

SELECTED ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS WHICH APPEAR TO HAVE CONTRIBUTED
TO THE SUCCESS AND FUTURE PLANS OF FUTURE FARMERS OF AMERICA
WHO HAVE ATTAINED THE STATE FARMER DEGREE

By

HOMER VIRTES JUDGE

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Thesis Approved:

Don M. Over

Major Thesis Adviser

Robert R. Price

Julius M. Martin

Dean of the Graduate School

430789

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

The Future Farmers of America is the national organization of farm boys studying vocational agriculture in public high schools throughout the United States. The National Organization of Future Farmers of America was founded in November, 1928. The Oklahoma F.F.A. state association had been organized previously in the spring of 1927. The purpose of F.F.A. organizations, as listed in the national constitution¹, is as follows:

1. To develop competent, aggressive, rural and agricultural leadership.
2. To strengthen the confidence of the farm boy in himself and his work.
3. To create more interest in the intelligent choice of farming occupations.
4. To create and nurture a love of country life.
5. To improve the rural home and its surroundings.
6. To encourage cooperative efforts among students of vocational education in agriculture.
7. To promote thrift among students of vocational education in agriculture.
8. To promote and improve scholarship.
9. To encourage organized recreational activities among students of vocational agriculture.
10. To supplement the regular systematic instruction offered to students of vocational education in agriculture.
11. To advance the cause of vocational education in agriculture in the public schools of the United States and its possessions.

¹Revised Manual for Future Farmers of America, (Thirteenth Edition, Baltimore, Maryland, 1936), p. 9.

The national constitution² of the Future Farmers of America provides that there shall be four grades of membership based upon achievement. These grades are: (1) Green Hand; (2) Future Farmer; (3) State Farmer; and (4) American Farmer. The third degree listed as "State Farmer" is termed "Junior Master Farmer" in the state of Oklahoma.

Statement of the Problem

The problem arises as to what are the environmental factors which help an individual boy to be successful in his F.F.A. chapter during his high school period. The questions arise as to the characteristics of the families and farm homes that contribute to a boy becoming a leader in his local F.F.A. chapter; what school environmental factors play a role in stimulating the boy to achieve success in his F.F.A. work; and what effect these environmental factors have on the boys future educational and occupational plans.

Purposes of the Study

The primary purposes of this study are twofold. First, to determine the school, family, and home environmental factors which have been present and which may have contributed to the success of members of the Future Farmers of America organization. Second, to determine the school, family, and home environmental factors which contribute to the future educational and occupational plans of the selected group of young men included in this study.

²Ibid., p. 10.

Limitations of the Study

This study is limited to a selected group of fifty Future Farmers of America members in central Oklahoma who were awarded the Oklahoma Junior Master Farmer Degree in the spring of 1958. This study is also limited to a selected group of environmental factors of the school, family, and home farm which appeared likely to have exerted some influence on the accomplishments and future plans of the Future Farmers of America members.

It is assumed by the author that attainment of the degree of Junior Master Farmer is indicative of success in F.F.A. work. The degree of Junior Master Farmer is highly selective. The national constitution³ of Future Farmers of America provides among other qualifications for election that not more than two per cent of the total state membership may be elected to the state farmer degree in any one year. The minimum qualifications for election of the Junior Master Farmer Degree in Oklahoma are given in the appendix of this study.

Methods of Procedure

A schedule was developed for personally interviewing the Junior Master Farmers to be included in this study. After developing and revising this schedule with the help and assistance of Professor Don M. Orr, it was presented to a seminar class in agricultural education being taught by Professor Orr for its criticism and suggestions.

³Ibid., p. 10.

After another revision the schedule was read by Professors C. L. Angerer, Don M. Orr, and Chris White and a number of their suggestions were incorporated in the final revision.

Plans were made by the author to personally interview fifty Junior Master Farmers in the central part of Oklahoma who had received the Degree of Junior Master Farmer in the spring of 1958. A list of all F.F.A. members who had been awarded the degree in 1958 was obtained from the State Board of Vocational Agricultural Education in Stillwater, Oklahoma. It was found that within the F.F.A. chapters of the central supervisory district which included the counties of Payne, Lincoln, Logan, Oklahoma, Pottawatomie, and Cleveland, thirty-nine boys were awarded the Junior Master Farmer Degree in 1958. It was decided to include the F.F.A. chapters in Noble County, which adjoins the central supervisory district on the north. This county had eleven Junior Master Farmers in 1958, making a total of fifty individuals to be included in the study. It was later found that one of the fifty boys had left the state for the summer to work in Kansas and the one boy who was awarded the Junior Master Farmer Degree from the Cashion F.F.A. chapter was interviewed in order to keep the number of boys at fifty. Cashion is located in Kingfisher County approximately one-fourth mile from the Logan County line.

Efforts were made to contact the respective teachers of vocational agriculture prior to interviewing the boys. This was done in all but two cases where the teacher of vocational agriculture was not immediately available. In one of these cases, the writer was able to contact the

superintendent of schools before making the interview. The author personally interviewed the fifty Junior Master Farmers and completed the schedules. A copy of the schedule used in these interviews is included in the appendix of this study.

CHAPTER II

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Studies concerned with the effect of environmental factors on success of high school F.F.A. members were not discovered by this writer. A number of studies have been made concerning the occupational status of former students of vocational agriculture. A number of these studies show the effect of environmental factors during high school on future occupational choice and activities of these boys. Cassidy¹, in a study of former students of vocational agriculture of Wilton High School in North Carolina found that there was a relationship between the farming status of the fathers while the sons were taking agriculture in high school and the occupational status of the students later in life.

Alexander², in a study of 151 boys who had one or more years of vocational agriculture at Sturgis High School in Kentucky, concluded that the farming status of fathers was a significant factor in helping

¹John Franklin Cassidy, "An Occupational Study of Former Students of Vocational Agriculture of Wilton High School from 1936 to 1952," (Research Problem, Master's Degree, North Carolina State College) as reported in Summaries of Studies in Agricultural Education, Vocational Education Bul. 263, (Washington, 1956), p. 17.

²Ralph Alexander, "Employment Status of Former Students in Vocational Agriculture Who Have Graduated from the Sturgis High School," (Special Problem, 1955, University of Kentucky) as reported in Summaries of Studies in Agricultural Education, Vocational Education Bul. 265, (Washington, 1957), p. 4.

boys get established in farming and that most of the graduates who were farming or in related occupations came from farms which were owner operated.

In a study of the occupational status of ninety-four graduates of two high schools in Nebraska, Lancaster³ determined that the leading factors influencing the graduates in his study in the selection of their present occupations were: vocational agriculture course; Future Farmers of America; and farming experience.

In a somewhat similar occupational status study, Wyse⁴ found that the factors affecting the choice of farming as an occupation of 166 former students of Vocational Agriculture of Johnston High School in South Carolina were: (1) parents owned their farm; (2) those who took more hours in vocational agriculture; (3) those who entered Future Farmer's contests and made advancement in the chapter; (4) those who belonged to the Future Farmer Chapters three or more years; (5) boys who were living on farms at the time of enrollment; and (6) boys who lived on larger farms.

³Dean W. Lancaster, "The Occupational Status of Former Students of Vocational Agriculture in the Guardian Angels and West Point High Schools from 1938 to 1951 Inclusive," (M. S. Thesis, 1953, University of Nebraska) as reported in Summaries of Studies in Agricultural Education, Vocational Education Bul. 256, (Washington, 1955), p. 56.

⁴Jacob F. Wyse, "The Occupational Status of Former Students of Vocational Agriculture of Johnston High School, Johnston, South Carolina," (M. S. Thesis, 1954, Clemson College) as reported in Summaries of Studies in Agricultural Education, Vocational Education Bul. 263, (Washington, 1956), p. 87.

CHAPTER III

PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS OF DATA

The data presented in this chapter was obtained from personal interviews with fifty Future Farmers of America, from the central part of Oklahoma, who were awarded the Junior Master Farmer Degree in the spring of 1958. The author interviewed all F.F.A. boys awarded the Junior Master Farmer Degree in 1958 from the central district of Oklahoma, which comprises the counties of Payne, Logan, Lincoln, Oklahoma, Cleveland, and Pottawatomie, plus all of the Junior Master Farmers from Noble County. There were fifty F.F.A. members awarded the Junior Master Farmer Degree in these seven counties. All of these fifty F.F.A. boys were personally interviewed by the author, with the exception of one who had left the state to work in Kansas during the summer. In order to include a total of fifty F.F.A. members in the study, the investigator added one Junior Master Farmer from the F.F.A. chapter at Cashion which is in Kingfisher county, located approximately one-fourth mile from the Logan County line.

The interviews were conducted in the months of May and June during the last few weeks of the high school term or during the first few weeks after the completion of the school year.

Forty-nine of the fifty Junior Master Farmers included in this study were graduating seniors at the completion of their 1957-58 school

year. The other boy graduated one year earlier and had, therefore, been out of high school one year when he was awarded the degree of Junior Master Farmer. The boys included in this study ranged in ages from sixteen to nineteen years with an average age of 17.6 years at the time of the interviews.

One of the fifty F.F.A. members included in this study was married prior to graduation from high school. He was married during his last few months in high school and his wife, therefore, did not contribute to his attainment of the degree of Junior Master Farmer.

TABLE I

NUMBER OF YEARS OF PARTICIPATION IN 4-H CLUB WORK BY
FIFTY JUNIOR MASTER FARMERS

Length of membership in 4-H club	F. F. A. members reporting	
	Number	Per cent
Non-membership	5	10
One year	4	8
Two years	11	22
Three years	6	12
Four years	9	18
Five years	11	22
Six years	<u>4</u>	<u>8</u>
Totals	50	100

Ninety per cent of the fifty Junior Master Farmers interviewed in this study indicated that they had been members of the 4-H Club in

periods ranging from one to six years. Seventy-four per cent of these young men indicated that they had participated in 4-H Club work during a period of from two to five years. The most common pattern tended to be membership in the 4-H Club in the latter few years of grade school with the boys dropping out of 4-H Club at about the time of entering high school and becoming members of the F.F.A. organization. The average length of membership in the 4-H Club of the forty-five boys who were members was 3.5 years.

TABLE II
YEAR IN SCHOOL WHEN GOAL OF ATTAINING THE DEGREE OF
JUNIOR MASTER FARMER WAS ESTABLISHED BY
FIFTY JUNIOR MASTER FARMERS

Year in school	F. F. A. members reporting	
	Number	Per cent
6th	1	2
7th	1	2
8th	5	10
9th	28	56
10th	10	20
11th	2	4
12th	<u>3</u>	<u>6</u>
Totals	50	100

A total of forty-five Junior Master Farmers, or ninety per cent of the fifty interviewed, indicated that they had determined to try to

advance to the degree of Junior Master Farmer prior to the end of their sophomore year in high school. Fourteen per cent of these F.F.A. members indicated that they had established this degree as their goal prior to their freshman year in high school. A majority of these young men had been working toward attaining the Junior Master Farmer degree for a period of from three to five years.

TABLE III

FACTORS WHICH FIRST PROMPTED THE IDEA OF WORKING TOWARD THE DEGREE OF JUNIOR MASTER FARMER FOR FIFTY JUNIOR MASTER FARMERS

Factor prompting the idea	F.F.A. members reporting	
	Number	Per cent
Parents	4	8
Vocational agriculture teacher	31	62
Older brother	7	14
Other boys who received the degree	6	12
Boys honored with degree at State F.F.A. Convention	1	2
Cousin who was Junior Master Farmer	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>
Totals	50	100

A majority, sixty-two per cent, of the fifty Junior Master Farmers interviewed credited their vocational agriculture teacher with first giving them the idea of trying to attain the degree of Junior Master Farmer. Of these thirty-one boys who first got the idea from their

vocational agriculture teacher, twenty set this as a goal during their freshman year; seven during their sophomore year; three during their senior year; and one before entering high school. Vocational agriculture teachers, older brothers, and other boys in the F.F.A. chapter were factors accounting for eighty-eight per cent of the boys determining to attempt to make the degree of Junior Master Farmer.

TABLE IV

CONVERSATIONS CONCERNING THE JUNIOR MASTER FARMER DEGREE BETWEEN
VOCATIONAL AGRICULTURE TEACHER, PARENTS, AND BOY AS REPORTED
BY FIFTY JUNIOR MASTER FARMERS

Conversations reported	F.F.A. members reporting	
	Number	Per cent
Between vocational agriculture teacher and boy	50	100
Between vocational agriculture teacher and parents	35	70
Between parents and boy	40	80

Talking over plans for the boy attaining the Junior Master Farmer degree between teachers, parents, and boys appears to be almost universal. All of the fifty Junior Master Farmers interviewed reported that the teacher of vocational agriculture had talked with them about working for the degree of Junior Master Farmer. Seventy per cent indicated that their vocational agriculture teacher had talked with their parents about the boys plans leading to applying for the degree. It is possible that this percentage is actually higher than indicated due to conversations between the teacher and parents of which the boy was unaware.

Eighty per cent of the boys reported that one or both of their parents had talked about the degree with them.

Twenty-two boys, or forty-four per cent of these fifty Junior Master Farmers, stated that the vocational agriculture teacher had started working with them while they were in the seventh or eighth grade.

TABLE V

RATING OF SELECTED FACTORS ON THE BASIS OF THEIR CONTRIBUTION TO SUCCESS IN F.F.A. WORK BY FORTY-NINE JUNIOR MASTER FARMERS

Contributing factors	Rating assigned factors			
	First	Second	Third	No contribution
Good department of vocational agriculture with outstanding vocational agriculture teacher	21	20	8	0
Good home farm situation with some financial assistance from parents	22	11	13	3
Good home situation with encouragement from family members	<u>6</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>0</u>
Totals	49	49	46	3

The fifty Junior Master Farmers included in this study were asked to rate the three factors listed in the above table, in the order of their contribution to their success in F.F.A. work. One of the fifty boys declined to assign any rating to the three factors, but stated that all three had contributed to his success.

All of the fifty boys indicated that they considered they had a good department of vocational agriculture with an outstanding teacher of vocational agriculture which had contributed to their success in their F.F.A. work. Forty-seven indicated they considered they had a good home farm situation which, together with some financial assistance from parents, had been a contributing factor to their success. The other three boys did not consider their home farm situations good, but they had received some financial assistance from their parents. All fifty of the boys considered that they came from good home situations and indicated they had received encouragement in their work from other family members.

Table VI shows that the age of the individual at the time of first ownership of livestock projects ranged from three to fourteen years for the fifty Junior Master Farmers included in this study. Thirty-six boys, or seventy-two per cent, indicated that they owned some livestock by the age of thirteen years which is before they would normally enroll in high school. The other twenty-eight per cent acquired their first ownership of livestock at the age of fourteen years, which is the age at which most of the boys were freshmen in high school.

Three of the fifty boys had livestock projects only and had never had a ownership of a crop project. Ownership of crop projects was normally acquired at a later age than ownership of the first livestock project. Only seven boys, or fourteen per cent of the group, reported ownership of crop projects by the age of thirteen years, with twenty-six per cent of the fifty boys not having ownership of a crop project until the age of sixteen or seventeen years.

TABLE VI
AGE AT TIME OF FIRST ACTUAL OWNERSHIP OF LIVESTOCK AND CROP
PROJECTS BY FIFTY JUNIOR MASTER FARMERS

Age in years at time of first ownership	F.F.A. members reporting			
	Livestock project		Crop Project	
	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent
3	1	2	0	0
4	0	0	0	0
5	1	2	0	0
6	5	10	1	2
7	1	2	0	0
8	1	2	0	0
9	7	14	0	0
10	2	4	0	0
11	2	4	1	2
12	7	14	2	4
13	9	18	3	6
14	14	28	15	30
15	0	0	12	24
16	0	0	7	14
17	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>12</u>
Totals	50	100	47	94

Average age at time of first livestock project - 11.0 years
 Median age at time of first livestock project - 12.0 years
 Average age at time of first crop project - 13.7 years
 Median age at time of first crop project - 15.0 years

Forty-six of the fifty boys included in the study started their project programs with livestock projects. Only one boy started his project program with ownership of a crop project at an earlier age than he acquired his first livestock. This boy got his start by farming a small patch of beans at the age of six years. Three other boys had their first crop projects and first livestock projects at the same age.

TABLE VII

METHODS OF ACQUIRING FIRST LIVESTOCK BY FIFTY JUNIOR MASTER FARMERS

Method of acquisition	F.F.A. members reporting	
	Number	Per cent
Gift from parents	25	50
Gift from other relatives	1	2
Gift of money used to purchase	1	2
Worked at home	7	14
Worked on another farm	5	10
Non-farm work	1	2
Pig chain	2	4
Loan from bank	3	6
Parents loaned money	4	8
Feed dealer	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>
Totals	50	100

Data presented in Table VII shows that twenty-five or exactly one-half of the fifty boys acquired their first livestock as gifts from

their parents. Twenty-three of these boys received gifts of only one animal to start their livestock programs while one boy received a gift of two and one boy a gift of three animals. Parents loaned an additional four boys money with which to purchase their first livestock. Twelve of the boys or approximately one-fourth acquired their first livestock by working on a farm, either at home or for a neighbor, and one boy acquired his first livestock by non-farm work.

TABLE VIII

HELP RECEIVED FROM PARENTS IN DEVELOPING SUPERVISED PRACTICE PROGRAMS OF FIFTY JUNIOR MASTER FARMERS

Help received	F.F.A. members reporting	
	Number	Per cent
Gifts	27	54
Loaned money	31	62
Provided land	40	80
Provided machinery	42	84

Evidence is presented in Table VIII indicating that all of the fifty boys received help from their parents in developing their supervised practice programs in one or more of the four categories of gifts, loaned money, provided land, or provided machinery. Help in the individual categories ranged from fifty-four per cent who received gifts from parents to eighty-four per cent who were provided machinery by their parents to farm their crops projects. The gifts were relatively small. Only six of the boys reported individual gifts with a value of one hundred dollars

or more. The largest gift reported was a gift of forty acres of land valued at nineteen hundred dollars.

Forty of the boys were provided land for their crop projects by their parents. A majority of these boys paid their parents rent on this land. Eighteen boys paid crop rent, one paid cash rent, and ten exchanged labor for rent on the land. Eleven boys received the use of land rent-free for their crop project programs.

Forty-two of the boys were provided some machinery for farming their crop projects by their parents. Twenty-five of these boys received the use of this machinery free. Six of the boys exchanged labor for the use of the machinery; five paid with a share of the crop in addition to normal rent on the land; one boy exchanged the use of machinery with his father; and two paid their parents cash rent for the use of machinery.

TABLE IX

TYPE OF PROJECTS OPERATED BY FIFTEEN JUNIOR MASTER FARMERS WHO WERE OPERATING PROJECTS IN PARTNERSHIP

Projects in partnership	F.F.A. members reporting	
	Number	Per cent
Both livestock and crop projects	2	13.3
Livestock projects only	9	60.0
Crop projects only	<u>4</u>	<u>26.7</u>
Totals	15	100.0

As is evident from a examination of data in Table IX, fifteen of the fifty Junior Master Farmers included in this study reported that they

owned and operated some projects on a partnership basis. Two boys who were operating both livestock and crop projects in partnership each owned and operated a one-half interest in the entire farming operation of the home farm. One of these boys was in partnership with his father and the other in partnership with an older brother. Of nine boys who operated only livestock projects on a partnership basis, three were in partnership in the ownership of herd sires only. The other six boys had fifty per cent ownership of livestock projects in partnership with their fathers which ranged in size from two to one hundred twenty-nine animals with an average of fifty-five head of livestock in the partnerships.

Four boys were in partnership on crop projects only. These boys all had fifty per cent ownerships in these projects. Three of these boys were in partnership with their fathers and one with a brother. The crop projects in partnerships ranged in size from twenty to one hundred sixty acres with an average size of fifty-five acres.

TABLE X

MODERN CONVENIENCES IN THE HOMES OF FIFTY JUNIOR MASTER FARMERS

Modern convenience	F.F.A. members reporting	
	Number	Per cent
Electricity	50	100
Gas	49	98
Television	46	92
Radio	48	96
Automatic washer	11	22

TABLE X (Cont'd)

Automatic dryer	4	8
Running water	35	70
Modern Bathroom	30	60
Home freezer	39	78

Most of the fifty Junior Master Farmers included in this study came from homes which are modern. One hundred per cent have electricity and ninety-eight per cent have either natural or liquified petroleum gas. One hundred per cent have either a television set or a radio, with eighty-eight per cent of the homes having both. Seventy per cent of the homes have piped water and sixty per cent have modern bathrooms. The percentage of automatic washers and dryers was the lowest of any of the selected group of modern conveniences with most of these farm families still using non-automatic washers and drying the clothes on a clothesline.

TABLE XI

IMPROVEMENTS WHICH HAVE BEEN MADE TO FARM HOMES OF FIFTY
JUNIOR MASTER FARMERS DURING THE PAST FIVE YEARS

Improvement	F.F.A. members reporting	
	Number	Per cent
New home built	2	4
House remodeled	14	28
Bathroom installed	15	30
House painted	29	58
Trees or shrubs established	22	44
Walk paved	9	18
Water system installed	7	14
Electricity installed	5	10
Lawns established	5	10
Other improvements	14	28

Forty-five of the homes, or ninety per cent, of the fifty Junior Master Farmers have undergone some definite improvements in the past five years as shown in Table XI. These forty-five Junior Master Farmers reported a total of one hundred twenty-two improvements in their farm homes during the past five years or an average of two and seven-tenths improvements per home for the forty-five farm homes. The number and kind of home improvements reported by this group of Junior Master Farmers indicates that most of them come from families that are interested in improving the appearance of their farm homes and are striving to continue to make their farm homes a more desirable place for their families to live.

TABLE XII

HOME IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS ENGAGED IN BY TWENTY-SIX JUNIOR MASTER FARMERS

Home improvement project	F.F.A. members reporting	
	Number	Per cent
Yard improvement	21	80.6
Electric wiring	3	11.5
Installed water systems	2	7.7
Interior decorating	2	7.7
Remodeled home	2	7.7
Farmstead cleanup	3	11.5
Painting house	1	3.8
Safety campaign	1	3.8
Driveway established	1	3.8
Home orchard established	<u>1</u>	3.8
Total number of projects	37	

Twenty-six of the fifty Junior Master Farmers included in this study reported that they had engaged in home improvement projects in their F.F.A. work which had contributed substantially to the improvement of their farm homes. These twenty-six boys reported a total of thirty seven home improvement projects which is approximately one and one-half projects per boy for the twenty-six boys engaging in this type of project. The home improvement project engaged in by the largest number of these young men was yard improvement. This is probably, at least partially, due to the fact that this is an area where much can be done to improve

the appearance of the farm home with a minimum of expense to the farm families.

TABLE XIII
OWNERSHIP STATUS OF FARMS OPERATED BY FAMILIES OF
FIFTY JUNIOR MASTER FARMERS

Ownership status	F.F.A. members reporting	
	Number	Per cent
Full ownership	12	24
Owner and renter	29	58
Renter only	<u>9</u>	<u>18</u>
Totals	50	100

Eighty-two per cent of the families of the fifty Junior Master Farmers own a part of all of the farm land they operate. Only nine, or eighteen per cent, of these families do not own farms but rent all of the farm land they operate. Twenty-nine, or fifty-eight per cent, of the families own a farm and rent some additional land. Of these twenty-nine families, eleven own more than half of the total land in the farms operated, and fifteen own less than half of the total amount of land included in the farms operated.

Table XIV shows that there is a wide range in the size of farms operated by the families of the boys included in this study. Three families are operating farms of only 80 acres, one of which has only 15 acres of cropland, while the largest farm reported has a total of 1,800 acres with 1,120 acres of cropland.

Both the average size, 476.0 acres, and the median size, 320 acres, of land in farms are larger than the average size of farms in Oklahoma according to the 1954 Census of Agriculture¹ which is 299.5 acres.

TABLE XIV
SIZE OF FARMS OPERATED BY FAMILIES OF FIFTY JUNIOR MASTER FARMERS

Size of farm in acres	F.F.A. members reporting	
	Number	Per cent
80 to 160	15	30
161 to 320	12	24
321 to 640	10	20
641 to 960	8	16
961 to 1,280	2	4
1,281 to 1,800	<u>3</u>	<u>6</u>
Totals	50	100

Average size - 476.0 acres

Median size - 320 acres

The acres of cropland per farm varies from 15 to 1,120. The average acres of cropland is 227.3 and the median acres of cropland per farm is 172. Like the total size of farms for these families, this is considerably larger than the average acres of cropland per farm for the state of Oklahoma which, according to the 1954 Census of Agriculture², is

¹U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Census, 1954 Census of Agriculture, Oklahoma - Counties and State Economic Areas, Vol. I, Pt. 25, (Washington, U.S. Government Printing Office, 1956).

²Ibid.

121.7 acres. Forty per cent of the farms of the families of this group of Junior Master Farmers have more than 200 acres of farmland.

TABLE XV
ACRES OF CROPLAND ON FARMS OF FAMILIES OF FIFTY
JUNIOR MASTER FARMERS

Acres of cropland	F.F.A. members reporting	
	Number	Per cent
15 to 100	19	38
101 to 200	11	22
201 to 300	6	12
301 to 400	7	14
401 to 600	3	6
601 to 1120	<u>4</u>	<u>8</u>
Totals	50	100

Average acres cropland per farm - 227.3 acres		
Median acres cropland per farm - 172 acres		

TABLE XVI
ACRES OF PERMANENT PASTURE ON FARMS OF FAMILIES OF
FIFTY JUNIOR MASTER FARMERS

Acres of permanent pasture	F. F. A. members reporting	
	Number	Per cent
30 to 100	21	42
101 to 200	9	18
201 to 300	11	22
301 to 400	1	2
401 to 500	4	8
501 to 900	4	8
<p style="text-align: center;">Average acres permanent pasture per farm - 211.1</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Median acres permanent pasture per farm - 148.5</p>		

The amount of permanent pasture per farm of the families of the fifty Junior Master Farmers included in this study varies from 30 to 900 acres. Sixty per cent of these farms have 200 or less acres of permanent pasture each, while the other forty per cent have more than 200 acres of permanent pasture per farm.

TABLE XVII
 MAJOR LIVESTOCK ENTERPRISES ON HOME FARMS AS REPORTED BY
 FIFTY JUNIOR MASTER FARMERS

Enterprise	<u>F. F. A. members reporting</u> Number	Per cent	Average number of animals per farm
Dairy	27	54	29
Beef	33	66	49
Swine	18	36	30
Poultry	12	24	89
Ponies	1	2	200
Sheep	1	2	12

Table XVII shows that forty-nine of the home farms of the fifty boys reported cattle, either beef or dairy, as a major livestock enterprise. Thirty-three, or sixty-six per cent, reported beef cattle and twenty-seven, or fifty-four per cent, dairy cattle as a major enterprise. Eleven, or twenty-two per cent, reported both beef and dairy cattle as major livestock enterprises. Sixteen of the farms have only one major livestock enterprise. Eight of these reported dairy cattle, seven beef cattle, and one sheep as the only major livestock enterprise. Thirty-four, or sixty-eight per cent of the farms, have various combinations of from two to four major livestock enterprises.

TABLE XVIII
 MAJOR CROP ENTERPRISES ON HOME FARMS AS REPORTED BY FIFTY
 JUNIOR MASTER FARMERS

Enterprise	<u>F.F.A. members reporting</u>		Average acres per farm reporting
	Number	Per cent	
Wheat	34	68	161
Alfalfa	17	34	36
Oats	26	52	50
Barley	13	26	63
Corn	8	16	31
Cotton	3	6	18
Grain sorghum	5	10	34
Forage crops	14	28	42
Peanuts	2	4	49
Watermelons	1	2	2

The number of crop enterprises on the home farms of the fifty Junior Master Farmers which were reported as major crop enterprises averaged 2.46 per farm. Wheat was reported on thirty-four, or sixty-eight percent, of the total farms in the study with an average of 161 acres per farm for those which reported wheat as a major crop enterprise. Corn is a major crop on eight, or sixteen per cent, of the total farms reporting. The cash crops of cotton reported on three farms, peanuts on two farms and watermelons on one accounted for major crop enterprises on only twelve per cent of the farms reporting.

The crops of alfalfa, oats, barley, grain sorghum, and forage crops while reported as major crop enterprises were in most cases feed crops. Most of these were secondary in importance to a cash crop such as wheat which contributed more to the total farm income.

TABLE XIX
NUMBER OF TRACTORS ON HOME FARMS OF FIFTY JUNIOR MASTER FARMERS

Number of tractors	F.F.A. members reporting	
	Number	Per cent
None	4	8
One	18	36
Two	20	40
Three	7	14
Four	0	0
Five	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>
Totals	50	100

From one to three tractors were reported on ninety per cent of the home farms of the fifty Junior Master Farmers as shown in Table XIX. Eight per cent, or four farms, have no tractor. The boys' fathers worked at full-time jobs off the farm in three of the four cases reporting no tractor on the farm. One of the largest of the fifty farms reported five tractors on the home farm.

Some of the selected major items of farm machinery and equipment listed in Table XX were found on most of the farms included in this study. The number of farms where individual items were reported ranged

TABLE XX

NUMBER OF HOME FARMS OF FIFTY JUNIOR MASTER FARMERS HAVING
SELECTED ITEMS OF FARM MACHINERY

Item	F.F.A. members reporting Number	Per cent
Combine	27	54
Pick-up baler	20	40
Corn picker	4	8
Manure spreader	14	28
Milking machine	11	22
Farm shop	30	60
Electric welder	8	16

from a low of eight per cent reporting corn pickers to a high of sixty per cent reporting farm shops. Combines and pick-up balers were quite commonly found on these farms, with fifty-four per cent reporting one or more combines and forty per cent reporting pick-up hay balers.

Forty-eight of the fifty Junior Master Farmers, ninety-six per cent, reported that their fathers followed some definite soil conservation plan on the home farm. Many of these soil conservation plans were in connection with the government agencies of Soil Conservation Service and Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Committee. Seventy-two per cent reported that their fathers cooperated with the Soil Conservation Service. The same number (thirty-six), or seventy-two per cent, reported cooperation on the home farm with the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Committee.

TABLE XXI

COOPERATION WITH SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICES BY THE FATHERS OF
FIFTY JUNIOR MASTER FARMERS

Activity	F.F.A. members reporting	
	Number	Per cent
Cooperation with Soil Conservation Service	36	72
Cooperation with Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Committee	36	72
Soil conservation plan in effect on farm	48	96

Farm income and expense records are kept on the home farms of eighty-six per cent of the fifty Junior Master Farmers included in this study. The farm income and expense records are kept by enterprise on thirty-five of the forty-three farms reporting farm income and expense records kept which is seventy per cent of the fifty farms. Records of family living expense are kept by one-half of the families of the fifty boys.

TABLE XXII

FARM AND FAMILY EXPENSE RECORDS KEPT ON HOME FARMS OF
FIFTY JUNIOR MASTER FARMERS

Records kept	F.F.A. members reporting	
	Number	Per cent
Farm income and expense	43	86
Farm income and expense by enterprise	35	70
Family expense	25	50

TABLE XXIII

NUMBER OF BROTHERS AND SISTERS OF FIFTY JUNIOR MASTER FARMERS

Number of brothers and sisters	F.F.A. members reporting	
	Number	Per cent
0	4	8
1	8	16
2	11	22
3	12	24
4	5	10
5	2	4
6	4	8
7	3	6
8	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>
Totals	50	100

Eight per cent of the fifty Junior Master Farmers have no brothers or sisters. The families of the other ninety-two per cent have from one to eight other children. Eighty per cent of the fifty boys have one or more brothers or sisters living at home. Twenty per cent of these boys are the only children living at home at the present time.

The average number of children per family, including the fifty boys in this study, is 3.98 with over two-thirds, or 2.76 children per family still living at home, and an average of 1.22 children per family living away from home.

TABLE XXIV
EDUCATION OF PARENTS OF FIFTY JUNIOR MASTER FARMERS

Highest school grade completed	F.F.A. members reporting			
	Fathers		Mothers	
	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent
3rd	2	4	0	0
4th	1	2	0	0
5th	0	0	0	0
6th	1	2	0	0
7th	1	2	1	2
8th	19	38	13	26
9th	6	12	3	6
10th	2	4	3	6
11th	3	6	5	10
12th	10	20	18	36
13th	2	4	3	6
14th	1	2	2	4
15th	0	0	1	2
16th	1	2	3	6
17th	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Totals	50	100	50	100

Average education of fathers - 9.50 grades

Average education of mothers - 10.86 grades

The average education of the mothers of the fifty Junior Master Farmers was higher than the average education of their fathers. The

fathers averaged 9.50 grades completed which would be in the middle of the sophomore year of high school while the mothers averaged 10.86 grades completed which would be in the latter part of the junior year of high school. The median grade completed for the fathers was 9 and for the mothers the median grade completed was 11.5. The mother of only one boy did not graduate from the eighth grade and she completed the seventh grade. Five, or ten per cent, of the fathers did not graduate from the eighth grade. Two of them completed only three years of formal education. Twenty-five, or fifty per cent, of the mothers completed at least a high school education with seven of them completing from one to four years of college work. Three of the mothers graduated from college. Fifteen of the fathers, representing thirty per cent of the total, completed high school with five completing one or more years of college. Two of the fathers graduated from college, one of which has the Master's degree.

TABLE XXV

EMPLOYMENT OF FATHERS OF FIFTY JUNIOR MASTER FARMERS

Employment	F.F.A. members reporting	
	Number	Per cent
Full-time farmer	19	38
Major occupation farming; works off farm 50% of time or less	9	18
Works off farm more than 50% of time	3	6
Full-time non-farm job	<u>19</u>	<u>38</u>
Totals	50	100

Table XXV shows that thirty-eight per cent of the fathers are full-time farmers and an equal number hold full-time non-farm jobs. Fifty-six per cent of the fathers work all or most of their time on the farm. This leaves forty-four per cent that work all or more than one-half of the time off the farm.

TABLE XXVI
COMMUNITY ACTIVITY PARTICIPATION BY PARENTS OF
FIFTY JUNIOR MASTER FARMERS

Community activity	Participating families	
	Number	Per cent
Church	41	82
Parent-Teacher's Association	21	42
Farmer's Union	28	56
Farm Bureau	13	26
Farm Women's Club	24	48
Adult evening classes	18	36
Other community activities	22	44

The community activities participated in by parents as reported by the fifty boys averaged 3.34 community activities per family. The largest number participating in any one activity was the eighty-two per cent who participated in church activities. Fourteen per cent of the parents were members of both the Farmer's Union and Farm Bureau. Sixty-eight per cent of the families were members of one or both of these two national farm organizations.

TABLE XXVII

MEMBERSHIP IN NATIONAL FARM ORGANIZATIONS OF
FIFTY JUNIOR MASTER FARMERS

Organization	F.F.A. members reporting	
	Number	Per cent
Farmer's Union	14	28
Farm Bureau	7	14

Four of the fifty boys included in this study hold membership in both the Farmer's Union and Farm Bureau. Thirteen of the other boys belong to one or the other of these two national farm organizations. A total of thirty-four per cent of the fifty boys belong to at least one national farm organization.

TABLE XXVIII

SUGGESTIONS WHICH HAVE BEEN MADE TO FIFTY JUNIOR MASTER FARMERS
BY THEIR PARENTS CONCERNING THEIR FUTURE PLANS

Suggestion	F.F.A. members reporting	
	Number	Per cent
Attend college	39	78
Remain at home on the farm	1	2
Start working for wages -- off farm	1	2
Think decision should be left entirely to the boy	<u>9</u>	<u>18</u>
Totals	50	100

Table XXVIII indicates that forty-one of the fifty Junior Master Farmers reported that their parents had made suggestions to them concerning their future plans. The other nine reported that their parents thought decisions on future plans should be left entirely to the boys. Thirty-nine, which is seventy-eight per cent of the fifty boys' parents, have suggested that the boys should attend college while only one, or two per cent, has suggested that the boy remain at home on the farm, and one boy's parents suggested that he get a job working off the farm.

TABLE XXIX

ASSISTANCE WHICH PARENTS HAVE OFFERED TO FIFTY JUNIOR MASTER FARMERS
TOWARD FURTHER EDUCATION

Assistance offered	F.F.A. members reporting	
	Number	Per cent
Agreed to send boy through college	5	10
Some financial help offered	31	62
No direct financial assistance offered	<u>14</u>	<u>28</u>
Totals	50	100

Thirty-six of the fifty Junior Master Farmers reported that their parents had offered them financial assistance toward attending college. Five of these boys reported that their parents had agreed to send them through college, while the other thirty-one reported that their parents had offered some direct financial assistance toward the cost of a college education.

Forty-one of the fifty boys reported that their parents had agreed to let them continue their supervised practice programs on the home farm and use the proceeds from their projects to help pay their expenses if they attend college.

TABLE XXX
REASONS GIVEN BY TWENTY-SEVEN JUNIOR MASTER FARMERS FOR
NOT CHOOSING FARMING AS A CAREER

Reason given	F.F.A. members reporting	
	Number	Per cent
Insufficient resources	8	29.63
Health	2	7.41
Lack of interest	2	7.41
Prefer professional work	9	33.33
Want more stability	1	3.70
No reason given	<u>5</u>	<u>18.52</u>
Totals	27	100.0

Twenty-three of the fifty boys reported that they intended to make farming their life work. Twenty-seven, over one-half, reported that they did not intend to make farming their life work. The reasons given by the largest number of these boys for not choosing farming as a career were that they preferred professional work and that they had insufficient resources to properly establish themselves in farming. Other reasons given included health reasons, lack of interest in farming, and preference for an occupation with more stability.

The fifty boys were asked if they considered they had developed sufficient resources to start farming independently at the present time. Only seventeen of the fifty boys indicated that they considered their present resources sufficient to start farming for themselves while thirty-three did not think they had accumulated sufficient resources for this purpose.

TABLE XXXI

FARMING PLANS OF ELEVEN JUNIOR MASTER FARMERS WHO PLAN
TO START FARMING IMMEDIATELY

Farming plan	F.F.A. members reporting Number	Per cent
Partnership with father	5	45.46
Partnership with brother	1	9.09
Independently	3	27.27
On share agreement	<u>2</u>	<u>18.18</u>
Totals	11	100.0

Table XXXI shows that eleven of the fifty Junior Master Farmers reported they planned to start farming immediately. More than one-half of these eleven boys reported they would start farming in partnership with their father or brother. Two of the boys will be farming on a share agreement. Only three of the fifty boys will start farming independently upon completion of their high school training in vocational agriculture.

The thirty-nine boys who stated they did not plan to start farming at the present time were asked to give their reasons for not entering

TABLE XXXII

REASONS GIVEN BY THIRTY-NINE JUNIOR MASTER FARMERS FOR
NOT STARTING TO FARM IMMEDIATELY

Reason given	F. F. A. members reporting	
	Number	Per cent
Attend college	14	35.9
Do not plan to farm	23	59.0
Insufficient resources	<u>2</u>	<u>5.1</u>
Totals	39	100.0

farming at the time of graduation from high school. A majority, twenty-three of the thirty-nine boys, stated they do not plan to farm at any time. Fourteen of the boys gave plans for college attendance as their reason. Two of the boys indicated they are not planning to start farming at the present time due to lack of sufficient resources.

TABLE XXXIII

ASSISTANCE FATHERS WOULD GIVE TO FIFTY JUNIOR MASTER FARMERS
TO BECOME ESTABLISHED IN FARMING

Assistance father would give	F. F. A. members reporting	
	Number	Per cent
Partnership	15	30
Furnish land for farming	16	32
Loan money	21	42
Furnish machinery for farming	25	50

Forty-four of the fifty boys interviewed stated their fathers could and would help them to become established in farming by giving them assistance in one or more of the categories listed in Table XXXIII. None of the boys indicated that they could expect any gifts of land, livestock, or machinery from their fathers to help them become established in farming. The number of boys who could expect help in the individual categories ranged from thirty per cent whose fathers would take them in as partners in the farming business to fifty per cent whose fathers would provide them with the use of some machinery and equipment with which to start their farming operations.

TABLE XXXIV

FUTURE OCCUPATIONAL PLANS OF THIRTY-SEVEN JUNIOR MASTER FARMERS WHO
PLAN TO ATTEND COLLEGE

Plans	F. F. A. members reporting	
	Number	Per cent
Return to farming on completion of college	9	24.32
Enter a profession related to farming	12	32.43
Enter a profession not related to farming	14	37.84
Undecided	2	5.41

Thirty-seven of the fifty Junior Master Farmers indicated that they intended to attend college. The twelve boys who expressed the intention of entering a professional field related to agriculture, as shown in Table XXXIV, gave their choice of these professional fields as follows:

four - vocational agriculture teacher; one - veterinarian; one - dairy specialist; one poultry geneticist; and five - undecided on the exact profession related to agriculture. The fourteen boys indicating intentions of entering professional fields not related to agriculture gave their choice of professional fields as follows: nine - some phase of engineering; three - law; one - architecture; and one -- undecided.

Only three of the fifty boys included in this study indicated they do not plan to either start farming now or attend college. These three boys gave their future plans as follows: (1) join air force as a career; (2) find a job working at non-farm work; and (3) work on a farm and continue present project program.

TABLE XXXV

NUMBER OF UNITS OF HIGH SCHOOL CREDIT OFFERED BY HIGH SCHOOLS
ATTENDED BY FIFTY JUNIOR MASTER FARMERS

Number of units offered	Number of boys attending	Per cent
21 to 25	29	58
26 to 30	12	24
31 to 35	6	12
36 to 40	<u>3</u>	<u>6</u>
Totals	50	100

Most of the fifty Junior Master Farmers included in this study attended small high schools. Fifty-eight per cent of these boys attended high schools which offered a total of twenty-one to twenty-five units of credit.

This provided enough choice of subjects that the boys were not required to take vocational agriculture even in the smallest of the high schools attended by any of this group of boys.

TABLE XXXVI

COURSES OFFERED IN HIGH SCHOOLS ATTENDED BY FIFTY JUNIOR MASTER FARMERS

Subject	Number of boys attending schools offering	Average number of years offered
English	50	4.00
History	50	2.43
Mathematics	50	3.60
Science	50	2.78
Vocational agriculture	50	4.00
Industrial arts	44	2.80
Typing	50	1.98
Bookkeeping	50	1.20
Shorthand	46	1.11
Spanish	18	2.00
Latin	5	2.00
French	6	2.00
Speech	21	1.12
Drivers training	20	.70
Guidance	5	.70
Home Economics (for boys)	5	1.60
General business	6	1.00
Journalism	5	1.00
Music	10	1.15
Other subjects	18	1.06

Table XXXVI gives a summary of the courses offered in the high schools attended by fifty Junior Master Farmers and Table XXXVII gives a summary of the courses completed by the fifty Junior Master Farmers. Four years of vocational agriculture was completed by forty-eight of the fifty boys with the other two boys completing three years each. The number of units of high school credit completed by this group of boys ranged from twenty-five boys who completed the basic sixteen units of credit required

TABLE XXXVII
COURSES TAKEN IN HIGH SCHOOL BY FIFTY JUNIOR MASTER FARMERS

Course	Number of boys taking	Number of units per boy taking
English	50	3.86
History	50	1.96
Mathematics	50	2.31
Science	47	1.86
Vocational agriculture	50	3.96
Industrial arts	26	1.90
Typing	40	1.15
Bookkeeping	5	1.00
Drivers training	14	.57
Speech	11	1.05
General business	3	1.00
Music	6	1.08
Other subjects	18	1.03

for high school graduation to one boy who reported twenty-one units of credit completed. Forty-eight per cent of the boys reported seventeen or more units of credit completed and twenty per cent reported eighteen or more units completed.

TABLE XXXVIII

ACHIEVEMENTS ATTAINED IN HIGH SCHOOL BY FIFTY JUNIOR MASTER FARMERS
EXCLUDING F.F.A. HONORS

Achievement	F.F.A. members reporting	
	Number	Per cent
Honor roll awards	13	26
Athletic awards	27	54
Church officers	22	44
High school class officers	17	34
High school activity honors involving more than one high school class	16	32
Other honors	27	54

The fifty boys reported an average of 2.44 achievements or awards attained while in high school. Fifty-four per cent of this group of boys received awards in athletics and forty-four per cent were officers in their young people's church group. The number of these achievements listed by this group of boys, which does not include F.F.A. activities and honors, indicates that most of these boys were outstanding leaders among their high school groups as well as being outstanding in their F.F.A. work.

CHAPTER IV

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

Summary

This study of environmental factors which contribute to the success and influence the future plans of F.F.A. members was conducted by personally interviewing fifty F.F.A. members in central Oklahoma who demonstrated their success in F.F.A. work by being awarded the degree of Junior Master Farmer in the spring of 1958. The average age of these fifty boys was 17.6 years. All of them were seniors in high school and graduated with the class of 1958, with the exception of one boy who completed his high school work in 1957.

Ninety per cent of the boys had been members of the 4-H Club in periods ranging from one to six years. The most prominent pattern was for the boy to maintain membership in the 4-H Club during the latter part of his grade school period and change to the F.F.A. on entering high school.

Most of the boys set the degree of Junior Master Farmer as a goal to be attained early in the period of their high school F.F.A. work. Ninety per cent had determined to attain this degree as their goal by the end of their sophomore year in high school. A majority of these boys had been working toward this goal for periods of from three to five years.

More than one-half, sixty-two per cent, of the boys credited their vocational agriculture teacher with first giving them the idea of working toward the degree of Junior Master Farmer. A number of other boys first got the idea from older brothers, other boys in the same F.F.A. chapter, and parents.

The vocational agriculture teacher talked with all of the boys concerning plans for attaining the degree. Teachers talked over degree plans with seventy per cent of the boys' parents and eighty per cent of the boys' parents discussed these plans with the boys. Forty-four per cent of this group of boys were started on their project programs and received guidance and assistance from the vocational agriculture teacher for at least one year before entering high school.

All of the fifty Junior Master Farmers included in this study indicated they thought they had a good department of vocational agriculture with an outstanding vocational agriculture teacher and a good home situation with encouragement from family members, and that these factors made an important contribution to their success in F.F.A. work. A good home farm situation coupled with some financial assistance from parents was also considered by the boys as an important factor for success in F.F.A. work. Forty-seven of the boys credited a good home farm situation with helping them attain the degree while the other three considered they had attained the degree in spite of not having this important factor to assist them.

Early age of ownership of farm projects appears to be an important factor contributing to development of a good project program. Seventy-two per cent of the boys in this study owned at least one livestock

project before they reached fourteen years of age, which is the age they would normally enter high school. All of the other boys owned and operated their first livestock project when fourteen years of age. The general pattern in ownership of projects was for the boys to start at an early age with small livestock projects and add their crop project programs a few years later as they expanded their livestock projects.

Parents interest and help was an important factor contributing to the success of this group of F.F.A. boys. Fifty per cent of the boys reported that they started their first livestock projects with gifts of livestock from their parents. All of the boys reported help from their parents in developing their project programs in one or more of the categories of: (1) gifts; (2) loaned money; (3) provided land; and/or (4) provided machinery. The gifts from parents were, in general, small with only six boys reporting gifts from parents with a value of one hundred dollars or more.

Most of the boys in this study came from farm homes which were modern. All of the boys' farm homes had electricity; all had either television or radio; ninety-eight per cent had either natural or liquified petroleum gas; and sixty per cent had modern bathrooms. The farm homes of these boys were undergoing improvements during the time the boys were in high school with ninety per cent of the families making definite improvements to the farm homes during the past five years. Fifty-two per cent of the fifty boys reported improvement projects in their F.F.A. work which contributed substantially to the improvement of the farm home.

The fifty boys included in this study came from farms with an average size of 476 acres, which is considerably larger than the average size of

farms in Oklahoma. Twenty-four per cent of the boys' families were full owners of the farms; fifty-eight per cent were part-owners; and eighteen per cent were renters. Beef or dairy cattle were major enterprises on ninety-eight per cent of the farms, with twenty-two per cent reporting both beef and dairy cattle as major enterprises. The largest crop enterprise reported was wheat with sixty-eight per cent of the farms reporting an average of 161 acres. Ninety-two per cent of the farms reported from one to five tractors and a variety of major items of farm machinery.

Ninety-two per cent of the group of Junior Master Farmers reported that a definite program of soil conservation is followed on the home farm. Seventy-two per cent of the boys' fathers cooperate with the Soil Conservation Service and a like number also cooperate with the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Committee.

Farm income and expense records are kept on eighty-six per cent of the home farms of the boys. Seventy per cent keep farm income and expense records by farm enterprise and fifty per cent keep family expense records.

The boys in this study come from farm families which average 3.98 children per family. Ninety-two per cent of the boys have from one to eight brothers and sisters. Eighty per cent of the boys have one or more brothers or sisters living at home.

The average education of the mothers of the fifty Junior Master Farmers was higher than the average education of their fathers. The mothers averaged 10.86 grades completed and the fathers averaged 9.50 grades completed. Thirty per cent of the boys' fathers and fifty-four per cent of their mothers completed a high school education.

An equal number, thirty-eight per cent, of the boys' fathers hold full-time off-farm jobs as compared to full-time farmers who do not work off the farm. The fathers of the other twelve boys work off-the-farm part-time, with three of them working off the farm more than one-half of the time, and nine less than one-half of the time.

The parents of the group of boys in this study are active in community clubs and organizations. The community activity participation reported per family averaged 3.34 community activities per family.

The parents showed a definite interest in the boys' future plans after high school graduation. Forty-one of the fifty parents had made definite suggestions to the boys as to what they thought the boys should do. The parents of the other nine boys thought these decisions should be left entirely up to the boys. Thirty-nine of the forty-one boys' parents who made definite suggestions to the boys had suggested that they should attend college. The parents of five of the boys offered to pay the boys' expenses through college and another thirty-one had offered their sons some financial help toward the expense of attending college. Forty-one of the boys reported that their parents had agreed to let them continue their farm project programs on the home farm and use the proceeds to help pay their college expenses.

Forty-six per cent of the fifty boys included in this study reported that they intended to make farming their life work. Seventeen of the boys indicated that they considered the resources which they had developed through their vocational agriculture project programs were sufficient for them to start farming independently. Eleven of the fifty boys plan to start farming immediately. Three of these boys will be farming independently while the other eight will be farming in partnerships or on share agreements.

Forty-four of the fifty boys in this study reported that their fathers could and would give them some assistance in becoming established in farming if they chose to start farming. This help would be in the form of partnerships, furnishing land for farming, loaning money, or furnishing the use of farm machinery. All of the boys reported they could expect no help in the form of gifts of land, livestock, or machinery from their parents.

Thirty-seven of the fifty boys reported that they planned to attend college. Twenty-one of these thirty-seven plan to study agriculture in college. Nine of these plan to return to farming on completion of their college work and the other twelve plan to enter a profession related to agriculture. Fourteen of the boys who plan to attend college plan to enter a profession not related to agriculture and two of the boys are undecided as to their choice of a profession.

The fifty Junior Master Farmers included in this study graduated from high schools where from twenty-one to forty units of credit were offered. Half of the boys graduated with sixteen units of credit and the other one-half completed from sixteen and one-half to twenty-one units of credit. Ninety-six per cent of these boys completed four years of vocational agriculture in high school.

This group of Junior Master Farmers were leaders in their high schools as well as being outstanding in F.F.A. work. The boys reported an average of 2.44 honors won and achievements accomplished per boy during their high school period, not including their numerous awards and winnings in their F.F.A. work.

Conclusions

There are several conclusions which appear evident from the analysis of data collected in this study.

- ✓ 1. Early age of project ownership contributes to a boy's success in F.F.A. work as is evidenced by the large number of boys in this study who started their project programs at an early age and who were 4-H Club members prior to entering high school.
2. The age when a definite decision is made to try for the Junior Master Farmer degree is significant. A majority of these boys had this goal in mind three or more years prior to its attainment.
- ✓ 3. All of the boys included in the study considered the following factors important to success in F.F.A. work: (1) a good department of vocational agriculture with an outstanding vocational agriculture teacher; (2) a good home farm situation coupled with financial assistance from parents; and (3) a good home situation and encouragement from family members.
4. While large home farms are not essential to attainment of the degree of Junior Master Farmer, it appears to be a contributing factor. This is evidenced by the fact that the average size of home farms of this group of boys was larger than the average size farm for the state of Oklahoma.
- ✓ 5. Parents interest in and financial assistance to the boys appears to be essential to their success in developing a good project program. All of the boys in this study reported some financial assistance from their parents.

6. F.F.A. boys who attain the degree of Junior Master Farmer tend to come from modern farm homes where the parents are still working toward improvement of the farm family's living conditions.
7. Success in F.F.A. work is associated with parents who are interested in their son's future education. Parents suggested to seventy-eight per cent of the boys in this study that they should attend college. Parents offered financial assistance toward college attendance to seventy-two per cent of these boys.
8. Plans to farm as an occupation are not essential to attainment of the degree of Junior Master Farmer. Less than one-half of the boys in this study plan to make farming their occupation.
9. Boys who are successful in F.F.A. work tend to come from farm families who actively participate in community activities.
10. F.F.A. members who attain the degree of Junior Master Farmer are, in general, the same group of farm boys who are outstanding in other phases of high school activities.

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APPENDIX

- A. Minimum Qualifications for Election to the Junior Master Farmer Degree
- B. Schedule used in Interviews with Fifty Junior Master Farmers

APPENDIX A

JUNIOR MASTER FARMER DEGREE

Minimum qualifications for election

1. Must have held the Degree of Chapter Farmer for at least one year preceding election to the Degree of Junior Master Farmer, have been an active member of the F.F.A. for at least two years, and have a record of satisfactory participation in the activities of the local chapter.
2. Must have satisfactorily completed at least two years of instruction in vocational agriculture, have in operation an outstanding program of supervised farming, and be regularly enrolled in a vocational agriculture class (or have completed all the vocational agriculture offered in the schools attended).
3. Be familiar with the provisions of the Constitution of the State Association and National organization.
4. Demonstrate proficiency in parliamentary procedure.
5. Be able to lead a group discussion for forty minutes and pass some occupational or F.F.A. test provided by the State Executive Committee.
6. Must have a labor income of at least \$700.00 derived from his supervised farming program and productively invested at least this amount in a supervised farm training program. His net worth in farming investments shall not be less than \$500.00 at the time application for Junior Master Farmer Degree is made.
7. Only Future Farmers who are graduating seniors in high school or out-of-school Future Farmer members are eligible to apply for the Degree of Junior Master Farmer.
8. Show outstanding ability as evidenced by his leadership and cooperation in student, chapter, and community activities and be a member of the school judging team, debating team, or some other team representing the school; and have a satisfactory scholarship record as certified by the local school superintendent or principal.
9. Must have at least three letters of recommendation from local citizens covering character, supervised practice, leadership, and cooperation in chapter and community activities.
10. Must have participated in an outstanding way in activities for community improvement and the development of agriculture.

11. Not more than 2% of the total State membership shall be elected (fractions counted to the nearest whole number) in any one year. Written records of achievement shall be submitted by Executive Committee to the State Adviser by February 15 prior to State Convention. The State Adviser will then review the records, prepare briefs, and submit his recommendations to the state Executive Committee. This committee will nominate at the regular State Convention the candidates, who have been found most worthy to receive the honor. Briefs of the records shall be made available to the delegates when the candidates are nominated. The delegates shall then proceed to elect to the Third Degree the candidates found most worthy.
12. No candidate will be elected to the degree of Junior Master Farmer if the application contains more than ten errors. The application must be typewritten or filled out in ink.
13. Any F.F.A. member applying for Junior Master Farmer should notify the District Supervisor by October 1 in order that his program may be checked by the supervisor prior to the final deadline.

APPENDIX B

SCHEDULE

Name _____ Age _____ School _____

Address _____ Location of farm _____

1. Did you become a Junior Master Farmer as a graduating senior? _____
If not how many years after graduation did you receive the degree _____
2. Number of years in the 4-H Club? _____ Membership in other youth organizations _____
3. Are you married? _____ If yes, number of months married? _____ How did your wife contribute to your attainment of the Junior Master Farmer Degree _____
4. Year in school you first determined to try for Junior Master Farmer Degree _____ Don't remember _____
5. What first prompted the idea of you becoming a Junior Master Farmer? Parents _____ Vocational agriculture teacher _____ Inspiration from seeing boys honored as Junior Master Farmers at state convention _____ older brother _____ Don't know _____.
6. (a) Did your vocational agriculture teacher talk to you about the degree and encourage you to work toward the degree of Junior Master Farmer? _____
(b) Did your parents talk to you about becoming a Junior Master Farmer? _____
(c) Did your vocational agriculture teacher talk with your parents about you becoming a Junior Master Farmer? _____
(d) Did the teacher of vocational agriculture work with you when you were in the seventh or eighth grade? _____
7. Rate the following factors in order of their importance in contributing to your success in F.F.A.
 - (a) Good department of vocational agriculture with an outstanding vocational agriculture teacher _____
 - (b) A good home farm situation coupled with financial assistance from parents _____
 - (c) A good home situation and encouragement from family members _____
8. Age of actual ownership of first animal project _____ years. First crop project _____ years.
9. How was first livestock acquired?
 - (a) Gift from parents _____ If so, number of animals _____
 - (b) Gift from other relatives _____
 - (c) Gift of money used to purchase _____

- (d) Worked at home____On another farm____Non-farm work____
- (e) Through a working partnership_____
- (f) Pig chain_____
- (g) Loan from civic organization_____
- (h) Loan from bank_____

10. What help have you received from your parents in developing your supervised practice program?

- (a) Gifts____List all gifts with a value over \$25_____

- (b) Loaned money_____
- (c) Provided land____If so, rent-free____or what rental_____
- (d) Provided machinery____Rent-free____or what rental agreement_____

11. Are you operating projects on a partnership basis at the present time?____If yes, with whom?____If projects are operated on a partnership basis, complete the following table:

Project	No. animals or acres	Percentage of your ownership	Percentage of your profits
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

12. Check modern conveniences in the home: Electricity____Gas, natural or liquified petroleum____Television____Radio____Automatic washer____Automatic dryer____Running water____Modern bathroom____Home freezer____Others, list_____

13. Improvements which have been made to the farm home in the past five years? New house____Remodeled____Bathroom installed____Painted____Shrubs or trees established____Paved walks____Others, list_____

14. Did you have improvement projects which contributed substantially to improvement of the home?____List them_____

15. Total acres in the home farm____Acres owned____Acres rented____Acres cropland____Acres pasture: Permanent____Timber____Annual_____

16. List major enterprises on the home farm as indicated:

Major animal enterprises		Major crop enterprises	
Livestock	Number animals	Crop	Number acres
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

17. Machinery on the home farm:
 Number of tractors _____ Combine _____ Pick-up baler _____ Corn picker _____
 Manure spreader _____ Milking machine _____ Farm shop _____ Electric
 welder _____ Others _____
18. Does father cooperate with Soil Conservation Service? _____ Agricultural
 Stabilization and Conservation Committee? _____ Is there a soil con-
 servation plan in effect on the home farm? _____
19. Are farm income and expense records kept? _____ Are records kept by
 enterprise? _____ Are family expense records kept? _____
20. Size of family: Number of brothers _____ Number of sisters _____
 Ages of brothers _____ Ages of sisters _____
 Circle ages of brothers and sisters living away from home.
21. Education of parents: Highest grade completed: Father _____ Mother _____
22. Does father work off the farm? _____ Occupation _____ Amount of time _____
 Does mother work off the farm? _____ Occupation _____ Amount of time _____
 What is your father's principal occupation? _____
23. Parents are actively engaged in the following community activities:
 Church _____ P.T.A. _____ Farmers Union _____ Farm Bureau _____ Grange _____
 Farm Womens Club _____ Adult evening classes _____ List others _____
24. Are you a member of the Farm Bureau? _____ Farmers Union _____ Grange _____
25. Have your parents suggested:
 (a) You should attend college _____
 (b) Remain at home on the farm _____
 (c) Start farming on your own _____
 (d) Start working for wages: On a farm _____ Off farm work _____
 (e) Think the decision should be left entirely to you _____
26. Assistance your parents have offered toward your further education:
 (a) Agreed to send you through college _____
 (b) Offered some financial assistance to you in attending college _____
 (c) No direct financial assistance offered _____
 (d) Agreed to help you continue your supervised practice program so
 proceeds could be used to continue your education _____
 (e) Insist that you sell farming interests if you go to college _____
27. Do You plan to make farming your life work? _____ If not, why not?

28. Do you have sufficient resources to start farming independently? _____
29. Do you plan to start farming immediately? _____ If not, why? _____
30. If you plan to start farming immediately, will it be in partnership
 with your father _____ On your own _____ or share agreement _____

31. Help your father can and will offer you in becoming established in farming:
- (a) Gifts of land__livestock__machinery_____
 - (b) Partnership_____
 - (c) Furnish land for farming_____
 - (d) Loan money_____
 - (e) Furnish farm machinery_____
32. Do you plan to attend college?_____
33. If you attend college, do you plan to:
- (a) Study agriculture_____
 - (b) Return to farming after completion of college training_____
 - (c) Enter a profession related to farming__What profession_____
 - (d) Enter a profession not related to farming__What profession_____
34. If you do not plan to farm or go to college what are you plans?

35. What courses were offered in your high school that you could have taken: English__yrs. History__yrs. Mathematics__yrs. Science__yrs. Voc. Agri. __yrs. Industrial arts__yrs. Others, list_____
36. What was your selection of high school course taken: English__yrs. History__yrs. Mathematics__yrs. Science __yrs. Voc. Agri____yrs. Industrial arts__yrs. Others, list_____
37. List the principal honors you have won in high school (Excluding honors in F.F.A.)_____
- _____
- _____

VITA

Homer Virtes Judge

Candidate for the Degree of

Master of Science

Thesis: SELECTED ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS WHICH APPEAR TO HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO THE SUCCESS AND FUTURE PLANS OF FUTURE FARMERS OF AMERICA WHO HAVE ATTAINED THE STATE FARMER DEGREE

Major Field: Agricultural Education

Biographical:

Personal data: Born at Perkins, Oklahoma, May 6, 1917, the son of William Homer and Eva May Judge.

Education: Attended grade school at Elm Grove in Payne County, Oklahoma; graduated from Perkins High School in 1934; graduated from Oklahoma State University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Animal Husbandry in May, 1949; completed graduate work at Oklahoma State University in 1958.

Professional Experience: Taught vocational agriculture at Marshall, Oklahoma from August, 1949 to July, 1942 and at Pleasanton, Kansas, from August to November, 1942; taught in the U.S. Naval Aviation Technical Training Schools at Chicago, Illinois, Memphis, Tennessee, and Norman, Oklahoma from November, 1942 to December, 1945; operated a dairy and general farm near Coyle, Oklahoma from January, 1946 to February, 1947; employed as senior instructor of veteran's agriculture training program at Tryon, Oklahoma from February, 1947 to December, 1950; worked as Farm Management Supervisor for Farmer's Home Administration at Guthrie, Beaver, and Taloga, Oklahoma from January, 1950 to July, 1954; employed by Near East Foundation and served as Community Development Specialist with the Point 4 Program at Resh, Isfahan, and Shiraz, Iran from August, 1954 to April, 1958.