

CONSIDERED JUDGMENTS OF RESIDENTS OF THE  
STROUD, OKLAHOMA COMMUNITY REGARDING THE  
VALUE AND EFFECTIVENESS OF THE LOCAL  
PROGRAM OF VOCATIONAL AGRICULTURE

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Dedicated to Virginia, Danny, and Becky

August, 1957

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## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

Evaluation is a relatively new term in educational literature, but the practice of attempting to determine how much a pupil learns and how well a teacher teaches has prevailed since schools were first established. Through the years, teachers have been referred to as "good" teachers and schools as "good" schools largely by means of subjective estimates made by various individual citizens of the local community.<sup>1</sup>

After an evaluation has been made, there still often remains the problem of knowing what the people being served actually think about the program. The vocational agriculture instructor may himself feel that he has accomplished certain goals but he may have little assurance that others with whom he works have recognized this fact. A survey was made to obtain opinions and considered judgments from community citizens since this would prove a reliable source for evaluating the success and effectiveness of the local program of vocational agriculture.

This study was attempted, therefore, for the purpose of evaluating a local program of vocational agriculture from the standpoint of expressed and considered judgments and opinions as given by patrons served.

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<sup>1</sup>Roy W. Roberts, "What Do We Want to Evaluate?" Agriculture Education Magazine, Vol. 29, May, 1957, p. 11.

Some teachers react unfavorably to the more formal attempts at evaluation because they feel that the appraisal is directed at them personally. This need not be experienced by teachers. The program and its accomplishments are being evaluated, not necessarily the teacher's personality or teaching habits. It is a program in which many share. Others may be more responsible than the teachers for its failure or success.<sup>2</sup>

Effective evaluation is one of the most important processes in agriculture education. When one is on the wrong road, the sooner he corrects his error, the better off he will be....evaluation may be defined as "the process by which one chooses among values" or places a value upon something.<sup>3</sup>

There have been attempts to compare programs of vocational agriculture to certain standards set up by evaluators but these, in turn, are about as well as attempts to prove that one man's daughter is a better daughter than another man's daughter.

The problem presented here is a study of the opinions expressed by the people of the Stroud community regarding the value and effectiveness of the local program of vocational agriculture.

In evaluating a department of vocational agriculture, many individuals look for entirely different phases of the program. Some may say that a department has a good department where "they have a good Supervised Farm Training Program." "They win many trophies in judging

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<sup>2</sup>H. M. Hamlin, The Community Program of Agriculture Education, Stipes Publishing Co., Champaign, Illinois, 1943, p. 29.

<sup>3</sup>George W. Wieggers Jr., "Evaluate to Improve," Agricultural Education Magazine, Vol. 29 (May, 1957), p. 31.

contests." "They had the Grand Champion Barrow at the State Fat Stock Show." "They have produced several good speakers or Parliamentary Procedure Teams." This is not always a good criteria for judging the effectiveness of a vocational agriculture program. According to Ekstrom and McClland,<sup>4</sup> evaluation of results from a program of vocational agriculture in a specific community cannot be adequately or wisely accomplished by persons who have only resided in a community for a comparatively short period of time. It requires considerable checking over a period of time.

Good programs of vocational agriculture are tailor-made for their own community; therefore, it should be up to the community to evaluate it.

#### Purposes of the Study

The primary purpose of this study was to discover both the weaker and the stronger areas of the vocational agriculture program in the Stroud High School. Additional purposes were:

- (1) To determine to what extent the existence of vocational agriculture in the Stroud community is justified.
- (2) To determine what considered judgments residents have regarding certain values and effects of the vocational agriculture program.

#### Methods Used in the Investigation

Schedule forms for securing considered judgments and expressions of opinions were formulated only after careful thought and consideration

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<sup>4</sup>George F. Ekstrom and J. B. McClland, Adult Education in Agriculture, Danville, Illinois, 1952, p. 143.

had been given to a study of the community and the local vocational agriculture program. Tentative plans were presented in some detail to members of the investigators' committee, Dr. Robert R. Price and Professor Chris White, of the Agricultural Education Department at Oklahoma State University, and to C. B. Wright, Superintendent, Stroud Public Schools. After receiving their suggestions, corrections and additions were made in the schedule forms. Sixty-five of these schedule forms were then personally distributed by the investigator to selected residents within the Stroud community. Distribution was limited to persons making up the three primary groups.

Group One was composed of nineteen educational personnel which included the local superintendent of schools, the high school principal, junior high school principal, the athletic coaches, English teachers, mathematics instructors, history teachers, the vocational home economics teachers and members of the local Board of Education.

Group Two was composed of sixteen business and professional men of the Stroud community while Group Three included thirty farm operators of the Stroud community.

The schedules were distributed to the educational personnel at a faculty meeting at which time the author explained the schedules. The members of the Board of Education were contacted personally and the schedules explained. The group composed of farm operators was selected at random. The names of fifty farmers of the Stroud community were placed in a box and thirty names drawn. The persons were contacted personally by the author and the fact was stressed that they were not to sign their names or place any identification marks upon the schedule. This was in order that the investigator would not know from whom the schedules were received.

A self-addressed stamped envelope was left with each schedule and a request was made that the schedules be returned as soon as possible.

The professional and business men were contacted at a Lion's Club meeting without any prearranged schedule. The schedules were explained and passed out to each individual present. On this day, attendance at the meeting constituted an excellent random sampling of the professional and business men of the City of Stroud. Each was given a self-addressed stamped envelope and the request was made that the schedules be returned as soon as possible.

#### Need for the Study

The need for making this study was primarily personal. The author felt that even though the community supported the program, there were weaknesses in the department. The results of the study will serve as an inspiration and also furnish information to the one making it which will be helpful in improving the program of vocational agriculture. It is also recognized that it will provide the Board of Education, school administrators, and others of the community a better outlook into the program of vocational agriculture.

L. J. Hayden<sup>5</sup> expressed himself by saying:

I feel that conscientious teachers of agriculture have often thought about their own program, their methods and practices, and secretly wondered if they were on the best road.

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<sup>5</sup>L. G. Hayden, "Evaluation From the Point of View of the Teacher," Agricultural Education Magazine, (December, 1941), p. 10.

Ekstrom<sup>6</sup> states:

The evaluation of programs of vocational agriculture is of most importance to the department in which the appraisal is made. The teacher is stimulated and challenged by his participation in the undertaking. It also makes for a more effective program.

Such a survey provides school administrators with information relative to the contribution of the vocational agriculture department toward realizing the objectives of the school.

The evaluation of the program is of value to the Board of Education. Such an appraisal should assist the Board in making decisions in the employment of an instructor and providing suitable physical facilities.

The taking of surveys among patrons in the community encourages the support of the people who participated in the project.

#### Basic Assumptions Underlying the Study

The study is undergirded by assumptions which are as follows:

1. That adults and young farmers have felt the need for training experiences in farm management and agricultural science.
2. That the adequacy of such training will to a large measure depend upon the development of such proper attitudes, appreciations, knowledge, and skills that will result in the individual having the ability to choose and apply improved practices in whatever situations he may find himself.
3. That the development of such proper attitudes, appreciations, knowledge and skills is almost wholly dependent upon the nature of the learning experience.

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<sup>6</sup>George F. Ekstrom, "The Organization of Techniques for Evaluating Programs of Vocational Education in Agriculture," Agricultural Education Magazine, (March, 1939), p. 28.

4. That the business of farming is of such a complex nature today as to demand that each portion be recognized in its proper relationship to the whole, both as regards farm management and farm family and community living.
5. That an effective training program for adults should concern itself with providing for both the growth of individuals, and attainment of vocation competency, and also recognize the forces of interaction between members of the group and others living in the community.
6. That farming is not only a business, but a mode of living. Living values obtained from food, fuel, and rent in normal times in this and other states are worth approximately as much as the cash net farm income.<sup>7</sup>

#### Limitations of Study

The study will deal only with the opinions given by residents of the Stroud community regarding the value and effectiveness of the local program of vocational agriculture. No attempt is made to compare the results of the effectiveness of teaching between the present teacher of vocational agriculture and those who have taught the course in the Stroud High School in the past.

All responses to questions on the schedules were received by direct answers from the respondents.

There was no effort to compare the value of vocational agriculture with other fields of study in the curriculum of the Stroud High School,

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<sup>7</sup>G. J. Dippold, "The Veterans Agricultural Training Program in Efficient Crop Production," Oklahoma Crops and Soils, 1947, Expt. Sta. Bul. No. B319, (March, 1948), p. 148.

the costs of maintaining the vocational agriculture department with other departments in the school system, or to compare the value and effectiveness of the vocational agriculture department of the Stroud High School with that of any other vocational agriculture department in the county or state.



## CHAPTER II

### GENERAL CONDITIONS OF THE STROUD, OKLAHOMA COMMUNITY

The Stroud community is located mid-way between Oklahoma City and Tulsa in Lincoln County, Oklahoma. Lincoln County is located in central Oklahoma, and was opened for settlement with a run for land in September, 1891. The County was formerly Sac and Fox and many Indians of this tribe still reside in the Stroud community.

#### Social and Other Conditions:

The Farm Bureau and the Farmer's Union are the most active farm organizations in the community. The Home Demonstration Clubs have been very active and have accomplished many worthwhile projects among the farm women of this community. The town of Stroud is well known for its many beautifully constructed churches and much of the social life of the community is centered around the church and its activities. The Stroud Lion's Club is a very active organization and partakes in many worthwhile activities. The Stroud Chamber of Commerce is eager to promote industry, trade, and agriculture within the community. The Izaak Walton League is active, also. Masonic and Odd Fellow Lodges are well organized and meet at regular intervals. Organizations for women include Rebeccas, Eastern Star, Home Demonstration Clubs, and "Stitch and Chatter" clubs.

Stroud schools are the center of many of the social activities in the community. The cooperative attitude of the school personnel toward

community undertakings have been outstanding. The community has supported the school in any endeavor attempted for the good of all. This was very evident recently when the high school building burned. Churches immediately made facilities available to provide classrooms for the students. Immediately after the fire, a nearly unanimous vote was cast by the patrons to support a bond issue to provide a new, modern physical plant for the school. A cooperative attitude has always been maintained within the school personnel. The vocational agriculture department has made existing facilities consisting of a shop, office, and three quonset buildings available for use of other departments.

#### Economic Conditions:

There is one railroad serving the Stroud community. It is the Frisco, running east and west across the county. This road makes connection with the east and west coast traffic.

The Turner Turnpike and Highway 66 extend east and west across the Stroud community. The City of Stroud is the center or the "hub" of the Turnpike, a four-lane divided highway of sound and beautiful construction. Highway 99 runs north and south, making a junction with the Turner Turnpike in and near the City of Stroud.

Greyhound and American Bus Lines run on several schedules daily through Stroud and Hayes Truck Lines operate a branch office out of the city.

Stroud is fortunate in having ample airport facilities which are located two miles north of town on Highway 99.

Allied Refinery, makers of asphaltic products, operate a plant in Stroud, as well as does Fry Roofing Company, which makes nationally known

roofing materials. These two plants alone employ approximately 450 men, many of whom are part-time farmers within the community. In connection with the refinery and its products, Ellsworth Brothers operate a Tank Truck Service which employs about 50 persons.

Considerable oil and gas production affords an opportunity of employment for a large number of people in this community. The workers are scattered on leases throughout the community and many live on small acreages and farms.

The City of Stroud has a population of approximately 2500 people. The people of the community are of mixed ancestry, among which the Czechoslovakian nationality is prevalent.

#### Agriculture Conditions:

The fertility of the soil is very variable in the Stroud community. The soil on the level upland areas still retains a high level of fertility while some of the more sloping areas have lost from three to eight inches of the original topsoil. Continuous one-crop farming along with severe wind and water erosion has resulted in very badly depleted soils in some sections.

The predominant soil type is prairie soil of the Crosstimber belt of the Red Beds area. Such soils are generally recognized as being medium to low in fertility.

Many owners of farms have a major interest in oil royalties; consequently, through neglect the soils are depleting rapidly. Production has been low during the past five years due to drouth, floods and pestilence. Many farmers have become discouraged and left the farm permanently, or have stayed on the farm, farming only on a part-time basis. There are

still others who are farming on a full time basis, being fairly successful in spite of recent years of hazardous climatic conditions.

There has been considerable soil conservation work done in the community the last two years by the more progressive farmers and the results are beginning to reflect in higher crop yields.

The major enterprise is beef cattle with dairy cattle, poultry, oats and grain sorghums following next in order of relative importance. Wheat, corn, cotton, peanuts, and swine are considered minor enterprises. Five years ago, peanuts were very profitable, but five years of continuous failures of the crop have almost eliminated this crop as a major source of farm income. Poultry has become very numerous in the last year, a contributing factor being the establishment of four units of caged hen layer operation. There continues to be many small flocks found on the farms of the community.

#### Vocational Agriculture in the Stroud Community:

The vocational agriculture department was established in the Stroud High School in September, 1933. Ivan F. Dilly was the first instructor. The initial enrollment consisted of twenty-seven students. Enrollment has varied from twenty-seven as a lowest figure to a high of fifty students. Mr. Dilly continued as instructor in this department for a period of two years prior to his being replaced in 1935 by Mr. Amgrid A. Sewell. Mr. Charles Dencan came to Stroud as vocational agriculture instructor in 1938, replacing Mr. Sewell. Mr. Howard Williams was the instructor for one year, 1941-42. Mr. Joe M. Deeds was hired in 1942, but stayed only three months and was replaced by Mr. M. F. Adamas who remained there until 1945. Mr. James Cabe came to Stroud in 1945, re-

remaining there until 1953. This eight year tenure was the longest of any vocational agriculture instructor at Stroud. Mr. John Hopper, the present instructor assumed the department in April, 1953.

From information available, the activities of the students of vocational agriculture during the beginning years were mainly centered around fairs, shows, and contests. Dennis English was the first president and is now farming in the Stroud Community. He won several honors with his steer feeding and other F.F.A. activities. As years progressed, various activities were designed. At one time the chapter owned an incubator, but its operation was dissolved after only a few years. Community service and personal service were later made a strong part of the program and much veterinary work was done for the patrons of the community.

In 1955, the members of the vocational agriculture department and the F.F.A. won several judging trophies and public speaking trophies and in 1956 the chapter was awarded the Gold Emblem rating for outstanding work in vocational agriculture and F.F.A.

Soil conservation, community service, F.F.A. activities and fairs, shows and contests have been stressed by the department during the past few years. The enrollment in vocational agriculture at the present time is twenty-nine with a total investment in farming of \$17,400.00.

## CHAPTER III

### PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS OF DATA

The study as presented herein is made from an analysis of sixty-five schedules answered and returned by a random sampling of residents within the Stroud community. All questions within the schedules pertain to the considered judgments concerning the values and effectiveness of the local program of vocational agriculture. Schedules were received, data gathered and summarized from the following groups: Group I composed of nineteen educational personnel; Group II composed of thirty farm operators; and Group III composed of sixteen professional and businessmen. The total number of persons interviewed in the three groups was sixty-five.

#### Tenure of sixty-five residents of the Stroud community who were included in the study:

It should be noted that the data in Table I indicate over three-fourths of the farm operators have lived in the community more than fifteen years, compared to only approximately one-half of the professional and businessmen.

As might be expected, the average years of tenure for the educational personnel was much lower, with only slightly over one-fourth of this group reporting residence in the community for a period of 15 years or longer. It might be assumed that the farm operators may have been afforded

a somewhat better opportunity to observe the program of vocational agriculture in that they have resided in the Stroud community for a longer period of time.

TABLE I

TENURE OF THE SIXTY-FIVE RESIDENTS OF THE STROUD  
COMMUNITY WHO WERE INCLUDED IN THE STUDY

Years resided in Stroud community	Respondents Indicating							
	Educational Personnel		Professional & Businessmen		Farm Operators		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Under five	4	21.06	5	31.25	0	0.00	9	13.84
Five to eight	2	10.53	0	0.00	2	6.66	4	6.16
Eight to ten	3	15.79	1	6.25	0	0.00	4	6.16
Ten to fifteen	5	26.31	2	12.50	2	6.66	9	13.84
Over fifteen	5	26.31	8	50.00	26	86.66	39	60.00
Total Reporting	19	100.00	16	100.00	30	100.00	65	100.00

Even though as a group, the educational personnel indicated a shorter tenure, it will also be noted that, relatively speaking, the teacher tenure is rather high in the Stroud schools. One possible factor may be the rather high degree of interest on the part of the patrons. Considering the entire group as to tenure, over 60 per cent reported residence in the community of fifteen years or over would suggest that Stroud is a rather stable community, consisting of people with strong family ties and a reasonable amount of family stability. None of the farm operators surveyed had lived in the community less than five years. This would indicate that

few, if any, farm operators had become established in the past five years, as contrasted with five professional and businessmen included in the survey who reported establishment in Stroud during the last five years.

Response of sixty-five residents of the Stroud community as to where their high school education was completed:

The findings as presented in Table II indicate that here again the farm operators may have a better understanding of the vocational

TABLE II

RESPONSE OF SIXTY-FIVE RESIDENTS OF THE STROUD  
COMMUNITY AS TO WHERE THEIR HIGH SCHOOL  
EDUCATION WAS COMPLETED

Response indicated	Respondents Indicating							
	Educational Personnel		Professional & Businessmen		Farm Operators		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Stroud community	4	21.11	5	31.25	12	40.00	21	32.29
Elsewhere	15	78.99	11	68.75	18	60.00	44	67.71
Total reporting	19	100.00	16	100.00	30	100.00	65	100.00

agriculture program, more especially the high school program. Forty per cent of the farm operators received their high school education in the Stroud schools while 32.25 per cent of the professional and businessmen and only 21.11 per cent of the educational personnel had received their education at the same institution. This was a surprisingly low rate for



the professional and businessmen, while it was a rather high rate for the educational personnel.

Included in the "elsewhere" group were the respondents who did not complete a formal high school education. The primary purpose of this table is to show the number and percentage graduating from the Stroud High School and who have some acquaintance with the local vocational agriculture program as part of the total school program.

Response of sixty-five residents of the Stroud community regarding access to vocational agriculture training while attending high school:

Data as presented in Table III indicate that only nineteen or 29.20 per cent of those surveyed had participated in vocational agriculture while attending high school. Seventy and eighty one hundredths per cent of the respondents either did not have an opportunity or did not

TABLE III

RESPONSE OF SIXTY-FIVE RESIDENTS OF THE STROUD COMMUNITY  
REGARDING ACCESS TO VOCATIONAL AGRICULTURE TRAINING  
WHILE ATTENDING HIGH SCHOOL

Response indicated	Respondents indicating						Total	
	Educational Personnel		Professional & Businessmen		Farm Operators		Number	Percent
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent		
Yes	5	26.32	8	50.00	6	20.00	19	29.20
No	14	73.68	8	50.00	24	80.00	46	70.80
Total reporting	19	100.00	16	100.00	30	100.00	65	100.00

desire to take the subject. This table also shows that a larger number

of professional and businessmen, 50.00 per cent, had taken vocational agriculture and 29.20 per cent of the farm operators had participated. The lowest percentage group was the educational personnel with only 26.32 per cent having participated in the vocational agriculture program while attending high school.

An influencing factor for the low percentage of participation by the farm operators is the small number of farmers who actually had access to vocational agriculture while in high school as noted in Table III. It is also noted that those farm operators who had access to vocational agriculture did take advantage of the opportunity. The writer observed while tabulating the survey that a large number of this group voluntarily indicated they did not attend high school.

Distribution of sixty-five residents of Stroud community in terms of years of vocational agriculture completed:

Eighty-one per cent of those surveyed showed that they had no participation in vocational agriculture while in high school. Slightly over one per cent had only one year. Over six per cent had two and three years and over four per cent had four years of active participation.

As is evident by the data presented in Table IV, that of the three groups of respondents, a higher percentage of farm operators had received some training in vocational agriculture than the other two groups. The farm operator group had also completed more years of vocational agriculture in high school with one-fifth of that group having completed either three or four years of such training. None of the educational personnel or professional and businessmen respondents had received a full four years of vocational agriculture training. Only one respondent

TABLE IV

DISTRIBUTION OF SIXTY-FIVE RESIDENTS OF STROUD  
COMMUNITY IN TERMS OF YEARS OF VOCATIONAL  
AGRICULTURE COMPLETED

Years completed	Respondents indicating						Total	
	Educational Personnel		Professional & Businessmen		Farm Operators			
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
None	16	84.22	13	81.25	24	80.00	53	81.55
One Year	0	0.00	1	6.25	0	0.00	1	1.53
Two Years	2	10.52	2	12.50	0	0.00	4	6.16
Three Years	1	5.26	0	0.00	3	10.00	4	6.16
Four Years	0	0.00	0	0.00	3	10.00	3	4.60
Total reporting	19	100.00	16	100.00	30	100.00	65	100.00

had received three years of training. It might be surmised that on the basis of vocational agriculture training received, the farm operators were better qualified to evaluate a vocational agriculture program.

Response of sixty-five residents of the Stroud community indicating participation of their sons in vocational agriculture:

Data as presented in Table V indicate that more of the farm operators' sons have taken part in vocational agriculture activities than sons of the two other groups. Thirty-six and sixty-six one hundredths per cent of the farm operators stated that their sons had taken part in vocational agriculture while only 12.50 per cent of the professional and businessmen

and 5.26 per cent of the educational personnel stated that their sons had had vocational agriculture.

TABLE V

RESPONSE OF SIXTY-FIVE RESIDENTS OF THE STROUD COMMUNITY  
INDICATING PARTICIPATION OF THEIR SONS IN  
VOCATIONAL AGRICULTURE

Response indicated	Respondents indicating							
	Educational Personnel		Professional & Businessmen		Farm Operators		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Yes	1	5.26	2	12.50	11	36.66	14	21.49
No	6	31.57	6	37.50	2	6.67	14	21.49
Had no sons of high school age	12	63.17	8	50.00	17	56.67	37	56.95
Total reporting	19	100.00	16	100.00	30	100.00	65	100.00

Out of the three groups, 56.95 per cent indicated that they had no sons of high school age. This would account for the fact that the entire groups percentage was low for those taking vocational agriculture.

Attitude of sixty-five residents of the Stroud community regarding changing opinions of the problems of farmers during the past four or five years:

The severe weather in Oklahoma during the past four or five years has had a striking effect on the farming conditions within the state. In a survey of this kind, one might think that it would have its effect on the attitude of the patrons within a community.

TABLE VI

ATTITUDES OF SIXTY-FIVE RESIDENTS OF THE STROUD COMMUNITY  
REGARDING CHANGING OPINIONS OF THE PROBLEMS OF  
FARMERS DURING THE PAST FOUR OR FIVE YEARS

Extent of Attitude Changes	Respondents Indicating							
	Educational Personnel		Professional & Businessmen		Farm Operators		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Continued Sympathetic attitude	11	57.89	9	56.25	11	36.67	31	47.70
Continued Unsympathetic attitude	0	0.00	0	0.00	1	3.33	1	1.53
Continued indifferent attitude	0	0.00	0	0.00	2	3.07	2	3.07
Decidedly more sympathetic attitude	8	42.11	7	43.75	15	50.00	30	46.17
Decidedly less sympathetic attitude	0	0.00	0	0.00	1	3.33	1	1.53
<b>Total reporting</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>100.00</b>

It is clearly shown in Table VI that over 83 per cent of those responding indicated that they had a continued sympathetic attitude or a decidedly more sympathetic attitude toward the farmers' problems.

The important indication in Table VI is that the educational personnel and professional and businessmen indicated 100 per cent that they had a continued sympathetic attitude or a decidedly more sympathetic attitude toward the problems that affected some farmers during the past four or five years. The farm operators themselves were the only group that indicated any unsympathetic attitudes, continued indifferent attitudes or a decidedly

less sympathetic attitude toward their own problems. Only 1.53 per cent indicated that these attitudes have become unsympathetic during the past four or five years.

Expressions of sixty-five residents of the Stroud community regarding possible change in attitude toward the local program of vocational agriculture which might have occurred during the past four or five years:

Data as presented in Table VII indicate similar attitudes toward vocational agriculture as Table VI toward the farming problems. The

TABLE VII

EXPRESSIONS OF SIXTY-FIVE RESIDENTS OF THE STROUD COMMUNITY  
REGARDING POSSIBLE CHANGE IN ATTITUDE TOWARD THE  
LOCAL PROGRAM OF VOCATIONAL AGRICULTURE WHICH  
MIGHT HAVE OCCURRED DURING THE PAST  
FOUR OR FIVE YEARS

Extent of attitude changes	Respondents indicating							
	Educational Personnel		Professional & Businessmen		Farm Operators		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Continued favorable attitude	10	52.64	7	43.75	7	23.33	24	36.90
Continued unfavorable attitude	1	5.26	0	0.00	0	0.00	1	1.53
Continued indifferent attitude	0	0.00	0	0.00	1	3.33	1	1.53
Decidedly more favorable attitude	7	36.84	9	56.25	22	73.34	38	58.51
Decidedly less favorable attitude	1	5.26	0	0.00	0	0.00	1	1.53
Total reporting	19	100.00	16	100.00	30	100.00	65	100.00

exception being that over 10 per cent of the educational personnel indicated that they had regarded the vocational agriculture program less favorably. The professional and businessmen gave no indication of unfavorable attitude. Of the thirty farm operators surveyed, only 1.33 per cent indicated a continued indifferent attitude. A teacher of vocational agriculture may often think about his own program, methods and practices, and secretly wonder if he is on the best road. Table VII very clearly indicates that the vocational agriculture program is well accepted in the Stroud community.

An important factor to consider in Table VII is that 58.51 per cent of the respondents regarded the vocational agriculture department with a decidedly more favorable attitude in the last four or five years. Even with the unfavorable conditions of farming such as drouths, floods and a smaller farm population, their attitudes have been decidedly more favorable.

Considered judgments expressed by sixty-five residents of the Stroud community regarding justification for the continuation of the vocational agriculture program in the high school curriculum:

It is clearly shown in Table VIII that there is ample justification for continuing the vocational agriculture department in the high school curriculum. Of the sixty-five residents surveyed, 96.91 per cent considered the department justified. None of those surveyed indicated there was doubtful or no justification. Two individuals or 3.09 per cent of the total groups indicated justification only if certain changes were made. The author made no attempt to ascertain the reason for this. One of the respondents indicated that general agriculture would do the same job. It is noted that 100 per cent of the professional and businessmen indicated

the department justified; 96.66 per cent of the farm operators responded favorably, while 94.74 per cent of the educational personnel indicated that the program of vocational agriculture was justified.

TABLE VIII

CONSIDERED JUDGMENTS EXPRESSED BY SIXTY-FIVE RESIDENTS OF THE STROUD COMMUNITY REGARDING JUSTIFICATION FOR THE CONTINUATION OF THE VOCATIONAL AGRICULTURE PROGRAM IN THE HIGH SCHOOL CURRICULUM

Response indicated	Respondents indicating							
	Educational Personnel		Professional & Businessmen		Farm Operators		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Yes	18	94.74	16	100.00	29	96.67	63	96.91
Doubtful	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
Only if certain changes are made	1	5.26	0	0.00	1	1.33	2	3.09
No	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
Total reporting	19	100.00	16	100.00	30	100.00	65	100.00

Considered judgments expressed by sixty-five residents of the Stroud community regarding the values of selected specific activities in the local vocational agriculture program:

The findings as presented in Table IX indicate that a great majority of those responding thought that all the activities of the department were at least of some value. A larger number of the farm operators indicated very valuable on all the activities as did the other two groups. The majority of the educational personnel considered judging contests, other



TABLE IX

CONSIDERED JUDGMENTS EXPRESSED BY SIXTY-FIVE RESIDENTS OF THE  
STROUD COMMUNITY REGARDING THE VALUES OF SELECTED SPECIFIC  
ACTIVITIES IN THE LOCAL VOCATIONAL AGRICULTURE PROGRAM

Activity	Respondents indicating	Very Valuable	Of Some Value	Questionable Value	No Opinion	Number Surveyed
Local Fairs & Shows	Educ. Person.	11	8	0	0	19
	Bus. & Prof.	11	5	0	0	16
	Farm Operators	25	5	0	0	30
	Total reporting	47	18	0	0	65
Dist. & State Fairs & Shows	Educ. Person.	8	10	1	0	19
	Bus. & Prof.	10	6	0	0	16
	Farm Operators	23	6	1	0	30
	Total reporting	41	22	2	0	65
Judging Contest	Educ. Person.	14	5	0	0	19
	Bus. & Prof.	12	4	0	0	16
	Farm Operators	28	1	1	0	30
	Total reporting	54	10	1	0	65
Other con- tests, pub- lic speaking, parliamentary, etc.	Educ. Person.	13	5	1	0	19
	Bus. & Prof.	12	4	0	0	16
	Farm Operators	25	5	0	0	30
	Total reporting	50	14	1	0	65
County, Dist. & State Field Days	Educ. Person.	6	9	3	1	19
	Bus. & Prof.	9	7	0	0	16
	Farm Operators	26	3	0	1	30
	Total reporting	41	19	3	2	65
Field Trips	Educ. Person.	13	5	1	0	19
	Bus. & Prof.	12	3	1	0	16
	Farm Operators	28	2	0	0	30
	Total reporting	53	10	2	0	65
Dehorning, Vaccinating, Castrating, Doctoring sick animals	Educ. Person.	14	5	0	0	19
	Bus. & Prof.	15	0	1	0	16
	Farm Operators	28	2	0	0	30
	Total reporting	57	7	1	0	65
Civic Work	Educ. Person.	12	7	0	0	19
	Bus. & Prof.	10	6	0	0	16
	Farm Operators	24	6	0	0	30
	Total reporting	46	19	0	0	65

TABLE IX (CONTINUED)

Money	Educ. Person.	7	9	3	0	19
Raising	Bus. & Prof.	6	9	1	0	16
Activities	Farm Operators	15	14	0	1	30
	Total reporting	28	32	4	1	65
Selecting & Buying Pro- jects	Educ. Person.	13	6	0	0	19
	Bus. & Prof.	14	1	1	0	16
	Farm Operators	28	1	0	1	30
	Total reporting	55	8	1	1	65

contests, field trips, dehorning, vaccinating, castrating and doctoring sick animals, civic work, and selecting and buying projects as very valuable. The majority of the professional and businessmen considered each of the activities very valuable except money raising activities. It will also be noted that money raising activities were indicated as of questionable value or of only some value by each of the three groups.

Considered judgments of sixty-five residents of the Stroud community regarding the adequacy of the local vocational agriculture department in filling needs not being presently met by other agricultural agencies:

It is clearly shown in Table X that 86.96 per cent of the total groups expressed the opinion that the vocational agriculture department was filling a need not being met by other agricultural agencies while 9.98 per cent indicated that it was partially doing so. Only 1.53 per cent stated that it did not meet this need while 1.53 per cent had no opinion. It will be noted that 96.67 per cent of the farm operators stated that the vocational agriculture department was filling this need while only 3.33 per cent stated that it was only partially doing so. None of the farm operators felt that

this need was not being met by the vocational agriculture department. This is very important in reasoning that those being served can best judge whether or not their needs are being met.

TABLE X

CONSIDERED JUDGMENTS OF SIXTY-FIVE RESIDENTS OF THE STROUD COMMUNITY  
REGARDING THE ADEQUACY OF THE LOCAL VOCATIONAL AGRICULTURE  
DEPARTMENT IN FILLING NEEDS NOT BEING PRESENTLY MET  
BY OTHER AGRICULTURAL AGENCIES

Response Indicated	Respondents indicating							
	Educational Personnel		Professional & Businessmen		Farm Operators		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Adequately	14	73.69	13	81.25	29	96.67	56	86.96
Partially	3	15.79	3	18.75	1	3.33	7	9.98
No	1	5.26	0	0.00	0	0.00	1	1.53
No Opinion	1	5.26	0	0.00	0	0.00	1	1.53
Total reporting	19	100.00	16	100.00	30	100.00	65	100.00

Considered judgments of sixty-five residents of the Stroud Community with regard to the importance of vocational agriculture in developing leadership in local farm youth:

As is evident by the data presented in Table XI, 98.47 per cent of the three groups stated that vocational agriculture is developing leadership in the local farm youth. Only 1.53 per cent felt that it is not developing this leadership. The dissenting individual stated on his returned schedule that general agriculture could do the same.

TABLE XI

CONSIDERED JUDGMENTS OF SIXTY-FIVE RESIDENTS OF THE STROUD COMMUNITY  
WITH REGARD TO THE IMPORTANCE OF VOCATIONAL AGRICULTURE IN  
DEVELOPING LEADERSHIP IN THE LOCAL FARM YOUTH

Response Indicated	Respondents indicating							
	Educational Personnel		Professional & Businessmen		Farm Operators		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Yes	18	94.74	16	100.00	30	100.00	64	98.47
No	1	5.26	0	0.00	0	0.00	1	1.53
Total reporting	19	100.00	16	100.00	30	100.00	65	100.00

Considered judgments of sixty-five residents of the Stroud community with regard to adequacy of performance of the local vocational agriculture program in bringing about a better understanding between rural and town people:

Rural-urban relationships are very important to a farming community. The data in Table XII indicate that 78.51 per cent of those surveyed stated that they felt that vocational agriculture had helped in bringing about a better understanding between the rural population and the urban population. It is interesting to note that the number of professional and businessmen and farm operators indicating "definitely" was about the same - 82.25 per cent and 80.00 per cent, respectively. A greater percentage of the educational personnel considered it definitely as doing the job originally stated. None of the three groups responded "no".

TABLE XII

CONSIDERED JUDGMENTS OF SIXTY-FIVE RESIDENTS OF THE STROUD  
COMMUNITY WITH REGARD TO ADEQUACY OF PERFORMANCE OF THE  
LOCAL VOCATIONAL AGRICULTURE PROGRAM IN BRINGING ABOUT  
A BETTER UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN RURAL AND TOWN PEOPLE

Response Indicated	Respondents Indicating							
	Educational Personnel		Professional & Businessmen		Farm Operators		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Definitely	14	73.68	13	81.25	24	80.00	51	78.51
Partially	5	26.32	3	18.75	6	20.00	14	21.49
No	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
Total reporting	19	100.00	16	100.00	30	100.00	65	100.00

Considered judgments of sixty-five residents of the Stroud community as to the adequacy of the adult and young farmer classes taught and farm visitations made in meeting the educational needs of farm people:

The findings as presented in Table XIII seem to show that 98.47 per cent of those surveyed stated that the vocational agriculture department was meeting the educational needs of the adult and young farmers of the community. The group that indicated the greatest percentage was the farm operators - that is, the group being served. Forty-three and sixty-seven one hundredths per cent of this group also indicated that these needs were only partially being met. Fifty-seven and eighty-nine one hundredths per cent of the educational personnel felt the vocational agriculture department was meeting the educational needs partially, while only 36.85 per cent of the educational personnel felt that they were being met adequately.

TABLE XIII

CONSIDERED JUDGMENTS OF SIXTY-FIVE RESIDENTS OF THE STROUD  
COMMUNITY AS TO THE ADEQUACY OF ADULT AND YOUNG FARMER  
CLASSES TAUGHT AND FARM VISITATION MADE IN MEETING  
THE EDUCATIONAL NEEDS OF FARM PEOPLE

Response Indicated	Respondents indicating							
	Educational Personnel		Professional & Businessmen		Farm Operators		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Adequately	7	36.85	2	12.50	17	56.67	26	40.01
Partially	11	57.89	14	87.50	13	43.33	38	58.46
No	1	5.26	0	0.00	0	0.00	1	1.53
Total reporting	19	100.00	16	100.00	30	100.00	65	100.00

Eighty-seven and fifty one hundredths per cent of the professional and businessmen felt that this need was only partially being met, while 12.50 per cent felt that it was adequately being met. Only 1.53 per cent of the total group indicated that the educational needs of the farmers were not being met. This indication was given by one individual of the educational personnel.

Considered judgments of sixty-five residents of the Stroud community regarding the desirability of town boys taking vocational agriculture:

Data as presented in Table XIV indicate that 83.34 per cent of the operators, 81.25 per cent of the professional and businessmen and only 36.85 per cent of the educational personnel felt that town boys should take vocational agriculture. This might indicate that farm operators and professional and businessmen felt that vocational agriculture offers training in needed fields other than farming.

TABLE XIV

CONSIDERED JUDGMENTS OF SIXTY-FIVE RESIDENTS OF THE STROUD  
COMMUNITY REGARDING THE DESIRABILITY OF TOWN BOYS  
TAKING VOCATIONAL AGRICULTURE

Response Indicated	Respondents indicating							
	Educational Personnel		Professional & Businessmen		Farm Operators		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Yes	7	36.85	13	81.25	25	83.34	45	69.27
No	12	63.15	3	18.75	5	16.66	20	30.73
Total reporting	19	100.00	16	100.00	30	100.00	65	100.00

Considered judgments of sixty-five residents of the Stroud community regarding the value of vocational agriculture training completed in high school for individuals who eventually enter occupations other than farming:

Data as presented in Table XV indicate that 38.48 per cent of the total group surveyed felt that vocational agriculture has been of complete value to all boys participating regardless of later occupations. Fifty-six and eighty-nine one hundredths per cent felt that it was only of partial value. It will be noted that 70.00 per cent of the farm operators indicated that it would be of complete value while only 12.50 per cent of the professional and businessmen indicated it to be of complete value. Only 10.53 per cent of the educational personnel indicated vocational agriculture to be of complete value. None of the groups surveyed indicated it would be of no value while 4.63 per cent gave no opinion.

TABLE XV

CONSIDERED JUDGMENTS OF SIXTY-FIVE RESIDENTS OF THE STROUD  
COMMUNITY REGARDING THE VALUE OF VOCATIONAL AGRICULTURE  
TRAINING COMPLETED IN HIGH SCHOOL FOR INDIVIDUALS WHO  
EVENTUALLY ENTER OCCUPATIONS OTHER THAN FARMING

Response Indicated	Respondents indicating							
	Educational Personnel		Professional & Businessmen		Farm Operators		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Complete	2	10.53	2	12.50	21	70.00	25	38.48
Partial	15	78.94	14	87.50	8	26.67	37	56.89
No value	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
No opinion	2	10.53	0	0.00	1	1.33	3	4.63
Total reporting	19	100.00	16	100.00	30	100.00	65	100.00

Considered judgments of sixty-five residents of the Stroud community regarding the value of vocational agriculture teachers' visitation in student homes compared to home visitation by other teachers in the school system:

The findings as presented in Table XVI indicate that 80.00 per cent of the farm operators felt that it was more important for the vocational agriculture teacher to visit in the students' home than for other teachers in the system to make such visits. Three-fourths of the professional and businessmen indicated they felt visits by the agriculture teacher were of more importance, while only 42.11 per cent of the educational personnel were in agreement. Evidently teachers themselves were more reluctant to say that the agriculture teacher's visits were of more importance than were visits which they themselves might make.



TABLE XVI

CONSIDERED JUDGMENTS OF SIXTY-FIVE RESIDENTS OF THE STROUD  
COMMUNITY REGARDING THE VALUE OF VOCATIONAL AGRICULTURE  
TEACHERS' VISITATION IN STUDENT HOMES COMPARED TO HOME  
VISITATION BY OTHER TEACHERS IN THE SCHOOL SYSTEM

Response Indicated	Respondents indicating							
	Educational Personnel		Professional & Businessmen		Farm Operators		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Yes	8	42.11	12	75.00	24	80.00	44	67.71
No	11	57.89	4	25.00	6	20.00	21	32.29
Total reporting	19	100.00	16	100.00	30	100.00	65	100.00

Considered judgments of sixty-five residents of the Stroud community regarding whether desirable recognition has accrued to the school and community through activities of the local department:

The findings as presented in Table XVII clearly indicate that 100 per cent of the sixty-five residents surveyed felt that vocational agriculture and its varied activities have brought desirable recognition to the Stroud community. One possible factor may be the increased number of winnings of the local chapter during the last three years. Considerable recognition has been given leadership activities of local chapter members by the local press in recent years.

TABLE XVII

CONSIDERED JUDGMENTS OF SIXTY-FIVE RESIDENTS OF THE STROUD COMMUNITY REGARDING WHETHER DESIRABLE RECOGNITION HAS ACCRUED TO THE SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY THROUGH ACTIVITIES OF THE LOCAL DEPARTMENT

Response Indicated	Respondents indicating						Total	
	Educational Personnel		Professional & Businessmen		Farm Operators		Number	Percent
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent		
Yes	19	100.00	16	100.00	30	100.00	65	100.00
No	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
Total reporting	19	100.00	16	100.00	30	100.00	65	100.00

Considered judgments of sixty-five residents of the Stroud community regarding complete justification for the local program of vocational agriculture:

The findings in table XVIII are similar to those found in Table XVII in that this called for judgment regarding justification of the

TABLE XVIII

CONSIDERED JUDGMENTS OF SIXTY-FIVE RESIDENTS OF THE STROUD COMMUNITY REGARDING COMPLETE JUSTIFICATION FOR THE LOCAL PROGRAM OF VOCATIONAL AGRICULTURE

Response Indicated	Respondents indicating						Total	
	Educational Personnel		Professional & Businessmen		Farm Operators		Number	Percent
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent		
Completely	15	78.95	15	93.75	28	93.34	58	89.24

TABLE XVIII (Continued)

Partially	3	15.79	1	6.25	2	6.66	6	9.23
No	1	5.26	0	0.00	0	0.00	1	1.53
Total reporting	19	100.00	16	100.00	30	100.00	65	100.00

local program of vocational agriculture. Eighty-nine and twenty-four one hundredths per cent of the total groups indicated that they felt the program was completely justified; this number being only slightly lower than the number indicating "yes" in Table VIII. Only 9.23 per cent of the total group indicated they felt the program partially justified while only 1.53 per cent indicated that in their judgment it was not justified. Ninety-three and thirty-four one hundredths per cent of the farm operators indicated complete justification while 6.66 per cent indicated partial justification. No individual in the farm group indicated a feeling that the program was not justified. Responses from the professional and businessmen were almost identical with 93.75 per cent indicating complete justification, with 6.25 per cent indicating partial justification. No individual indicated he felt the department was not justified. Among the educational personnel there were somewhat more conservative judgments rendered with 78.95 per cent indicating complete justification compared to 15.79 per cent who indicated partial justification. One individual in this group or 5.26 per cent of the group indicated no justification.

Considered judgments of the sixty-five residents of the Stroud community regarding the advisability of the local vocational agriculture department having a pick-up as a regular part of its school equipment:

It is clearly shown in Table XIX that 100 per cent of the farm operators and 100 per cent of the professional and businessmen are in

TABLE XIX

CONSIDERED JUDGMENTS OF THE SIXTY-FIVE RESIDENTS OF THE STROUD COMMUNITY REGARDING THE ADVISABILITY OF THE LOCAL VOCATIONAL AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT HAVING A PICK-UP AS A PART OF ITS REGULAR SCHOOL EQUIPMENT

Response Indicated	Respondents indicating							
	Educational Personnel		Professional & Businessmen		Farm Operators		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Yes	18	94.74	16	100.00	30	100.00	64	98.47
No	1	5.26	0	0.00	0	0.00	1	1.53
Total reporting	19	100.00	16	100.00	30	100.00	65	100.00

favor of the vocational agriculture department having a pick-up as an item of regular school equipment, while 94.74 per cent of the educational personnel indicated that a pick-up was essential. Only 1.53 per cent of the total group indicated that there was no need for a pick-up. This indication was given by one individual of the educational personnel group.

Considered judgments of sixty-five residents of the Stroud community regarding the value of vocational agriculture in the Stroud school even though farmers continue production of a surplus of farm commodities:

Data as presented in Table XX show that 96.89 per cent of the total group indicated that the need for vocational agriculture in the Stroud schools was greater or as great as ever. This seems evident that the

program can be justified even though there are adverse conditions in farming at the present time. Only 1.53 per cent indicated that the need was doubtful, while the same per cent indicated it was not needed.

TABLE XX

CONSIDERED JUDGMENTS OF SIXTY-FIVE RESIDENTS OF THE STROUD COMMUNITY REGARDING THE VALUE OF VOCATIONAL AGRICULTURE IN THE STROUD SCHOOLS EVEN THOUGH FARMERS CONTINUE PRODUCTION OF A SURPLUS OF FARM COMMODITIES

Response Indicated	Respondents indicating							
	Educational Personnel		Professional & Businessmen		Farm Operators		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Need is as great as ever	11	57.89	10	62.50	12	40.00	33	50.79
Need is greater	7	36.85	6	37.50	17	56.67	30	46.15
Need is doubtful	0	0.00	0	0.00	1	3.33	1	1.53
Not needed	1	5.26	0	0.00	0	0.00	1	1.53
Total reporting	19	100.00	16	100.00	30	100.00	65	100.00

Considered judgments of sixty-five residents of the Stroud community regarding possible limitation of high school students opportunities to take certain other school subjects when major field is vocational agriculture:

The findings as presented in Table XXI seem to show that the majority of the groups surveyed indicated that they felt it possible for students to get courses needed and still take vocational agriculture. Nineteen and

forty-four one hundredths per cent of the total groups indicated that they felt such conflicts occurred only in the case of a few students. Only 9.90 per cent indicated that vocational agriculture provided training of equal value and 6.70 per cent indicated they considered agriculture was

TABLE XXI

CONSIDERED JUDGMENTS OF SIXTY-FIVE RESIDENTS OF THE STROUD COMMUNITY REGARDING POSSIBLE LIMITATION OF HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS' OPPORTUNITIES TO TAKE CERTAIN OTHER SCHOOL SUBJECTS WHEN MAJOR FIELD IS VOCATIONAL AGRICULTURE

Expressed Judgments	Respondents indicating							
	Educational Personnel		Professional & Businessmen		Farm Operators		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Students can get courses needed and still take vocational agriculture	13	68.42	8	50.00	19	63.34	40	62.43
Only in case of a few students	4	21.05	5	31.25	3	10.00	12	19.44
It provides training of equal value	2	10.53	1	6.25	4	13.33	7	9.90
It is worth more for rural you than other courses	0	0.00	1	6.25	4	13.33	5	6.70
Yes, it keeps them out of other needed subjects	0	0.00	1	6.25	0	0.00	1	1.53
Total reporting	19	100.00	16	100.00	30	100.00	65	100.00

worth more for rural youth than other courses in the high school curriculum. The educational personnel may have a better opportunity to observe this situation which perhaps contributed largely to the 68.42 per cent indicating that they felt students could get courses needed and still take vocational agriculture. Only 10.53 per cent of the educational personnel indicated that they felt vocational agriculture provided training of equal value to other courses, although 21.05 per cent of this group stated that they felt conflicts occurred only in the case of a few students.

Considered judgments of sixty-five residents of the Stroud community regarding jobs that should be considered an important responsibility of the vocational agriculture teacher:

Since it is quite evident that the larger number of farm operators surveyed in Table XXII would give greater weight to the total tabulation, and since the vocational agriculture teacher deals more with this group than with the educational personnel and the professional and businessmen groups, the writer felt that the farm operators' judgment in this matter was of the greatest importance. Therefore, the total for this group would perhaps provide a better criteria for judging the worthwhileness of the activities of the vocational agriculture teacher.

The totals have been scored in this order: Above 50 - very important; 35-50 - less important; Below 35 - not important.

The pattern of responses would indicate that the following activities are considered a very important part of the vocational agriculture teacher's responsibility: participation in shows and fairs, coaching judging teams, teacher continuing schooling when possible, promoting local shows, and supervising students' farming programs.

TABLE XXII

CONSIDERED JUDGMENTS OF SIXTY-FIVE RESIDENTS OF THE STROUD  
COMMUNITY REGARDING JOBS THAT SHOULD BE CONSIDERED AN  
IMPORTANT RESPONSIBILITY OF THE VOCATIONAL  
AGRICULTURE TEACHER

Job	Group	Very Important	Less Important	Not Important	Total
Participation in shows & fairs	Educ. Personn.	12	6	1	19
	Business & Prof.	14	1	1	16
	Farm Operators	26	3	1	30
	Totals	52	12	3	65
Control of ailments and diseases of livestock	Educ. Personn.	6	12	1	19
	Business & Prof.	5	9	2	16
	Farm Operators	22	5	3	30
	Totals	33	26	6	65
Coaching judging teams	Educ. Personn.	15	4	0	19
	Business & Prof.	13	3	0	16
	Farm Operators	29	1	0	30
	Totals	57	8	0	65
Civic worker	Educ. Personn.	13	6	0	19
	Business & Prof.	5	11	0	16
	Farm Operators	19	11	0	30
	Totals	37	28	0	65
Taking tickets	Educ. Personn.	5	6	8	19
	Business & Prof.	1	2	13	16
	Farm Operators	2	17	11	30
	Totals	8	25	32	65
Teaching adult classes	Educ. Personn.	11	5	3	19
	Business & Prof.	6	7	3	16
	Farm Operators	9	16	5	30
	Totals	26	28	11	65



TABLE XXII (Continued)

Spraying for community	Educ. personn.	5	11	3	19
	Business & Prof.	5	6	5	16
	Farm Operators	16	11	3	30
	Totals	26	28	11	65
Teacher con- tinue schooling when possible	Educ. Personn.	16	3	0	19
	Business & Prof.	15	1	0	16
	Farm Operators	29	1	0	30
	Totals	60	5	0	65
Promote local shows	Educ. Personn.	14	5	0	19
	Business & Prof.	15	1	0	16
	Farm Operators	26	3	1	30
	Totals	55	9	1	65
Perform all duties as any other teacher in the system	Educ. Personn.	14	5	0	19
	Business & Prof.	8	5	3	16
	Farm Operators	16	8	6	30
	Totals	38	17	10	65
Supervising students' farming programs	Educ. Personn.	15	4	0	19
	Business & Prof.	15	1	0	16
	Farm Operators	28	2	0	30
	Totals	58	7	0	65
Performing non-educational services for adults	Educ. Personn.	5	7	7	19
	Business & Prof.	3	5	8	16
	Farm Operators	1	18	11	30
	Totals	9	30	26	65

Of somewhat less importance would be the following activities: civic worker, and performing all duties of any other teacher in the system.

Those that would fall in the category of being considered of decidedly

less importance were the following: veterinary services, taking tickets, teaching adult classes, spraying for the community, and performing non-educational services for adults.

## SUPPLEMENTAL RESPONSES BY GROUPS

The following information was obtained from certain groups by means of a supplement to the schedules given to each of the three groups included in the survey. Certain considered judgments were secured from each separate group which did not necessarily pertain to the other two groups surveyed. These supplements are classified as follows: Supplement A, professional and businessmen of the City of Stroud; Supplement B, farm operators of the Stroud community; and Supplement C, educational personnel which included the faculty, administrators, and the Board of Education of the Stroud Public Schools.

## SUPPLEMENT A - PROFESSIONAL AND BUSINESSMEN

Considered judgments of sixteen professional and businessmen of the City of Stroud regarding the value of assistance rendered the local FFA chapter by civic clubs:

It is clearly shown in Table XXIII that 93.75 per cent of the professional and businessmen indicate that the assistance given the F.F.A. by civic clubs is a worthwhile expenditure of time and money, while 6.25 per cent considered the assistance probably worthwhile. There were no adverse judgments indicated with regard to the value of assistance rendered the local Future Farmer organization.

TABLE XXIII

CONSIDERED JUDGMENTS OF SIXTEEN PROFESSIONAL AND BUSINESSMEN  
OF THE CITY OF STROUD REGARDING THE VALUE OF ASSISTANCE  
RENDERED THE LOCAL FFA CHAPTER BY CIVIC CLUBS

Expressed Judgments	Number Reporting	Percent Reporting
Very worthwhile expenditure of time and money	15	93.75
Probably worthwhile	1	6.25
At times it may be of questionable value	0	0.00
There are many more projects that would be far more worthwhile	0	0.00
Total number reporting	16	100.00

Indication of sixteen professional and businessmen of the City of Stroud as to amount of personal income received from farming interests:

Data as presented in Table XXIV is an indication of the interests of the group of professional and businessmen surveyed in this study. The author desired in this study to obtain an unbiased analysis of the professional and businessmen of Stroud without any prejudices because of personal farming interests. Ninety-three and seventy-five one hundredths per cent of this group reported no income received from farming interests within the community. The sampling of respondents could better give the observation of the local program of vocational agriculture from a businessman's viewpoint. Only 6.25 per cent of this group reported any farming interests.

TABLE XXIV

INDICATION OF SIXTEEN PROFESSIONAL AND BUSINESSMEN OF THE CITY OF STROUD  
AS TO AMOUNT OF PERSONAL INCOME RECEIVED FROM FARMING INTERESTS

Percent income received	Number Reporting	Percent Reporting
None	15	93.75
Largely a hobby	0	0.00
Less than 25%	1	6.25
Between 25 - 50%	0	0.00
Total reporting	16	100.00

Additional comments made by the Stroud businessmen and professional men regarding the vocational agriculture program and F.F.A. in the local school listed as follows:

"May perform non-educational services if associated with vocational agriculture."

"Need for vocational agriculture is as great as ever, especially in conservation."

"Non-farm boys may take vocational agriculture on voluntary basis."

"The vocational agriculture department should definitely have a pick-up if properly driven by a qualified driver."

"I don't think it absolutely necessary for every boy to take vocational agriculture, but the subject teaches much every boy should have."

"A department must have a pickup."

"Even in farming, we must have a high efficiency in everything we do."

"It's the exception rather than the rule that vocational agriculture would interfere with a student taking other needed courses."

"I am proud to be a part of this survey."

"It is equally valuable for other teachers in the system to visit homes as it is for vocational agriculture instructor."

"I have been associated with John Hopper and his boys for the past two school terms. I think Mr. Hopper has done a fine job with Stroud students -- and I also think the businessmen of Stroud should be commended for their fine support of this very worthy program."

#### SUPPLEMENT B - FARM OPERATORS

Indication of thirty farm operators of the Stroud community as to the extent of their farming operation:

Data as presented in Table XXV is a good indication as to the type of farm operators surveyed. Each of those surveyed reported some type

TABLE XXV

INDICATION OF THIRTY FARM OPERATORS OF THE STROUD COMMUNITY  
AS TO THE EXTENT OF THEIR FARMING OPERATION

Extent of farming operation	Number Reporting	Percent Reporting
Income received between 50-100% of total income	9	30.00
Income received between 25-50% of total income	12	40.00
Income received less than 25% of total income	5	16.67
Largely a hobby	4	13.33
Total reporting	30	100.00

of farming operation, although 13.33 per cent reported their operation largely a hobby. Forty per cent reported they received between 25-50 per cent of their income from farming while 30 per cent reported they received 50-100 per cent of their total income from the farm.

Only 16.67 per cent reported they received less than one-fourth of their income from the farm. The author feels that this group was representative with regard to the nature and extent of individual farming operations in the Stroud community. It also indicated that farming in the Stroud community is largely on a part-time basis. Due to the unfavorable weather conditions in the last four or five years, many of the farmers have been forced to seek other employment to supplement or even replace their constantly shrinking farming income.

Considered judgments expressed by thirty farm operators of the Stroud community with regard to the possibility of their own children remaining in an agricultural occupation:

The findings as presented in Table XXVI indicate that there is a need for continued training in vocational agriculture in the Stroud high school. Only 13.33 per cent of those farm operators surveyed indicated that it was quite possible that their children would remain in an agricultural occupation. Over one-half of those surveyed indicated there was some possibility of their children remaining in agriculture, while 13.33 per cent indicated that it was not likely that their children would remain in an agricultural occupation. Only 16.67 per cent indicated there were no children in the home.

TABLE XXVI

CONSIDERED JUDGMENTS EXPRESSED BY THIRTY FARM OPERATORS OF THE  
STROUD COMMUNITY WITH REGARD TO THE POSSIBILITY OF THEIR OWN  
CHILDREN REMAINING IN AN AGRICULTURAL OCCUPATION

Judgments expressed	Number Reporting	Percent Reporting
Some possibility	17	56.67
Being quite likely	4	13.33
Not likely	4	13.33
No children at home	5	16.67
Total reporting	30	100.00

Considered judgments expressed by thirty farm operators with regard to the extent of which should be placed on care and repair of farm machinery and equipment in the local high school class instruction:

One-half of the thirty farmers surveyed in Table XXVII indicated that they would like to see the amount of instruction in care and repair of farm machinery increased. Forty-three and thirty-four one hundredths per cent indicated that it was about right while only 6.66 per cent indicated that it was more than needed. The author feels that this indication listed in Table XXVII exhibits a need for a better organized and well equipped shop program in farm machinery repair.



TABLE XXVII

CONSIDERED JUDGMENTS EXPRESSED BY THIRTY FARM OPERATORS WITH REGARD TO THE EXTENT OF WHICH SHOULD BE PLACED ON CARE AND REPAIR OF FARM MACHINERY AND EQUIPMENT IN THE LOCAL HIGH SCHOOL CLASS INSTRUCTION

Judgments expressed	Number Reporting	Percent Reporting
More than needed	2	6.66
About right	13	43.34
Should be increased	15	50.00
Total reporting	30	100.00

Services and benefits received from the vocational agriculture department indicated by thirty farm operators surveyed in the Stroud community:

In analyzing Table XXIX, there is evidence that a large number of those surveyed have received some aid from the vocational agriculture department of the Stroud High School. This could be the result of the local F.F.A. chapter owning a sprayer, dehorning chute, and other livestock and crop equipment. In observing the column "total receiving aid" we find the order in which farm operators reported receiving aid and assistance as follows:

- (1) Aid with livestock disease control, castrating, dehorning, etc.
- (2) Having attended meetings or classes held by the vocational agriculture department; having assistance in livestock selection and improvement, as well as assistance in soil conservation and management and community improvement.

SERVICES AND BENEFITS RECEIVED FROM THE VOCATIONAL AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT INDICATED BY THIRTY  
FARM OPERATORS SURVEYED IN THE STROUD COMMUNITY

Services	Number receiving considerable aid	Number receiving some aid	Total No. receiving aid	No. receiving no aid	No. not desiring such aid	Number in survey
Aid in connection with fairs & shows	13	5	18	5	7	30
Aid with livestock disease control, castrating, dehorning, etc.	17	12	29	0	1	30
Having attended meetings or classes held by vocational agriculture department	13	13	26	2	2	30
Livestock selection and improvement	14	10	24	3	3	30
Crop selection and improvement	9	12	21	4	5	30
Soil conservation and management	12	12	24	2	4	30
Farm management	9	11	20	3	7	30
Income tax, social security and law	0	5	5	8	17	30
Community improvement	11	13	24	1	5	30
Crop pest control	11	10	21	5	4	30
Livestock spraying	16	5	21	4	5	30
<b>Totals</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>158</b>	<b>233</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>330</b>

(3) Crop selection and improvement; livestock spraying; crop pest control.

(4) Farm management.

Those ranking lowest were as follows:

(1) Aid in connection with fairs and shows.

(2) Income tax, social security, and law.

The high ranking of aid received in attending meetings or classes held by the vocational agriculture department was very gratifying to the author. There remains a need for expanding an organized effective program of adult instruction.

Considered judgments received from thirty farm operators in the Stroud community regarding the necessity of the vocational agriculture teacher spending at least three afternoons per week with farmers and farm boys on their farms:

As is evident by the data presented in Table XXX, 43.33 per cent of farm operators reporting stated that it was very important for the

TABLE XXX

CONSIDERED JUDGMENTS RECEIVED FROM THIRTY FARM OPERATORS IN THE STROUD COMMUNITY REGARDING THE NECESSITY OF THE VOCATIONAL AGRICULTURE TEACHER SPENDING AT LEAST THREE AFTERNOONS PER WEEK WITH FARMERS AND FARM BOYS ON THEIR FARMS

Judgments expressed	Number Reporting	Percent Reporting
Very important	13	43.33
Somewhat important	16	53.34
Not important	1	3.33
Total reporting	30	100.00

vocational agriculture teacher to spend three afternoons per week on adults and students' farms, while 53.34 per cent felt it was somewhat important. Only 3.33 per cent indicated no importance; this may indicate that the instructor should eliminate some of the other activities and spend more time on the patrons' farms within the community.

Considered judgments received from thirty farm operators of the Stroud community regarding the extent of obligation to attend group meetings which should be assumed by those receiving individual aid and assistance:

The findings as presented in Table XXXI indicate that 40.00 per cent of the farm operators surveyed felt that they should attend most meetings

TABLE XXXI

CONSIDERED JUDGMENTS RECEIVED FROM THIRTY FARM OPERATORS OF THE STROUD COMMUNITY REGARDING THE EXTENT OF OBLIGATION TO ATTEND GROUP MEETINGS WHICH SHOULD BE ASSUMED BY THOSE RECEIVING INDIVIDUAL AID AND ASSISTANCE

Judgments expressed	Number Reporting	Percent Reporting
Should attend some meetings	14	46.66
Should attend most meetings	12	40.00
As tax payer he has right to receive such aid without attending classes	4	13.34
Total reporting	30	100.00

if they receive individual aid on the home farm, while 46.66 per cent felt that they should only attend some meetings. Only 13.34 per cent of this group felt that they should be able to receive such aid without attending classes.

Additional comments received by farmers regarding the local vocational agriculture program and F.F.A.:

"Vocational agriculture is becoming the most important business today. We have a greater demand for good farmers than ever before. Without farmers the world would soon die. The best way of training a young man into becoming a good farmer is by having a good F.F.A. in high schools. Our farms have been let run down so now is the time to rebuild them, and it takes a lot of knowledge to rebuild one into a good farm. In my opinion, F.F.A. is about the most important subject in high school."

"In regard to the diminishing farm population, it should be everyone's concern to keep our vocational agriculture and F.F.A. program."

"I think it is a great work and should keep improving."

"I think agriculture is as much a science as any other profession. We should provide the best possible training for those choosing agriculture for a profession (option) consistent with cost, the same as any other subject."

"I think it would be fine if all boys could have some knowledge of livestock production and crops. It was once asked me by a college graduate (School of Mines) how a mule was produced."

"Continue the good work in Lincoln County."

"Speaking for myself, I think that at least two years of agriculture should be required for all male students in high school. My reasons for such a statement is the increasing need for knowledge in the field of conservation. This field is covered very well in the classroom of vocational agriculture."

"The welding class conducted by the vocational agriculture teacher was of great value to those who attended."

"I think of these classes, each grade should have a class, but it can be a field trip, judging, or dehorning whichever is important."

"There are exceptions to all rules except one and that is, 'Everyone should know something about agriculture.'"

#### SUPPLEMENT C - EDUCATIONAL PERSONNEL

Considered judgments received from nineteen educational personnel regarding the extent to which they judged the program of vocational agriculture as operating to the advantage or disadvantage of other school activities:

It is shown in Table XXXII that 47.38 per cent of the educational personnel surveyed indicated that they felt that vocational agriculture

TABLE XXXII

CONSIDERED JUDGMENTS RECEIVED FROM NINETEEN EDUCATIONAL PERSONNEL REGARDING THE EXTENT TO WHICH THEY JUDGED THE PROGRAM OF VOCATIONAL AGRICULTURE AS OPERATING TO THE ADVANTAGE OR DISADVANTAGE OF OTHER SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

Judgments expressed	Number Reporting	Percent Reporting
Leadership training in F.F.A. operates to students' advantage in other school activities	9	47.38
Conflicts are largely competitive for students' time	8	42.10
Operates neither to advantage or disadvantage	2	10.52
It is a definite disadvantage	0	0.00
Total reporting	19	100.00

operated to a definite advantage in other school subjects. Forty-two and ten one hundredths per cent reported that they felt that conflicts are largely competitive for students' time. Only 10.52 per cent indicated that it operated neither to the advantage or disadvantage of the school activities. There were none of the group that indicated that the vocational agriculture program operated as a definite disadvantage.

Considered judgments received from nineteen educational personnel regarding justification for the cost of operating and maintaining the local program of vocational agriculture:

Data as presented in Table XXXIII, shows that 94.74 per cent of this group indicated that the nature of the vocational agriculture program was

TABLE XXXIII

CONSIDERED JUDGMENTS RECEIVED FROM NINETEEN EDUCATIONAL PERSONNEL REGARDING JUSTIFICATION FOR THE COST OF OPERATING AND MAINTAINING THE LOCAL PROGRAM OF VOCATIONAL AGRICULTURE

Judgments expressed	Number Reporting	Percent Reporting
Benefits which students receive from the program amply justify money expended	9	47.37
The nature of the program is such that this can be avoided	9	47.37
The expenditures of such money is far out of proportion considering benefits received	1	5.26
Total reporting	19	100.00

such that the high cost could be avoided or that benefits which students

receive from the program amply justify money expended. One individual, or 5.26 per cent of the group, indicated that the expenditures of such money is far out of proportion considering benefits received.

Observations of nineteen educational personnel as to the nature and extent of the time spent in activities by the vocational agriculture teacher as compared to that spent by other teachers in the school system:

The findings as presented in Table XXXIV indicate that the majority of educational personnel feel that the vocational agriculture instructor spends less time in classroom teaching compared to other teachers in the school system and they indicated that he should continue to do so. This indication was probably influenced by the local vocational agriculture teacher having a three-class schedule with the other periods set aside for student project visitation, counselling and community service.

A large majority of the educational personnel recognized that the vocational agriculture teacher spends about the same time in preparation for teaching as do the other instructors and further indicated that they felt he should continue to do so.

Thirteen of the sixteen respondents indicated that in their observation, the vocational agriculture teacher either spent about the same time or more time in extra-curricular activities. Seven individuals indicated that they thought he should spend less time in these activities.

A small majority indicated that the vocational agriculture teacher spends about the same time as other teachers in student advisement with seven indicating that he spends more time. Six indicated that they thought he should spend more time.

A decided majority of the teachers indicated that they recognized that the vocational agriculture teacher spends more time in home visitation.



TABLE XXXIV

OBSERVATIONS OF NINETEEN EDUCATIONAL PERSONNEL AS TO THE NATURE  
AND EXTENT OF THE TIME SPENT IN ACTIVITIES BY THE VOCATIONAL  
AGRICULTURE TEACHER AS COMPARED TO THAT SPENT BY OTHER  
TEACHERS IN THE SCHOOL SYSTEM

Activity	Presently the Vo. Ag. teacher spends:			The Vo. Ag. teacher should spend:	
	Number indicating			Number indicating	
	More time	about same time	less time	more time	less time
Classroom teaching	1	5	10	4	6
Preparation for teaching	1	14	1	6	1
Extra-curricular activities	6	7	3	1	7
Student Advisement	7	9	0	6	2
Home visitations	14	2	0	6	2
Adult teaching	11	2	2	6	3
Civic and church respon- sibilities	1	15	0	4	3
Work with individual adults	12	2	2	5	4
Unjustified loafing	0	6	7	0	5
Professional improvement	2	14	0	6	2

Also a majority of those responding to the question indicated that the teacher should spend more time in visitation.

A great majority of the teachers indicated that the vocational agriculture teacher spends more time in adult education with a majority indicating that he should spend more time. The author was rather puzzled that two educational personnel indicated that the vocational agriculture teacher spends less time in adult education, as he is presently the only teacher in the school system with an adult education program.

A great majority of the teachers indicated that the vocational agriculture teacher spends about the same time in civic and church responsibilities. A small majority indicated that he should spend more time while three stated that he should spend less time.

A great majority of the teachers indicated that the vocational agriculture teacher spends more time working with individual adults with only a slight majority indicating that he should spend more time. Four indicated that he should spend less time.

Six of the nineteen respondents indicated that the vocational agriculture teacher spent about the same time as other teachers in 'unjustified loafing' while seven indicated that he spends less time. Five indicated that he should spend less time in 'unjustified loafing'.

A large majority of the teachers indicated that the vocational agriculture teacher spent about the same time in professional improvement with a majority also stating that he should spend more time in professional improvement. This was rather surprising, since the vocational agriculture teacher attends monthly professional improvement meetings, in addition to courses taken for renewal of his teaching certificate. These activities are not generally engaged in to the same extent by other teachers.

This would seem to suggest that the local vocational agriculture teacher might profit by acquainting his fellow workers and the local Board of Education with the duties of his position and the large number of hours spent in the performance of various activities of the department.

Additional comments made by educational personnel about the program of vocational agriculture and F.F.A. in the Stroud schools:

"Believe considerable duplication takes place in county agent, vocational agriculture, F.F.A., etc., which is not necessary and expense unjustified. A course in agriculture would thus be adequate. The county agent should instruct the adults; the agriculture teacher should instruct the students."

"Would like to see a county agriculture school system - grades 9-12. Each student would have a choice of attending the local public school or attending a separate agriculture school. This would allow our farm boys to specialize in agriculture as well as get their academic studies."

"I have not checked column II in above question as I feel that our vocational agriculture teacher is the best judge as to whether they should spend more or less time on certain phases of his program. I do feel that our program is well balanced and well prepared, and am sincere in the belief that a good teacher knows where the weak spots are in his program, and will concentrate his efforts to strengthen these weaknesses. I do not believe in too much outside activities such as taking tickets, etc., and feel that this time would be more valuable if used for class and study preparation, or teaching improvement."

"Vocational agriculture as a subject and F.F.A. work, in general, do much to help boys grow mentally, socially, and physically. I am for the program 100 per cent."

"I feel that the Stroud Public School System has one of the ablest and most enthusiastic F.F.A. instructors to be found anywhere.

## CHAPTER IV

### CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

In making the study and analysis of the opinions expressed by residents in the Stroud community regarding the local program of vocational agriculture, it is felt that a wealth of useful material has been collected which will be of vast importance to the writer, the school officials, residents and state officials in any attempt at making recommendations for the improvement or justification of the local program of vocational agriculture. The source of opinions upon which the study was based is felt to be as reliable, dependable, and unprejudiced as could be secured by the survey method. An influencing factor was the long tenure of those surveyed with the greater number of the groups having lived in the Stroud community for over fifteen years. A large percentage of the farmers have been associated with vocational agriculture either in adult classes, individual service, or they have had sons in vocational agriculture courses. Since vocational agriculture was established in the Stroud community in 1933, the people within the community have had many years to observe its work.

In determining the opinions of the residents regarding certain values and effects of the program, the study brought out the fact that, in general, the majority of the people seem to recognize that vocational agriculture and F.F.A. contribute greatly toward the development of the individual boy, and that in addition to developing skills, it also contributes toward knowledge, attitudes, and appreciations.

With the indications of the tables within this survey in mind, the author feels that the following recommendations would be of use in improvement and maintenance of the position of any vocational agriculture department within a community. These recommendations are designed to better fulfill the needs of the people served, by obtaining the interest and cooperation of the public; and better fitting the vocational agriculture program into the general school program.

### Recommendations

The writer feels that sufficient information has been derived from this study to make some definite recommendations with regard to certain policies which might be formulated and activities implemented which would advance the vocational agriculture program in the Stroud community.

In summary form, these recommendations are as follow:

- (1) The school district should continue to provide facilities and equipment necessary to carry on an effective all-day class instruction and adult class instructional program.
- (2) The vocational agriculture teacher should be moderate in outside activity participation; carefully explain to proper school officials the need and value of certain activities; and be tactful and cooperative with other teachers.
- (3) Only permit and encourage enrollment of town boys showing a definite interest and desire to take vocational agriculture.
- (4) Keep the needs of the individual boy in mind when teaching, and strive toward imparting knowledge, leadership, citizenship, and the attainment of desirable attitudes and appreciations.
- (5) Guide the students in the development of skills, attempting always to be both practical and profitable.

- (6) Continue to conduct an active community service program keeping educational objectives always in mind.
- (7) Continue the adult farmers' class and strive to make it a more active, useful, meaningful, and worthwhile program by building the course content around the needs of the members attending. Plan to encourage the group to be more self-directive and more self-expressive.
- (8) Continue to emphasize an active F.F.A. chapter by having planned regular meetings throughout the year with all members having responsibilities.
- (9) Visit more regularly in the homes of all-day students and adults, trying to be of assistance in helping to improve the farming conditions of the community. Consider the total farming programs from the standpoint of improving management.
- (10) Solicit the parents' support of their sons activities and show interest in the relationship of the student to home and community.
- (11) Place more emphasis on farm management in the young and adult farmer classes, providing them with up-to-date practical, usable information.
- (12) Encourage better understanding on the part of school officials with the problems faced by farmers within the community.
- (13) Be diligent in supplying the school superintendent or principal with an itinerary of all activities.

Any vocational agriculture teacher should make a major effort to inform the public of all important activities of the local department. This survey has shown that the vocational agriculture teacher has not always fully

acquainted the educational personnel of his school about two of his most important activities - adult classes and professional improvement.

The local vocational agriculture teacher must attempt always to fit the local vocational agriculture program into the total school program, always recognizing his department as another of the tools that help assist the local high school to educate the young people of the community so that they may fit satisfactorily into the social, economic, and spiritual life of the community and the nation.



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**APPENDIX**

A STUDY OF OPINIONS GIVEN BY RESIDENTS OF THE STROUD  
COMMUNITY REGARDING THE VALUE AND EFFECTIVENESS OF THE  
LOCAL PROGRAM OF VOCATIONAL AGRICULTURE

Schedule A

Please fill in the enclosed questionnaire and return it as soon as possible.  
Please do not place your name or any identifying marks on this paper.

1. Number of years you have lived in the Stroud community. 1. ....

(check ONE appropriate item)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> (1) Under 5 years<br><input type="checkbox"/> (2) Five through 8 years<br><input type="checkbox"/> (3) Eight through 10 years | <input type="checkbox"/> (4) Ten through 15 years<br><input type="checkbox"/> (5) Over 15 years |
|--|---|

2. Did you receive your high school education in the Stroud schools? 2. ....

- (1) Yes       (2) No

3. Was there a department of vocational agriculture in operation in the high school you attended? 3. ....

- (1) Yes       (2) No

4. How many years of vocational agriculture did you complete? 4. ....

- |   |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> (1) one year   | <input type="checkbox"/> (2) two years | <input type="checkbox"/> (3) three years |
| <input type="checkbox"/> (4) four years | <input type="checkbox"/> (5) none      |  |

5. Has your son ever taken vocational agriculture in the local high school? 5. ....

- (1) Yes       (2) No

6. Do you feel that your opinion regarding the problem which farmers face has changed during the last four or five years? 6. ....

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> (1) Continued sympathetic attitude<br><input type="checkbox"/> (2) Continued unsympathetic attitude<br><input type="checkbox"/> (3) Continued indifferent attitude | <input type="checkbox"/> (4) Decidedly more sympathetic attitude<br><input type="checkbox"/> (5) Decidedly less sympathetic attitude |
|---|--|

7. Do you feel that your opinion of the value of the program of vocational agriculture in high school has changed materially during the last four or five years? Please indicate nature and extent of attitude change. 7. ....

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> (1) Continued favorable attitude<br><input type="checkbox"/> (2) Continued unfavorable attitude<br><input type="checkbox"/> (3) Continued indifferent attitude | <input type="checkbox"/> (4) Decidedly more favorable attitude<br><input type="checkbox"/> (5) Decidedly less favorable attitude |
|---|--|

8. In your opinion is there justification for continuing vocational agriculture in the local high school curriculum? 8.....

\_\_\_\_\_ (1) Yes \_\_\_\_\_ (2) Doubtful \_\_\_\_\_ (3) Only if certain changes  
are made \_\_\_\_\_ (4) No

9. Is it your observation that the educational value to rural young men of our community with regard to the following activities of vocational agriculture and the F.F.A. is sufficient to justify the time and expense required? 9.....

(check each item in appropriate column)

	Very Valuable	Of Some Value	Ques- tionable Value	No Opinion
Local fairs and shows				
District and State fairs and shows				
Judging Contests				
Other contests				
Public Speaking, Parliamentary, etc.				
County, District and State Field Days				
Field Trips				
Dehorning, Vaccinating, Castrating, and doc- toring sick animals				
Civic Work				
Money Raising Activities				
Selecting and Buying Projects				

10. In your opinion is your local vocational agriculture department filling a need in this community NOT being met by other agricultural and educational agencies? 10.....

\_\_\_\_\_ (1) Adequately \_\_\_\_\_ (2) Partially \_\_\_\_\_ (3) No  
\_\_\_\_\_ (4) No opinion

11. Do you feel that vocational agriculture has helped in developing leadership in our local farm youth? 11.....

\_\_\_\_\_ (1) Yes \_\_\_\_\_ (2) No

12. Do you feel that vocational agriculture has helped in bringing about a better understanding between rural and town people? 12.....

\_\_\_\_\_ (1) Definitely \_\_\_\_\_ (2) Partially \_\_\_\_\_ (3) No

13. Do you feel that adult and young farmer classes and farm visitations help meet the educational needs of our farm people? 13.\_\_\_\_  
 Adequately \_\_\_\_\_ Partially \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_
14. Do you think non-farm boys should take vocational agriculture? 14.\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No
15. Do you think that the vocational agriculture taken in high school has been of value to those boys who went into occupations other than farming? 15.\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ (1) Completely \_\_\_\_\_ (2) Partially \_\_\_\_\_ (3) No  
 \_\_\_\_\_ (4) No opinion
16. Is it more important for vocational agriculture teachers to visit in students' homes than for other teachers in the system? 16.\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No
17. Do you think vocational agriculture has brought desirable recognition to the school and community by its varied activities? 17.\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No
18. In the light of the above questions, do you feel that the local program of vocational agriculture can be justified? 18.\_\_\_\_  
 Completely \_\_\_\_\_ Partially \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_
19. Do you think the department of vocational agriculture should have a pickup as part of its regular school equipment? 19.\_\_\_\_  
 Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_
20. In view of the fact that farmers are producing such a surplus of farm commodities and that fewer farmers are needed each year, to what extent do you think we actually need a vocational agriculture course in the high school? 20.\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ (1) Not needed \_\_\_\_\_ (2) Need is doubtful \_\_\_\_\_ (3) Need is as great as ever \_\_\_\_\_ (4) Need is greater
21. Do you feel that the fact that vocational agriculture is offered in the high school prevents students from taking other courses which would benefit them more? (Example: Science and mathematics) 21.\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ (1) Yes, it keeps them out of needed subjects \_\_\_\_\_ (2) Only in the case of a few students \_\_\_\_\_ (3) It provides training of equal value  
 \_\_\_\_\_ (4) It is worth more for rural youth than other courses  
 \_\_\_\_\_ (5) Students can get courses needed and still take vocational agriculture

22. Are the following jobs an important part of the vocational agriculture teachers responsibility? 22. ....

(check each item in appropriate column)

	Very Important	Less Important	Not Important
Participation in shows and fairs			
Veterinarian			
Coaching judging teams			
Civic worker			
Taking Tickets			
Teach adult classes			
Spraying for community			
Continue schooling when possible (teacher)			
Promote local shows			
Perform all duties as any other teacher in system			
Teach 3 classes of voc. agri.			
Teach 4 classes of voc. agri.			
Teach 5 classes of voc. agri.			
Supervise farm projects of students			
Perform non-educational services (adults)			

## SUPPLEMENT A

## LOCAL PROFESSIONAL AND BUSINESSMEN

.. What is your opinion regarding assistance rendered F. F. A. by civic clubs?

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Very worthwhile expenditure of time and money
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Probably worth-while
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. At times may be of questionable value
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. There are many other projects that would be far more worthwhile

.. Do you engage in any farming operations?

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. None
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Largely a hobby
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Income received amounts to less than 25% of total income
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Income received amounts to between 25%-50% of total income
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Income received amounts to between 50%-65% of total income

.. If you care to make additional comments about the vocational agriculture program and F. F. A. activities in our local school, please do so below.

FARM OPERATORS

1. Please give the extent of your farming operation.
  - 1. No farming operation
  - 2. Largely a hobby
  - 3. Income received amounts to less than 25% of total income
  - 4. Income received amounts to between 25%-50% of total income
  - 5. Income received amounts to between 50%-65% of total income
  
2. With regard to the possibility of your own children remaining in an agricultural occupation:
  - 1. It is quite likely
  - 2. There is some possibility
  - 3. I do not believe it likely
  - 4. No children now at home
  
3. With regard to instruction given high school students on care and repair of farm machinery and equipment, do you believe that the emphasis now placed by your local department is:
  - 1. More than needed
  - 2. About right
  - 3. Should be increased
  
4. With regard to instruction given young farmers and adults on care and repair of farm machinery and equipment, do you believe that the emphasis now placed by your local department is:
  - 1. More than needed
  - 2. About right
  - 3. Should be increased
  
5. What has been the nature of services and benefits which you have received from the program of vocational agriculture in this community?

Services	Have Received Considerable Aid	Have Received Some Aid	Have Received No Aid	Did not Desire Such Aid
Aid in connection with shows and fairs				
Aid with livestock disease control, castrating, dehorning, etc.				
Having attended meetings or classes held by vocational agriculture department				
Livestock selection and improvement				
Crop selection and improvement				
Soil conservation and management				
Farm Management				
Income tax, social security and laws				
Community improvement				
Crop pest control				
Livestock spraying				



6. Considering the above answers, do you think the teacher of vocational agriculture should spend at least 3 afternoons a week with farmers and farm boys on their farms?  
\_\_\_\_\_ 1. Very important      \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Somewhat important      \_\_\_\_\_ 3. No importance
7. Do you think that farmers in the community which received individual aid should be obligated to attend some group meetings that the teacher conducts?  
\_\_\_\_\_ 1. Should attend most meetings      \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Should attend some meetings  
\_\_\_\_\_ 3. As a taxpayer he has a right to receive such assistance without attending classes
8. If you care to make additional comments about the program of vocational agriculture and F. F. A. please do so below.

## SUPPLEMENT C

## EDUCATIONAL PERSONNEL

1. Do you think that the program of vocational agriculture including F. F. A. activities operates to the advantage or disadvantage of other school activities. (Please check one.)  
 \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Is a definite disadvantage \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Conflicts are largely competition for student's time \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Operates neither to advantage or disadvantage as far as I can determine \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Leadership training in F. F. A. operates to the students advantage in other school activities.
2. The cost of operating and maintaining a program of vocational agriculture may be in excess of that expended on other programs. (Please check one.)  
 \_\_\_\_\_ 1. The expenditure of such money is far out of proportion considering benefits received \_\_\_\_\_ 2. The nature of program is such that this can be avoided \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Benefits which students receive from the program amply justify money expended
3. In your observation of the work of the vocational agriculture teacher and the time which he spends in various activities, please compare time expended by the agriculture teacher with time expended by other teachers in the local school. (Check one column for each line in both I and II)

Activity	I			II	
	Compared to other teachers More Time	About same Time	Less Time	I feel Voc. Agri. Teacher should spend More Time	Less Time
Classroom teaching					
Preparation for teaching					
Extra-curricular duties					
Student advisement					
Home visitation					
Adult teaching					
Civic and church responsibilities					
Work with individual adults					
Injustified loafing					
Professional improvement					

4. If you care to make additional comments about the program of vocational agriculture and F. F. A., please do so below.

## VITA

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Master of Science

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Biographical:

Personal data: Born at Burford, Arkansas, October 10, 1925, the son of William A. and Lucy Hopper.

Education: Attended grade school at Goodwill grade school, Excelsior high school, graduating from high school in 1944; attended Oklahoma Baptist University, 1945-1946; Connors State Agricultural College, 1946-1947; and received the Bachelor of Science degree from the Oklahoma Agricultural and Mechanical College with a major in Agricultural Education, in May, 1950.

Professional experience: Teacher of vocational agriculture at Wellston High School, Wellston, Oklahoma, 1950-1952; Manager, Shiflet and Shiflet Ranch, Red Rock, Oklahoma, 1952-1953; teacher of vocational agriculture Stroud, Oklahoma, 1953-1957.

Member of Oklahoma Education Association, National Education Association, Oklahoma Vocational Association, National Vocational Association, Stroud Chamber of Commerce, Stroud Lions Club, Stroud Lodge AF and AM.