADVISORS AND  
MEMBERS AS TO CONTRIBUTIONS OF MEMBERS

| Contributions   | Teacher Responses |      | Member Responses |      | Total Response |      |
|---|-------------------|------|------------------|------|----------------|------|
|   | N                 | Rank | N                | Rank | N              | Rank |
| 1. Members plan and perform community service activities        | 28                | 1.0  | 24               | 1.0  | 52             | 1.0  |
| 2. Members secure educational programs                          | 27                | 2.0  | 17               | 2.5  | 44             | 2.0  |
| 3. Members work closely with FFA                                | 26                | 3.0  | 17               | 2.5  | 43             | 3.0  |
| 4. Members secure area and state offices                        | 18                | 4.0  | 0                | 0.0  | 18             | 4.0  |
| 5. Members sponsor workshops and short courses                  | 8                 | 6.5  | 9                | 4.0  | 17             | 5.0  |
| 6. Members sponsor membership night with cookout                | 13                | 5.0  | 1                | 14.5 | 14             | 6.0  |
| 7. Members plan and complete recreational and social activities | 3                 | 17.5 | 8                | 5.0  | 11             | 7.0  |
| 8. Members sponsor local farm tours and field days              | 7                 | 8.0  | 3                | 7.5  | 10             | 8.0  |
| 9. Members serve meal at educational meetings                   | 8                 | 6.5  | 1                | 14.5 | 9              | 9.0  |
| 10. Members attend state convention                             | 6                 | 10.5 | 2                | 10.5 | 8              | 10.0 |
| 11. Members apply for area and state awards                     | 6                 | 10.5 | 1                | 14.5 | 7              | 11.5 |
| 12. Members keep media informed of activities                   | 6                 | 10.5 | 1                | 14.5 | 7              | 11.5 |
| 13. Members keep other members and prospects informed           | 6                 | 10.5 | 0                | 0.0  | 6              | 13.5 |
| 14. Members plan regular meeting nights and attend              | 3                 | 17.5 | 3                | 7.5  | 6              | 13.5 |
| 15. Members sponsor local awards banquet                        | 4                 | 14.5 | 1                | 14.5 | 5              | 15.0 |
| 16. Members develop challenging program of work                 | 4                 | 14.5 | 0                | 0.0  | 4              | 17.0 |
| 17. Members serve refreshments at each meeting                  | 4                 | 14.5 | 0                | 0.0  | 4              | 17.0 |
| 18. Members become involved in committee work                   | 4                 | 14.5 | 0                | 0.0  | 4              | 17.0 |
| 19. Members form close-knit community and work well together    | 0                 | 0.0  | 3                | 7.5  | 3              | 19.5 |
| 20. Members develop pride in their young farmer chapter         | 0                 | 0.0  | 3                | 7.5  | 3              | 19.5 |
| 21. Members are willing to work                                 | 0                 | 0.0  | 2                | 10.5 | 2              | 21.0 |
| 22. Members open meetings to the public                         | 0                 | 0.0  | 1                | 14.5 | 1              | 22.0 |

tied ranks on Items 2 and 3. Advisors and members agree that first three items listed are the most important contributions made by the members.

Item 4, "Members secure area and state offices," was ranked four (18 advisors) by advisors but not mentioned or ranked by members. The 18 advisors reporting was enough to assign a total rank of four to Item 4.

Item 5, "Members sponsor workshops and short courses," was ranked 6.5 (eight advisors) by advisors and four (nine members) by members. The members reported this item more frequently and ranked the item 2.5 higher than advisors for a total rank of five.

Item 6, "Members sponsor membership night with cookout," received a total rank of six, an advisor rank of five (13 advisors), and a member rank of 14.5 (one member). The advisor rank was 9.5 higher than members.

Item 7, "Members plan and complete social activities," received a total rank of seven, an advisor rank of 17.5 (three advisors), and a member rank of five (eight members). A difference in rank of 12.5 was calculated with members responding more strongly than advisors to Item 7.

Items 8 through 22 resulted in many tied ranks with no more than seven advisors or members repeating the items. All the responses were included and ranked regardless of repeat responses. Items listed as important by advisors were not always included by members (Items 4, 13, 16, 17, and 18). Advisors did not include Items 19, 20, 21, and 22.

Table X is the result of tabulation of data concerning Statement 3 (If you have suggestions for improving the Texas Young Farmer Association, please include such suggestions). The following items are included and were ranked from one to 26 from the highest total number of repeat responses to the items to the lowest for advisors and members:

1. Extra pay or travel (\$250 to \$500/yr.) for young farmer advisors.

2. Raise age limit to 40 or 45 or drop completely.
3. Part-time or full-time young farmer advisors.
4. More emphasis or push from the state staff.
5. More state specialists.
6. Mail all vocational agriculture teachers the Young Farmer

Magazine.

7. Provide state resource personnel lists.
  8. Form smaller groups than the area level for awards.
  9. More young farmer emphasis in all teacher trainer institutes.
  10. More emphasis on chapter awards than individual awards.
  11. Stronger state leadership.
  12. Awards for the average chapter.
  13. Change the name on the state level.
  14. More publicity.
  15. State staff and teacher trainers need first-hand experiences.
  16. State convention in summer or fall.
  17. Closer cooperation between state association and local chapters.
  18. More area activities.
  19. Awards should be selected by agriculture teachers not celebrities.
- ties.
20. Highway signs for communities.
  21. Monthly publication of young farmer magazine.
  22. Proper recognition for hard-working young farmer advisors.
  23. Less award emphasis.
  24. More closely related to FFA activities.
  25. Allow only young farmers to be members.
  26. Require advisors to have young farmer chapters before rehiring.

TABLE X

RANKING OF NON-DIRECTED RESPONSES FROM ADVISORS AND MEMBERS AS TO SUGGESTIONS  
FOR IMPROVEMENT OF THE TEXAS YOUNG FARMERS ASSOCIATION

| Suggestion   | Number<br>Teacher<br>Responses | Rank | Number<br>Member<br>Responses | Rank | Total<br>Response | Overall<br>Rank |
|--|--------------------------------|------|-------------------------------|------|-------------------|-----------------|
| 1. Extra pay or travel (\$250-\$500/yr.) for young farmer advisors     | 8                              | 1.0  | 1                             | 9.0  | 9                 | 1.5             |
| 2. Raise age limit to 40 or 45 or drop it completely                   | 7                              | 2.0  | 2                             | 1.5  | 9                 | 1.5             |
| 3. Part time or full time young farmer advisors                        | 6                              | 3.0  | 0                             | 0.0  | 6                 | 3.5             |
| 4. More emphasis or push from the state staff                          | 5                              | 4.0  | 1                             | 9.0  | 6                 | 3.5             |
| 5. More state specialists  | 3                              | 6.0  | 1                             | 9.0  | 4                 | 5.0             |
| 6. Mail all vocational agriculture teachers the young farmer magazine  | 3                              | 6.0  | 0                             | 0.0  | 3                 | 7.0             |
| 7. Provide state resource personnel lists                              | 3                              | 6.0  | 0                             | 0.0  | 3                 | 7.0             |
| 8. Form smaller groups than the area level for awards                  | 2                              | 9.5  | 1                             | 9.0  | 3                 | 7.0             |
| 9. More young farmer emphasis in all teacher trainer institutes        | 2                              | 9.5  | 0                             | 0.0  | 2                 | 11.5            |
| 10. More emphasis on chapter awards than individual awards             | 2                              | 9.5  | 0                             | 0.0  | 2                 | 11.5            |
| 11. Stronger state leadership  | 2                              | 9.5  | 0                             | 0.0  | 2                 | 11.5            |
| 12. Awards for the average chapter                                     | 1                              | 16.0 | 1                             | 9.0  | 2                 | 11.5            |
| 13. Change the name on the state level                                 | 1                              | 16.0 | 1                             | 9.0  | 2                 | 11.5            |
| 14. More publicity   | 0                              | 0.0  | 2                             | 1.5  | 2                 | 11.5            |
| 15. State staff and teacher trainers need first-hand experience        | 1                              | 16.0 | 0                             | 0.0  | 1                 | 19.5            |
| 16. State convention in summer or fall                                 | 1                              | 16.0 | 0                             | 0.0  | 1                 | 19.5            |
| 17. Closer cooperation between state association and local chapters    | 1                              | 16.0 | 0                             | 0.0  | 1                 | 19.5            |
| 18. More area activities   | 1                              | 16.0 | 0                             | 0.0  | 1                 | 19.5            |
| 19. Awards should be selected by agriculture teachers, not celebrities | 1                              | 16.0 | 0                             | 0.0  | 1                 | 19.5            |
| 20. Highway signs for communities                                      | 1                              | 16.0 | 0                             | 0.0  | 1                 | 19.5            |
| 21. Monthly publication of young farmer magazine                       | 0                              | 0.0  | 1                             | 9.0  | 1                 | 19.5            |
| 22. Proper recognition for hard working young farmer advisors          | 0                              | 0.0  | 1                             | 9.0  | 1                 | 19.5            |
| 23. Fewer awards emphasis  | 1                              | 16.0 | 0                             | 0.0  | 1                 | 19.5            |
| 24. More closely related to FFA activities                             | 0                              | 0.0  | 1                             | 9.0  | 1                 | 19.5            |
| 25. Allow only young farmers to be members                             | 0                              | 0.0  | 1                             | 9.0  | 1                 | 19.5            |
| 26. Require advisors to have young farmer chapter before rehiring      | 0                              | 0.0  | 1                             | 9.0  | 1                 | 19.5            |

Inspection of the data reveals many tied ranks and few responses, especially from members, concerning suggestions for improvement of the Texas Young Farmer Association. No more than two repeat responses were received for any of the 26 items listed from members. Repeat listings of items by advisors and members indicate that extra pay or travel ranked one (eight advisors) from advisors and nine (one member) by members. Item 3, "Part-time or full-time young farmer advisors," ranked three (six advisors) by advisors and was not mentioned by members. Item 4, "More emphasis or push from the state staff," ranked four (five advisors) by advisors and nine (one member) by members.

Items 5 through 22 resulted in many tied ranks with no more than three advisors or members repeating the items listed; however, all items were listed and ranked regardless of repeat responses. Items listed as important by advisors were not always included by members (Items 3, 6, 7, 9, 10, 11, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, and 21, Table X). The same was true as Items 14, 21, 22, 24, 25, and 26, Table X, were included by members but were not included by advisors.

## CHAPTER V

### SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS, AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The purpose of this chapter is to present a synopsis of the problem, the design and conduct of the investigation, and the major findings. Conclusions and recommendations presented are based upon analysis, summarization of data compiled, and observations and impressions resulting from the design and conduct of the study.

#### Summary of the Study

##### Purpose of the Study

The primary purpose of this study was to determine salient characteristics of successful Texas Young Farmer Chapters with ten or more years of continuing activity.

##### Specific Objectives of the Study

The following specific objectives were formulated to accomplish the major purpose of the study:

1. To determine selected characteristics common to enduring young farmer programs as identified by advisors.
2. To determine selected characteristics common to enduring young farmer chapter advisors acknowledged by advisors.
3. To determine selected practices common to enduring young farmer programs as identified by advisors.

4. To determine selected practices and procedures common to enduring young farmer chapters as identified by young farmer members and advisors.

5. To identify and classify certain non-directed responses from young farmer members and advisors common to enduring young farmer chapters.

6. To determine the possible association of selected demographic data to selected characteristics common to enduring young farmer chapters as identified by young farmer members and advisors.

#### Rationale for the Study

With the organizational structure of the Young Farmer Association of Texas, it would seem there would be a continual expansion of young farmer chapters and members to take advantage of the post-secondary adult education opportunities. This was true of the Texas Association's organization from 1954 until 1966 when a sharp decline of organized chapters began and continued through the fiscal year 1970-71. At that point chapter numbers stabilized through the fiscal year 1973-74. Through this period of time, some young farmer chapters began and continued with a strong, lasting organization with many chapters operating, some very strongly, for one to five years and then completely disbanding. Attempts at reorganization have succeeded in some instances, but chapter numbers are not increasing at the present time.

While many chapters were having difficulties, others were continuing. Of the 143 active chapters in 1973-74, 44 (53.84 percent) of the total had been chartered ten years or more.

A need was established to determine salient characteristics of the

77 enduring chapters which made them strong, active, and continuous. Going directly to the source was the indicated recourse. Determinations made, as a result of the investigation, offer possibilities of increasing the number of young farmer chapters in Texas and other states.

#### Design and Conduct of the Study

Following a review of research and literature related to the problem, the major tasks involved in the design and conduct of the study were (1) determining the population of the study, (2) developing the instrument for data collection, (3) collecting data, and (4) analyzing the findings.

The study population was 77 young farmer chapters in Texas with longevity of ten years or more. Each chapter was represented by one advisor and three young farmer members for a total of 77 advisors and 231 young farmer members.

The response for this study was 68 of the 77 young farmer advisors, which represents 88.31 percent. The young farmer members returned 87 of the 231 questionnaires or 37.66 percent. Three mailings were necessary to acquire the responses from advisors and two mailings were used to acquire member responses.

#### Findings of the Study

This study was concerned with determining salient characteristics associated with longevity of young farmer chapters continuing ten years or more in Texas. Six specific objectives were set forth as guidelines for the investigation. Specifics Objectives 1, 2, 3, and 6 were answered by young farmer advisors pertaining to certain characteristics of enduring chapters.

Selected Characteristics Common to Enduring  
Young Farmer Chapters

There were 143 active young farmer chapters during the fiscal year 1973-74. Of those, 77 chapters (53.89 percent) had endured ten years or longer. Almost a third of the chapters, 38 (26.57 percent), had existed five years or less. The 77 chapters existing ten years or more were the basis for the study.

Of the 68 chapters reporting, 39 (57.35 percent), were from high school districts with 300 or more students enrolled in high school. The mean enrollment for all high schools was 485.97 students. A vocational agriculture enrollment of over 50 students was reported from 50 chapters (73.53 percent) with a mean enrollment of 85.90 students. Where chapters with longevity existed, it was determined that 41 departments (60.29 percent) had two or more teachers in their vocational agriculture department.

The young farmer chapters enduring ten years or more, 28 (41.18 percent), had from 16 to 30 members with 1,139 (59.92 percent) of the young farmers represented by the 68 respondents falling into the 25 to 35 years of age category.

The investigation revealed that the 68 enduring chapters had 446 college graduates among their membership for an average of 6.6 members per chapter.

Distance from a city with a population of 30,000 or more was considered important to the study because of availability of resource personnel for presenting educational programs. The average distance from a city of that size was 48 miles with a range of zero to 117 miles.

Selected Characteristics Common  
to Young Farmer Advisors

Since many vocational agriculture departments are multi-teacher departments, the 68 responding advisors represented 133 young farmer advisors. Information concerning each advisor was sought by the investigator. The largest age group was from 21 to 30 years of age, 58 advisors (43.61 percent). It was discovered that 40 advisors (30.07 percent) were 46 years old or older and 35 (26.32 percent) advisors were 31 to 45 years of age.

Only 11 (8.27 percent) had been young farmer advisors 16 years or more, 59 (44.36 percent) had been young farmer advisors for six to 15 years, and 63 (47.37 percent) had one to five years of experience as young farmer advisors. About one half, 66 advisors (49.62 percent), had one to five years of experience at their present schools as compared to 32 advisors (49.62 percent) with 16 years or more experience at their present schools, and 35 advisors (26.33 percent) having six to 15 years of experience at their present schools.

Including the young advisors in the one to five years category, 77 advisors (57.87 percent) held the Master's Degree.

Organizational Characteristics and Practices

Common to Young Farmer Programs

It was determined that enduring chapters held an average of 11 educational meetings each fiscal year with a range of three to 24. Newspapers, telephones, and post cards were the most common methods of informing members of young farmer functions. Monday, Tuesday, and

Thursday nights were the most common meeting nights. The specific week or weeks of the month enduring chapters met were during the first, second, or third weeks of the month.

#### Advisor Responses with Regard to Selected Practices and Procedures

Fourteen questions, to be answered "Yes" or "No" by advisors, were asked concerning selected practices and procedures of young farmer chapters. The responses were ranked utilizing the total number of "Yes" responses. Of the 68 advisors responding, 67 indicated that local resource personnel were utilized. Sixty-six advisors supported the statement that young farmer chapters are an asset to the total vocational agriculture program. Sixty-five advisors stated that their chapters opened meetings to the general public; 64 indicated that their area supervisor promoted young farmer education, and 63 advisors' chapters were affiliated and active during 1973-74. A total of 51 advisors had, at some time during their tenure, been represented by an area officer; 42 designated September as membership month, and 40 advisors, or one of the advisors on the staff, had helped organize their chapter.

Of the 68 respondents, 36 indicated that their chapter sponsored the local livestock show, 35 had assisted in organization of new chapters, and 26 indicated that a member of their chapter had been a state officer at some time during the chapter's history. Twenty-two advisors had helped reorganize a young farmer chapter while only 13 advisors stated that their chapter stopped meeting during the summer months. Of importance was that 20 advisors stated that their chapters had been reorganized since their original charter.

Comparison of Advisor and Member Responses  
to Selected Practices and Procedures

There was close agreement among advisors and members concerning selected practices and procedures presented in the Likert scale (Form T of the questionnaire). All responses to the selected items were agreed upon by advisors and members. A total average mean score response was calculated utilizing advisor and member responses for each item, and the items were placed one through 19 from the highest mean score response to the lowest. Item numbers and total ranks were assigned the same number except for tied rank scores for Items 6 and 7.

"Develop pride" (Item 1), "Hold one or more meetings involving families" (Item 2), "Establish a challenging program of work" (Item 3), and "Work closely with FFA-related activities" (Item 4) were assigned total ranks of one, two, three, and four according to the average mean score responses reported by advisors and members. There was close agreement by both groups concerning these four items.

Items 5 through 16 were not as closely ranked by advisors and members as the first four items. Item 5, "Advisors are the key to chapter success," was ranked 9.5 by advisors and four by members. Item 6, "Always utilize state specialists when available," was ranked 6.5 by advisors and ten by members. Item 7, "Sponsor one or more community service activities," was ranked 12.5 by advisors and six by members.

Item 8, "Serve refreshments at educational meetings," was ranked four by advisors and 13 by members. Item 9, "Hold one educational program each month," was ranked 11 by advisors and seven by members. Item 10, "Make extensive use of resource instructors," was ranked eight by

advisors and 12 by members. Item 10 "Sponsor one recreational program each year," was ranked 9.5 by advisors and 11 by members.

Item 11, "Sponsor one recreational program each year," was ranked 9.5 by advisors and 11 by members. Item 12, "Organize your own short course if specialists are not available," ranked 14 with advisors and eight with members. Item 13, "Advisors stay in the background in an advisory role," was ranked 6.5 by advisors and 19 by members. Item 14, "Hold special program for membership night," was ranked 15 by advisors and nine by members. Item 15, "Keep administration informed of young farmer functions," was ranked 12.5 by advisors and 16 by members. Item 16, "Conduct a local young farmer field day each year," was ranked 18 by advisors and 14 by members.

Item 17, "Sponsor an awards banquet each year," was ranked 16.5 by advisors and 17 by members for a very close rank by both groups. Item 18, "Attend area and state field days," was ranked 16.5 by advisors and 18 by members; again very close agreement between advisors and members to the statement. Item 19, "Apply for area and state awards each year," was ranked 19 by advisors (last) and 15 by members.

#### Non-Directed Responses from Advisors and Members

The following is a summary of the responses to Statement 1 (Please give your honest opinion as to why your young farmer chapter has continued operation for ten years or more).

Item 1, "Interesting educational programs," received a total rank of 1.5. From the repeat responses, an advisor rank of one and a member rank of two was assigned. Item 2, "Hard working advisors," also received

a total of 1.5 with advisor responses ranked two and member responses ranked one.

Item 3, "Interested members"; Item 4, "Family socials"; Item 5, "Work closely with the FFA"; and Item 6, "Strong officers" were assigned identical total advisor and member ranks from responses received.

Item 7 (total rank of seven), "Community service activities," ranked seven by advisors and 8.5 by members. Item 8, "State specialists," ranked eight totally. Advisor responses were assigned a rank of ten as opposed to a rank of seven for members.

Total ranks to certain items reported were unexpected. "Pride in the young farmer chapter" ranked nine totally; "Keep chapter members informed" ranked 11 totally; "Involve as many members as possible" ranked 13 totally; "Apply for area and state awards" ranked 15 totally; and "Apply for area and state awards" received a total rank of 21.

The following is a summary to Statement 2 (Please share specific things your members have done to contribute to the success of your chapter).

Inspection of data concerning Statement 2 reveals three important items. Item 1, "Members plan and perform community service activities," received a rank of one for advisors and members. Item 2, "Members secure educational programs," received a rank of two for advisors and 2.5 for members. Item 3, "Members work closely with the FFA," received a rank of three for advisors and 2.5 for members.

Item 5, "Members sponsor workshops and short courses," was the only item, excluding the first three, that received a high rank for both groups. A rank of 6.5 was assigned for advisors and four for members.

A summary of Statement 3 (If you have suggestions for improving the

Texas Young Farmer Association, please include such suggestions) discloses that repeat listing of items by advisors and members indicate "Extra pay or travel" (Item 1) ranked one (eight advisors) by advisors and nine (one member) by members. Item 2, "Raise the age limit for membership to 40 or 45 or drop it immediately," ranked two (seven advisors) by advisors and 1.5 (two members) by members. Item 3, "Part-time or full-time young farmer advisors," ranked three (six advisors) by advisors and was not mentioned by members. Item 4, "More emphasis or push from the state staff," ranked four (five advisors) by advisors and nine (one member) by members. Item 5, "More state specialists," ranked six (three advisors) by advisors and nine (one member) by members.

#### Conclusions

The investigator drafted the conclusions below upon investigation and interpretation of findings.

A. Regarding Characteristics of Chapters--The tendency for young farmer chapters to endure would seem to be enhanced by:

1. A high school enrollment of over 300 students.
2. A high school vocational agriculture enrollment of 50 to 100.
3. No association between enduring young farmer chapters and the number of vocational agriculture teachers in the high school department.
4. A history of continuous operation.
5. A membership of 16 to 30 members in their chapter.
6. A membership age of 25 to 35 years of age.
7. A membership including college graduates.

8. A location within driving distance of resource personnel available for educational programs.

B. Regarding the Characteristics of Young Farmer Advisors--The tendency for young farmer chapters to endure would seem to be enhanced by:

1. Advisors of all ages with more advisors between 21 and 30 years of age holding a Master's Degree.

C. Regarding Organizational Characteristics and Practices--The tendency for young farmer chapters to endure would seem to be enhanced by:

1. Informing members of young farmer functions by newspapers, post card, telephone, radio, newsletter, television, and personal contact.

2. Young farmer chapters holding regular programs on Monday and Thursday nights.

3. Chapters meeting during either the first, second, or third weeks of the month.

D. Regarding Selected Practices and Procedures--The tendency for young farmer chapters to endure would seem, in the judgment of both members and advisors, to be enhanced by:

1. Not discontinuing meeting during the summer months.

2. Assisting the total high school vocational agriculture program.

3. Utilizing local resource personnel for educational meeting.

4. Holding one regularly scheduled educational program each month.

5. Establishing a challenging program of work.

6. Utilizing state specialists when they are available.
7. Extensive use of resource personnel for educational programs.
8. Working closely with FFA related activities.
9. Sponsoring at least one community service activity during the year.
10. Developing pride in their organization.
11. Holding at least one family social or recreational event each year.
12. Serving refreshments at each regularly scheduled young farmer meeting.
13. Imparting the knowledge that young farmer advisors are the key to the success of a young farmer chapter.

E. Regarding Non-Directed Responses from Advisors and Members--

Items of importance identified through non-directed responses provided by both advisors and members would seem to indicate that the endurance of the young farmer chapter is enhanced by:

1. Interesting educational programs and hard working advisors.
2. Interested members, family socials, working closely with the FFA, strong officers, and community service activities.
3. Pride, many prospective members, member involvement, utilization of resource personnel, and keeping chapters members informed.
4. Applying for area and state awards, meals with educational programs, special cookouts with membership drives, no age limit on local members, local awards banquets, local farm tours, refreshments at each meeting, applying for area and

state offices, and developing a good program of work.

5. Advisors staying in the background and encouraging members to become involved by performing the necessary work.

#### Recommendations

- A. Based upon responses from both advisors and members, the following recommendations would appear pertinent:
  1. That young farmer advisors receive a designated travel allowance for services rendered in connection with young farmer activities or receive additional salary in order to compensate for additional services rendered above those specified for vocational agriculture not serving as advisors.
  2. That immediate consideration should be given to the establishment of either part-time or full-time teaching position solely for instruction and supervision of young farmer meetings.
  3. That consideration be given to amending the state young farmer constitution to raise the age limit from 35 to 45 years of age or drop it to allow those over 35 to secure full-time membership.
  4. That immediate consideration be given by the state department to appropriate additional funds to be used to employ more state specialists to satisfy young farmer needs.
  5. That area supervisors, state staff representing young farmers and teacher educators place specific emphasis on young farmer education through their relationship with established

and prospective vocational agriculture teachers.

6. That consideration be given to increased emphasis on chapter awards as opposed to individual awards, possibly presenting chapter awards on less than the area level to stimulate and maintain interest.
  7. That consideration be given by the state staff to allow vocational agriculture teachers to make award selections.
  8. That consideration be given for making highway signs available for purchase by young farmer chapters to erect in their respective communities.
  9. That immediate consideration be given for additional recognition of hard working advisors responsible for young farmer chapters.
- B. Based upon the investigator's conclusions, the following recommendations would seem pertinent:
1. That specific emphasis be directed by area supervisors, state staff, and teacher educators to established and prospective vocational agriculture teachers that the young farmer advisor is the "key" individual in establishing and maintaining a young farmer program.
  2. That advisors and members initiate strong, well planned educational programs as a foundation for a successful continuing young farmer chapter.
  3. That methods be formulated for sharing operational procedures by successful chapters with interested young farmer groups, advisors, area supervisors, state staff, and teacher educators.

4. That additional studies be conducted concerning young farmer education to satisfy present and future needs.

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APPENDIX A

QUESTIONNAIRE

## Form R

A. General Information: Please complete the blank spaces. Additional blanks for questions 5, 6, 7, and 8 are responses from teachers in a multiple teacher department.

1. Name of high school \_\_\_\_\_
  2. High school enrollment \_\_\_\_\_
  3. Vocational Agriculture enrollment \_\_\_\_\_
  4. Name of young farmer chapter \_\_\_\_\_
  5. Age of teacher or teachers of vocational agriculture:  
a. \_\_\_\_\_ b. \_\_\_\_\_ c. \_\_\_\_\_ d. \_\_\_\_\_
  6. Years taught at present school. a. \_\_\_\_\_ b. \_\_\_\_\_ c. \_\_\_\_\_ d. \_\_\_\_\_
  7. Years as an advisor of a young farmer chapter. a. \_\_\_\_\_ b. \_\_\_\_\_ c. \_\_\_\_\_ d. \_\_\_\_\_
  8. Highest degree earned (B.S. or M.S.). a. \_\_\_\_\_ b. \_\_\_\_\_ c. \_\_\_\_\_ d. \_\_\_\_\_
  9. Current membership in young farmer chapter \_\_\_\_\_
  10. Average number of planned educational young farmer meetings held yearly. \_\_\_\_\_
  11. How far are you from a city of 30,000 or more? (Put 0 if your city if that large or larger.) \_\_\_\_\_
  12. Enrollment of young farmer members by age. (approximately)  
Under 24 \_\_\_\_\_, 24-40 \_\_\_\_\_, Over 40 \_\_\_\_\_.
  13. Number of members with college degrees. \_\_\_\_\_
  14. Check method or methods of informing young farmer members and the general public of meetings or other functions: Newsletter \_\_\_\_\_, Postcard \_\_\_\_\_, Newspaper \_\_\_\_\_, Radio \_\_\_\_\_, T.V. \_\_\_\_\_, Telephone \_\_\_\_\_, Other \_\_\_\_\_.
  15. If you have specific night to meet for regular meetings, check appropriate blank: M \_\_\_\_\_, T \_\_\_\_\_, W \_\_\_\_\_, Th \_\_\_\_\_, F \_\_\_\_\_, S \_\_\_\_\_.
  16. If specific week or weeks of the month are used for meetings, check the appropriate week: 1st \_\_\_\_\_, 2nd \_\_\_\_\_, 3rd \_\_\_\_\_, 4th \_\_\_\_\_.
- B. Short Answer (Yes-No):
1. Does your young farmer chapter stop meeting during summer months? \_\_\_\_\_

2. Do your young farmer members utilize local resource people for educational purposes? \_\_\_\_\_
3. Does your area supervisor promote young farmer education? \_\_\_\_\_
4. Is your young farmer chapter an asset to your total program? \_\_\_\_\_
5. Does your young farmer chapter designate September as membership month? \_\_\_\_\_
6. Did you or other Vo-Ag teachers in your department help organize the chapter you now serve? \_\_\_\_\_
7. Does your young farmer chapter open regular meetings to the general public? \_\_\_\_\_
8. Has your young farmer chapter had an area officer? \_\_\_\_\_
9. Has your young farmer chapter had a state officer? \_\_\_\_\_
10. Has your young farmer chapter helped organize new chapters? \_\_\_\_\_
11. Has your chapter helped reorganize a chapter? \_\_\_\_\_
12. Does your chapter sponsor the local livestock show? \_\_\_\_\_
13. Is your chapter affiliated and active at the present time? \_\_\_\_\_
14. Has your chapter been reorganized since its original charter? \_\_\_\_\_

## Form T

Opinions: Circle your answer in the column to the right of the statement. (AVS--Agree Very Strongly; AS--Agree Strongly; A--Agree; N--No Opinion; D--Disagree; DS--Disagree Strongly; DVS--Disagree Very Strongly.)

## Young Farmer Members:

- |   |     |    |   |   |   |    |     |
|---|-----|----|---|---|---|----|-----|
| 1. Must hold at least one educational program each month.   | AVS | AS | A | N | D | DS | DVS |
| 2. Must always establish a challenging program of work.   | AVS | AS | A | N | D | DS | DVS |
| 3. Must always utilize state specialists when they are available.   | AVS | AS | A | N | D | DS | DVS |
| 4. Must organize short courses using capable instructors other than specialists if state specialists are not available. | AVS | AS | A | N | D | DS | DVS |
| 5. Must allow advisors to stay in the background as much as possible in advisory role.                                  | AVS | AS | A | N | D | DS | DVS |
| 6. Must develop pride in a local young farmer organization for continuation of its operation.                           | AVS | AS | A | N | D | DS | DVS |
| 7. Must make extensive use of resource instructors for monthly educational meetings.                                    | AVS | AS | A | N | D | DS | DVS |
| 8. Must always keep school administrators informed of young farmer activities.  | AVS | AS | A | N | D | DS | DVS |
| 9. Must hold a special program for membership night for potential members.  | AVS | AS | A | N | D | DS | DVS |
| 10. Must hold one or more meetings involving families of the young farmers.   | AVS | AS | A | N | D | DS | DVS |
| 11. Must always conduct a local young farmer day each year open to the public.  | AVS | AS | A | N | D | DS | DVS |
| 12. Must sponsor an awards banquet each year as it is essential to continuation of a chapter.                           | AVS | AS | A | N | D | DS | DVS |
| 13. Must always apply for area and state awards each year.  | AVS | AS | A | N | D | DS | DVS |
| 14. Must always attend area and state field days when they are held.  | AVS | AS | A | N | D | DS | DVS |

15. Must work closely with FFA-related activities if the young farmer chapter is to be a complete success. AVS AS A N D DS DVS
16. Must always sponsor one or more community service activities during the year to be successful. AVS AS A N D DS DVS
17. Must serve refreshments at each educational meeting during the year. AVS AS A N D DS DVS
18. Must sponsor at least one recreational activity each year. AVS AS A N D DS DVS
19. Feel that young farmer advisors are the key to the success of a young farmer chapter. AVS AS A N D DS DVS



APPENDIX B

COVER AND FOLLOW-UP LETTERS

Agricultural Education Department  
Oklahoma State University  
Stillwater, Oklahoma 74074  
July 5, 1974

Dear Young Farmer Member:

The Texas Young Farmer Association needs your cooperation for determining what is involved in keeping a young farmer chapter operating for long periods of time. You were selected because you are one of the members of a young farmer chapter which has operated ten years or longer.

Texas has been copied by many states for its organizational strength and active young farmer chapters. At the present time, however, Texas is experiencing a steady decline in numbers of young farmer chapters. Many chapters operate for a short period of time and then stop completely. It is my feeling that members of successful chapters, such as yours, can provide the answers for teacher educators, area supervisors, vocational agriculture teachers, and state associations as to characteristics of successful young farmer chapters which continue to operate after being active ten years or more.

We are asking you to please take the necessary time to complete the enclosed questionnaire and return it in the stamped, self-addressed envelope.

Data from the questionnaires will be used in a doctoral dissertation at Oklahoma State University. Please state your answers and opinions after giving the item thought and consideration. Your responses will be kept in strict confidence, and only total results will be made available to those interested in the study.

We realize your time is valuable. Thank you very much for your cooperation.

Yours truly,

Jerry Stockton  
Graduate Assistant

Robert R. Price  
Professor and Head  
Agricultural Education Department  
Oklahoma State University

Agricultural Education Department  
Oklahoma State University  
Stillwater, Oklahoma 74074  
July 5, 1974

The Texas Young Farmer Association needs your cooperation for determining what is involved in keeping a young farmer chapter operating for long periods of time. Mr. Dan Gattis, executive secretary of the Texas Young Farmers' Association, has expressed an urgent need for the information which this research study is designed to gather. You were selected because you are one of the unique advisors of a young farmer chapter which has endured ten years or longer.

Texas has been copied by many states for its organizational strength and active young farmer chapters. At the present time, however, Texas is experiencing a steady decline in numbers of young farmer chapters. Many chapters operate for a short period of time and then stop completely. It is my feeling that only the advisors of the successful chapters, such as yours, can provide the answers for teacher educators, area supervisors, vocational agriculture teachers, and state associations as to characteristics of successful young farmer chapters which continue to operate after being active for ten years or more.

We are asking you to please take the necessary time to complete the questionnaire and return it in the stamped, self-addressed envelope. The enclosed pen is a token gift of our appreciation for using your valuable time in completing this questionnaire.

The data from the questionnaires will be used in a doctoral dissertation at Oklahoma State University. Please state your answers and opinions after giving the item thought and consideration. Your responses will be kept in strict confidence, and only total results will be made available to those interested in the study.

We realize your time is valuable. Thank you very much for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

Jerry Stockton, Graduate Assist.

Robert R. Price  
Professor and Head  
Agricultural Education Department  
Oklahoma State University

Agriculture Education Department  
Oklahoma State University  
Stillwater, Oklahoma 74074  
July 22, 1974

The enclosed questionnaire was developed to provide information for determining what is involved in keeping a young farmer chapter operating for long periods of time. You were selected as an advisor of one of the 77 young farmer chapters in Texas which has endured for that length of time. The information for selection of enduring chapters was obtained from the original charter dates through the 1973-74 listing of affiliated young farmer chapters.

This follow-up letter is for those advisors who have lost, forgotten, etc., the first questionnaire that was mailed. As a teacher of Vocational Agriculture for 12 years in Texas, I know that questionnaires take time; however, your response is most important to the completion of this study. We need a 100 percent return. To date, we have received about 70 percent of the advisor responses. Regardless of your situation, whether you have changed jobs, your chapter is no longer active, etc., please complete the questionnaire. If there are questions that you don't understand or do not choose to answer, please complete what you will and return the questionnaire in the self-addressed envelope.

This study is personally financed to gain information for a doctoral dissertation at Oklahoma State University. All responses are number coded and will be kept in strict confidence with only the total tabulated results released for those interested.

I will be employed at Texas Tech University beginning January 1, 1975. I will do my best to help serve you in any way possible as you have helped me with obtaining information.

Thank you for your cooperation. It is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Jerry Stockton, Graduate Assist.

Robert R. Price  
Professor and Head  
Agricultural Education Department  
Oklahoma State University

Agricultural Education Department  
Oklahoma State University  
Stillwater, Oklahoma 74074  
August 16, 1974

The enclosed questionnaire was developed to provide information for determining what is involved in keeping a young farmer chapter continuing for long periods of time.

This follow-up letter is for advisors who have not responded. I know questionnaires take time; however, your response is most important to the completion of this study.

To date, we have received approximately 80 percent of the advisor responses. Please complete and return the enclosed questionnaire in the self-addressed envelope.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

Jerry Stockton  
Graduate Assistant

VITA <sup>2</sup>

Jerry Don Stockton

Candidate for the Degree of

Doctor of Education

Thesis: FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH LONGEVITY OF TEXAS YOUNG FARMER CHAPTERS

Major Field: Agricultural Education

Biographical:

Personal Data: Born near Winters, Texas, September 6, 1937, the son of Hugh H. and Grace L. Stockton.

Education: Graduated from South Taylor High School, Tuscola, Texas, May, 1956; received the Bachelor of Science in Agriculture degree from Texas Tech University, Lubbock, Texas, in May, 1961, with a major in Agricultural Education; received the Master of Education degree from Texas Tech University, Lubbock, Texas, in July, 1962, with a major in Agricultural Education; attended Texas Tech University, Lubbock, Texas, during first summer session, 1973; engaged in post-graduate study at Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, Oklahoma, from August, 1973 to May, 1975; completed requirements for the Doctor of Education degree at Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, Oklahoma, in May, 1975.

Professional Experience: Dormitory supervisor, Texas Tech University, Lubbock, Texas, from January, 1961 to May, 1961; vocational agriculture teacher, Plains High School, Plains, Texas, June, 1961 to June, 1963; vocational agriculture teacher, Frenship High School, Wolfforth, Texas, July, 1963 to July, 1973; graduate research assistant, Agricultural Education Department, Oklahoma State University, from September, 1973 to June, 1974; graduate teaching assistant, Oklahoma State University, from August, 1974 to December, 1974; Assistant Professor of Agricultural Education, Texas Tech University, Lubbock, Texas from January, 1975 to present.

Professional Organizations: Member of Texas Vocational Agriculture Teacher's Association, National Vocational Agriculture Teacher's Association, Texas State Teacher's Association, Collegiate FFA, Alpha Tau Alpha, Phi Delta Kappa, and Block and Bridle.

Leadership Activities: President, Lubbock District, Texas Vocational Agriculture Teacher's Association; Area I Representative to State Planning Committee, Texas Vocational Agriculture Teacher's Association; Member of Graduate Student Council, Oklahoma State University; Secretary of Frenship Livestock Breeder's Association, Wolfforth, Texas; Advisor of Frenship Young Farmers' Association, Wolfforth, Texas; Board Chairman, United Methodist Church, Wolfforth, Texas.