

A STUDY OF YOUNG MEN HOLDING  
THE AMERICAN FARMER DEGREE  
IN OKLAHOMA

A STUDY OF YOUNG MEN HOLDING THE AMERICAN FARMER  
DEGREE IN OKLAHOMA

By

GEORGE WILLIAM KEENER

Bachelor of Science

Pennsylvania State College  
State College, Pennsylvania

1938

Submitted to the Department of Agricultural Education

Oklahoma Agricultural and Mechanical College

In Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements

for the Degree of

MASTER OF SCIENCE

1947

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA LIBRARY  
DEC 8 1967

APPROVED BY:

Chris White  
Chairman, Thesis Committee

[Signature]  
Member of the Thesis Committee

[Signature]  
Head of the Department

D. G. Mitchell  
Dean of the Graduate School

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The writer wishes to express his sincere gratitude and appreciation to members of the Department of Agricultural Education, Professor White, Professor Angerer, and Professor Orr for their able assistance and timely suggestions in preparing this thesis.

Special acknowledgement is due Mrs. Minnie A. Erwin of the State office of Vocational Agriculture and also the sixty American Farmers who so promptly returned their questionnaires.

Much credit is also given my wife, Eleanor, for her able assistance during the preparation of this thesis.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
Introduction . . . . .	1
Purpose of Study . . . . .	4
Methods of Procedure . . . . .	5
Presentaticn and Analysis of Data . . . . .	
1. List of Oklahoma's American Farmers and schools represented	10
2. Years of vocational agriculture taken by each of the sixty American Farmer's studied . . . . .	16
3. Number who held major F.F.A. offices . . . . .	18
4. Livestock owned by students at the time of receiving the American Farmer Degree and today . . . . .	20
5. Equipment owned by students at the time of receiving the American Farmer Degree and today . . . . .	30
6. Crops grown . . . . .	41
7. Special skills learned during training period and being used today . . . . .	45
8. Advanced educational attainments of the group . . . . .	46
9. Present farming status . . . . .	48
10. Community activities . . . . .	50
11. Effect of military training on future farming activities	51
Summary . . . . .	53
Bibliography . . . . .	58

## LIST OF TABLES

Number	Title	Page
1.	The number of Oklahoma State Farmers receiving the American Farmer Degree from 1928 to 1946 inclusive and the percentage replying to questionnaire . . . . .	15
2.	The number of years of vocational agriculture taken by each of the sixty American Farmers studied . . . . .	16
3.	The number of vocational agriculture teachers each of the sixty boys had while studying vocational agriculture . . . . .	16
4.	List of persons who supplied the incentive for students to secure the degree . . . . .	17
5.	The number of the sixty American Farmers who held local, state, or national offices in the Future Farmers of America organization	18
6.	Additional evidence of leadership shown by the sixty American Farmers in extra curricular activities while in high school. . .	19
7.	Kind and number of livestock owned by students at time of receiving the American Farmer Degree the first ten years degree was given (1928 to 1938) . . . . .	20
8.	Kind and number of livestock owned today by <u>Group A</u> represented in Table 7 . . . . .	21
9.	Kind and number of livestock owned by students at time of receiving the American Farmer Degree during the four year period from 1938 to 1942 . . . . .	22
10.	Kind and number of livestock owned today by <u>Group B</u> represented in Table 9 . . . . .	22
11.	Kind and number of livestock owned by students at time of receiving the American Farmer Degree during five year period from 1942 to 1946 inclusive . . . . .	24
12.	Kind and number of livestock owned today by <u>Group C</u> represented in Table 11 . . . . .	24
13.	Kind and number of livestock owned by sixty American Farmers at time of receiving the American Farmer Degree . . . . .	25
14.	Kind and number of livestock owned by sixty American Farmers today . . . . .	26

## LIST OF TABLES (Continued)

Number	Title	Page
15.	Kind and value of equipment owned by students at time of receiving the American Farmer Degree the first ten years degree was given (1928 to 1938) . . . . .	30
16.	Kind and value of equipment owned today by <u>Group A</u> represented in Table 15 . . . . .	30
17.	Kind and value of equipment owned by students at time of receiving the American Farmer Degree during the four year period from 1938 to 1942 . . . . .	31
18.	Kind and value of equipment owned today by <u>Group B</u> , represented in Table 17 . . . . .	32
19.	Kind and value of equipment owned by students at time of receiving the American Farmer Degree during the five year period from 1942 to 1946 inclusive . . . . .	33
20.	Kind and value of equipment owned today by Group C represented in Table 19 . . . . .	33
21.	Kind and value of equipment owned by sixty American Farmers at time of receiving the American Farmer Degree . . . . .	34
22.	Kind and value of equipment owned by sixty American Farmers today . . . . .	35
22A.	Increase of livestock and machinery investments by periods from time receiving the degree . . . . .	38
23.	Number of acres and value of land owned by sixty American Farmers at time degree was received . . . . .	39
24.	Number of acres of crop land rented and amount rent paid by 60 American Farmers at time degree was received . . . . .	40
25.	Acres of crops grown this last season by sixty American Farmers . . . . .	41
26.	The number of judging contests participated in by sixty American Farmers while actively engaged in F.F.A. activities . . . . .	43
27.	Methods used in becoming established in farming by the sixty American Farmers . . . . .	44
28.	Skills learned in vocational agriculture being used today by Oklahoma American Farmers . . . . .	45
29.	Number of the sixty Oklahoma American Farmers who attended college . . . . .	46

## LIST OF TABLES (Continued)

Number	Title	Page
30.	Honors attained by the twenty-four American Farmers who attended college . . . . .	46
31.	Attendance at part-time or evening classes held by instructor of vocational agriculture . . . . .	47
32.	Present farming status of Oklahoma American Farmers . . . . .	48
33.	Number of American Farmers keeping records on major and minor enterprises . . . . .	49
34.	Number of farm organizations of which the sixty American Farmers are members today . . . . .	50
35.	Number of the sixty American Farmers in armed forces and effect upon future farming plans . . . . .	51



## LIST OF FIGURES

Number	Title	Page
1.	The percentage of young men holding office in Local, State, and National F.F.A. organization . . . . .	18
2.	The percentage of young men holding office in other curricular activities while in high school . . . . .	19
3.	The value of various kinds of livestock owned by sixty American Farmers at time of receiving the American Farmer Degree . . . .	27
4.	The value of various kinds of livestock owned by sixty American Farmers today (1947) . . . . .	27
5.	The percentage of young men owning various kinds of livestock at time of receiving the American Farmer Degree . . . . .	28
6.	The percentage of men owning various kinds of livestock today (1947) . . . . .	28
7.	The percentage of total investment in various kinds of livestock at time of receiving the American Farmer Degree . . . . .	29
8.	The percentage of total investment in various kinds of livestock today (1947) . . . . .	29
9.	The value of various kinds of equipment owned by sixty American Farmers at time of receiving the American Farmer Degree . . . .	36
10.	The value of various kinds of equipment owned by sixty American Farmers today (1947) . . . . .	36
11.	The percentage of young men owning various kinds of equipment at time of receiving the American Farmer Degree . . . . .	36
12.	The percentage of men owning various kinds of equipment today (1947) . . . . .	37
13.	The percentage of total investment in various kinds of equipment at time of receiving the American Farmer Degree . . . . .	37
14.	The percentage of total investment in various kinds of equipment today (1947) . . . . .	37
15.	The percentage of crops grown this last season by sixty American Farmers (1946) . . . . .	42
16.	Acres of crops grown this last season by sixty American Farmers (1946) . . . . .	42

## LIST OF FIGURES (Continued)

Number	Title	Page
17.	The number of students growing various kinds of crops this last season (1946) . . . . .	42
18.	Present farming status of Oklahoma American Farmers . . . . .	49
19.	The percentage of American Farmers in farm organizations today (1947) . . . . .	50

## INTRODUCTION

This study deals with young men who have received the American Farmer Degree in Oklahoma. Since the passage of the Smith-Hughes Act in 1917, vocational agriculture has taken its place in the high schools of Oklahoma. Even before the National organization of F.F.A. was formed in 1928 in Kansas City, Missouri, this state had an organization of Future Farmers of Oklahoma. The F.F.O. received Charter No. 7 on December 20, 1928, admitting it to the National Organization. During the first years of the existence of the National Organization, two young students from Oklahoma received the American Farmer Degree. With the exception of 1937, the state has had its share of winners of this outstanding F.F.A. agricultural award. At the conclusion of 1946, there were 73 who had attained this high degree, two of whom are deceased at this writing.

Each department of vocational agriculture sponsors its own local F.F.A. chapter. A combination of all local chapters form the State organization. The state organizations in turn unite to form the National organization which is composed of 47 state associations and the two territorial associations, Hawaii and Puerto Rico. The policies of all the state and territorial organizations are molded together by a National Constitution. In turn most state and local chapters carry on their work through similar chapter and state constitutions. Through the binding effect of a National organization, young boys from all over the United States and its territories gather yearly at Kansas City for the F.F.A. National Convention. Under the guiding hand of State and National Supervisors, who act as state and national advisors, the convention is conducted entirely

by the National F.F.A. Officers. Oklahoma has produced two National Presidents, both of whom are successful in their chosen fields of agriculture. Mr. Vernon Howell served the National Association as President in 1932-33 and is now president of Cameron State Agricultural College at Lawton, Oklahoma. Mr. Oliver Kinzie served as National President in 1944-45 and is a very prosperous dairy farmer at the present time in his home community at Cushing, Oklahoma.

The F.F.A. organization offers four different degrees for advancement to vocational agricultural students. These are:

1. The Green Hand Degree which is the first award available for those having satisfactory and acceptable plans for a program of supervised farming.
2. The Chapter Farmer which is the second degree awarded by the local chapter after having held the Green Hand Degree for at least one year and satisfactory participation in the activities of the local chapter.
3. Junior Master Farmer which is the third degree awarded but conferred by the State organization at the State convention. To be eligible a boy must have been an active member of the F.F.A. for at least two years with a record of outstanding qualifications and with an exceptional agricultural program in operation.
4. The American Farmer Degree which is the fourth and highest award which is given by the National organization. To be eligible a boy:
  - a. Must have held the Degree of State Farmer for at least one year preceding election to the Degree of American Farmer, have been an active member of the F.F.A. continuously for at least three years, and have a record of satisfactory participation in the activities of the local chapter and State association.
  - b. Must have satisfactorily completed at least three years of instruction in vocational agriculture, or have completed all the vocational agriculture offered in the school last attended, and have in operation an outstanding program of supervised farming which shows comprehensive planning, continuation, growth, and increase in scope as substantiated by complete, accurate, and neat records.

- c. Must have earned by his own efforts from farming and other agricultural work and deposited in a bank or otherwise productively invested at least \$500. In cases where the applicant has assisted in the support of dependents, the amount so expended, in the judgment of the National Board of Trustees, may be considered as an investment.
- d. Show outstanding ability in leadership and cooperation.
- e. Must have a satisfactory scholarship record certified to by the local school superintendent or principal.
- f. Must be recommended by the National Board of Trustees and receive a majority vote of the delegates present at a national convention of Future Farmers of America.
- g. Each state may award one American Farmer Degree for every 1,000 vocational agricultural students or major fraction thereof.

Vocational agriculture in its truest sense embraces the life and work of the farming community in which the young student is located and of which he is a part. This partially gives the true story of why these young men who have received the American Farmer Degree are generally considered successful in their chosen field of farming. Their ideas and habits have been formed by actually doing the job while under guidance of a mature advisor.

Questions of interest have frequently been raised concerning these men as to their ability to carry on in the future with the same spirit of leadership and capabilities as shown while still under the watchful eye of their instructors. No previous study has been made in Oklahoma in reference to these questions, or in regard to the holders of the American Farmer Degree. Hence the writer, being especially interested in this phase of Future Farmer work chose the American Farmers for his study.

A STUDY OF YOUNG MEN HOLDING THE AMERICAN FARMER  
DEGREE IN OKLAHOMA

PURPOSE

To determine if American Farmers in Oklahoma continue to develop their farming program, their leadership abilities, and promote other activities after leaving school.

SUB PURPOSES

1. To determine the correlation between the number of teachers a student has had during his four-year term and the number of students who have earned the degree.
2. To determine from whom the student received the incentive to try to earn the degree.
3. To determine evidence of leadership now shown by young men who have earned this degree.
4. To determine the farming program of students the last year of supervised instruction and the degree of continuation of these enterprises in post school activities.
5. To determine the number and kind of livestock, crops, land and equipment owned or rented by these young men:
  - a. At the time they received degrees.
  - b. At the present time.
6. To determine whether the student has put to use in his own program any of the more modern methods of agricultural training learned in school.
7. To determine the percentage of the American Farmers who are furthering their education above the secondary level.
8. To determine the value of the F.F.A. organization to the student both in and out of school.
9. To determine the cooperative activities in which the student participated both as an F.F.A. member and out of school.
10. To determine what degree the farming program was interrupted by military service.

## METHODS OF PROCEDURE

In order to secure complete information concerning the activities of the men holding the American Farmer Degree, two methods were used: (1) A questionnaire was composed and mailed to all the young men in Oklahoma who had attained this high honor, and (2) Personal conferences were held with numerous young men holding the degree.

After conversing with members of the Agricultural Education Department, Supervisors from the State Vocational Office, and with students of vocational agriculture who are now in college, a questionnaire was compiled for the purpose of securing the desired information from the former students. After criticisms from Professor C. L. Angerer and Professor Chris White, the final questionnaire was prepared and mailed to each American Farmer. An explanatory letter and a stamped return addressed envelope were enclosed with each questionnaire.

A copy of the questionnaire follows:

March 21, 1947

Dear American Farmer:

I have chosen the young men in Oklahoma who hold the Degree of American Farmer, as the topic for the thesis I am writing in Department of Agricultural Education at Oklahoma A. and M. College.

It is with reluctance that I ask you the favor of filling in the enclosed blanks, as I realize how busy you are at this season of the year. However, it is because you and your fellow American Farmers have helped make Oklahoma so outstanding from an agricultural viewpoint that I have chosen this subject.

Since I am a vocational agriculture instructor from Pennsylvania, I am compiling this data in hopes of taking back some of Oklahoma's ideas on how to increase interest among possible future American Farmers.

I will deeply appreciate any effort that you may make in returning the enclosed questionnaire at the earliest possible moment.

Sincerely,

George W. Keener



A STUDY OF YOUNG MEN HOLDING THE AMERICAN FARMER DEGREE IN OKLAHOMA

- 1. Name \_\_\_\_\_ School Attended \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. Year graduated \_\_\_\_\_ How many years of vocational agriculture did you take in high school? \_\_\_\_\_ What year did you receive the American Farmer Degree? \_\_\_\_\_
- 3. How many vocational agriculture teachers did you have while in high school \_\_\_\_\_.
- 4. From whom did you receive the most incentive in pursuing the Degree?  
 Parents \_\_\_\_\_ Teacher \_\_\_\_\_ Neighbor \_\_\_\_\_ Other Relatives \_\_\_\_\_  
 Former Students \_\_\_\_\_ Classmates \_\_\_\_\_ Business Man \_\_\_\_\_
- 5. What F.F.A. offices have you held? Local \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_  
 National \_\_\_\_\_.

List other evidences of leadership: Member of Student Council \_\_\_\_\_  
 Class Officer \_\_\_\_\_ Captain of Athletic Team \_\_\_\_\_  
 Newspaper Staff \_\_\_\_\_ Others \_\_\_\_\_

- 6. What livestock, crops, land and equipment did you acquire while a student of vocational agriculture and have on hand after completion of course?

Kind of livestock	No.	Value	Kind of equipment	Value
:	:	:	:	:
:	:	:	:	:
:	:	:	:	:
:	:	:	:	:
:	:	:	:	:
:	:	:	:	:
:	:	:	:	:

Acres land owned \_\_\_\_\_ Value \_\_\_\_\_  
 Acres land rented \_\_\_\_\_ Annual rent \_\_\_\_\_

How many years have you farmed since leaving school? \_\_\_\_\_ What livestock, crops, and equipment do you now have?

Kind of livestock	No.	Value	Kind of equipment	Value
:	:	:	:	:
:	:	:	:	:
:	:	:	:	:
:	:	:	:	:
:	:	:	:	:
:	:	:	:	:
:	:	:	:	:

Acres of crops this year: Wheat \_\_\_\_\_ Cotton \_\_\_\_\_ Legumes \_\_\_\_\_  
Corn \_\_\_\_\_ Other important crops \_\_\_\_\_

8. In what judging contests did you participate while in high school? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Did you participate in a public speaking contest? Local \_\_\_\_\_  
State \_\_\_\_\_ National \_\_\_\_\_

9. How did you establish yourself in farming? Start with parents \_\_\_\_\_  
Earned money as laborer working on farm for parents or others \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ Have you borrowed money? \_\_\_\_\_  
Moved directly on farm alone upon graduation \_\_\_\_\_

10. What particular skills learned in vocational agriculture have you used? Castrating \_\_\_\_\_, Seasonal spraying of fruits \_\_\_\_\_  
Feeding balanced rations \_\_\_\_\_ Others \_\_\_\_\_

11. Have you attended college? \_\_\_\_\_ Name of college \_\_\_\_\_  
How many years of college work have you completed? \_\_\_\_\_ Courses pursued:  
Agriculture \_\_\_\_\_ Business \_\_\_\_\_ Engineering \_\_\_\_\_  
Others \_\_\_\_\_

12. What honors did you receive in college? Class offices held \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Athletic awards \_\_\_\_\_ Student council \_\_\_\_\_  
 Newspaper staff \_\_\_\_\_ Honorary societies \_\_\_\_\_  
 Others \_\_\_\_\_

13. Do you, or have you, attended evening classes conducted by your local vocational agriculture department? \_\_\_\_\_ Part-time class? \_\_\_\_\_

14. Present farming status: Owner (Acres) \_\_\_\_\_ Renter (Acres) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Farm Manager (Acres) \_\_\_\_\_ Hired man \_\_\_\_\_ Farming with parents  
 on the share (Acres) \_\_\_\_\_ In partnership (Acres) \_\_\_\_\_

15. Are you keeping records on your major enterprise? \_\_\_\_\_  
 Are you keeping records on your minor enterprises? \_\_\_\_\_

16. Member of what farm organizations \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

What offices held in these organizations? \_\_\_\_\_

17. Were you a member of the armed forces during the war? \_\_\_ No. months \_\_\_

18. If a member of the armed forces, has being in the service changed your future farming plans in any way? \_\_\_\_\_ If so, in what way? \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

OKLAHOMA'S AMERICAN FARMERS  
(Arranged by Years)

1928	1939
Jewell Biswell, Claremore Ollie Duroy, Ponca City	J. C. Hamilton, Fort Cobb Sidney Hussey, Sayre Wayne Ivins, Hydro Ray Sharp, Konawa Kenneth Swigart, Mooreland
1929	1940
Ronald Ford, Helena	Kenneth Blecha, Perry Jack Deason, Fort Cobb Ralph Breckenridge, Jr., Pond Creek Duane McNeil, Billings George W. Melott, Pond Creek
1930	1941
Herbert Gumper, Guymon Cloyce Oakley, Helena	Willie Bentley, Temple Don Kirby, Pond Creek Tenys Edward Parr, Lindsay "John D. Scott, Carnegie Glenn Spaeth, Hitchcock Glenn Smith, Prague
1931	1942
Herman Morton, Grandfield Ephriam Wall, Perkins	C. W. Bowman, Ames "Tracey Hunsecker, Jr., Broken Arrow Tommy Moore, Clinton Jene Mungle, Atoka Howard Watson, Verden Lloyd Wright, Roosevelt
1932	1943
Elwood Berry, Clinton 'Vernon Howell, Guymon *Clinton McCarty, Quinlan	"Wayne Boothe, Cordell Walter Jackson, Jr., Roosevelt Clarence F. Kroll, Garber Otto Leven, Newkirk William Sallee, Jr., Pawnee Jack Sudderth, Garber
1933	1944
Emil Belitz, Wellston Ray P. Burton, Perkins *Edwin Taylor, Kingfisher	Gene Guyer, Blackwell Pete Gunn, Temple Vernon Hatley, Shawnee 'Oliver Kinzie, Cushing Howard Klump, Clinton Jack McLane, Verden Ben Rickey, Pauls Valley James Scott, Chickasha Paul Schnaithman, Jr., Garber
1934	
George Harrison, Kingfisher	
1935	
Marion Garrett, Kingfisher Steen Lemon, Kingfisher Carl Williams, Ponca City	
1936	
Raymah Carter, Ponca City	
1938	
J. O. Dickey, Jr., Weatherford Francis Harper, Mooreland Walter Mason, Jr., Cordell Cecil Schoelen, Kingfisher	

## OKLAHOMA'S AMERICAN FARMERS (cont'd.)

1945

Ira Ray Carpenter, Bethel  
 Charles Holland, Hobart  
 Jack Keithly, Ponca City  
 Glenn Millwee, Fort Cobb  
 James Scheirman, Kingfisher  
 Robert Totusek, Garber  
 Ray Tucker, Antlers

1946

Don Dennis, Waurika  
 Richard Every, Kingfisher  
 Gene Fillmore, Cushing  
 Emil Grieser, Hobart  
 Ralph Hansens, Kingfisher  
 Kenneth Pults, Earlsboro  
 Fred Taylor, Kingfisher

\*Deceased

'National Presidents

"Star Farmers of the South

"'Star Farmers of America

## HIGH SCHOOLS FROM WHICH OKLAHOMA'S AMERICAN FARMERS GRADUATED

AMES

C. W. Bowman

ANTLERS

\*\*Ray Tucker

ATOKA

Gene Mungle

BETHEL

Ira Ray Carpenter

BILLINGS

Duane McNeil

BLACKWELL

Gene Guyer

BROKEN ARROW

Tracey Hunsecker, Jr.

CARNEGIE

John D. Scott

CHICKASHA

James Scott

CLAREMORE

Jewell Biswell

CLINTONElwood Berry  
Tommy Moore  
Howard KlumpCORDELLWayne Boothe  
Walter Mason, Jr.CUSHINGGene Fillmore  
Oliver KinzieEARLSBORO

Kenneth Pults

FORT COBBJack Deason  
J. C. Hamilton  
Glenn MillweeGARBERClarence F. Kroll  
Paul Schnaithman, Jr.  
\*\*Jack Sudderth  
Robert TotusekGRANDFIELD

Herman Morton

GUYMON\*\*Herbert Gumper  
\*\*Vernon HowellHELENARonald Ford  
\*\*Cloyce OakleyHITCHCOCK

Glenn Spaeth

HOBARTEmil Grieser  
Charles HollandHYDRO

Wayne Ivins

## HIGH SCHOOLS FROM WHICH OKLAHOMA'S AMERICAN FARMERS GRADUATED (cont'd.)

KINGFISHER

Richard Every  
 Ralph Hansens  
 George Harrison  
 \*\*Marion Garrett  
 Steen Lemon  
 Cecil Schoelen  
 \*\*James Scheirman  
 \*Edwin Taylor  
 Fred Taylor

KONAWA

Ray Sharp

LINDSAY

Tenys Edward Parr

MOORELAND

Francis Harper  
 Kenneth Swigart

NEWKIRK

Otto Leven

PAULS VALLEY

Ben Rickey

PAWNEE

William Sallee, Jr.

PERKINS

Ray P. Burton  
 Ephraim Wall

PERRY

Kenneth Blecha

WEATHORFORD

J. O. Dickey, Jr.

PONCA CITY

Raymah Carter  
 Ollie Duroy  
 Jack Keithly  
 Carl Williams

POND CREEK

Kenneth Breckrenridge, Jr.  
 Don Kirby  
 \*\*George W. Melott

PRAGUE

Glern Smith

QUINLAN

\*Clinton McCarty

ROOSEVELT

\*\*Walter Jackson, Jr.  
 Lloyd Wright

SAYRE

Sidney Hussey

SHAWNEE

Vernon Hartley

TEMPLE

Willie Bentley  
 Pete Gunn

VERDEN

Jack McLane  
 \*\*Howard Watson

WAURIKA

Don Dennis

WELLSTON

Emil Belitz

\*Indicates deceased.

\*\*Indicates the American Farmers who did not return questionnaires.





TABLE NO. 1

THE NUMBER OF OKLAHOMA STATE FARMERS RECEIVING THE AMERICAN FARMER DEGREE FROM 1928 TO 1946 INCLUSIVE AND THE PERCENTAGE REPLYING TO QUESTIONNAIRE.

YEAR	NUMBER OF AMERICAN FARMERS	PER CENT OF AMERICAN FARMERS REPLYING TO QUESTIONNAIRE
1928	2	100
1929	1	100
1930	2	0
1931	2	100
1932	3*	50**
1933	3*	100**
1934	1	100
1935	3	66
1936	1	100
1937	0	0
1938	4	100
1939	5	100
1940	5	80
1941	6	100
1942	6	83
1943	6	66
1944	9	100
1945	7	66
1946	7	100
Total	73	84.5

The total number of vocational agriculture students to receive the American Farmer Degree from 1928 to 1946 inclusive was seventy-three, although two are deceased, leaving a total of seventy-one living today. For some unexplained reason the year 1937 shows no student receiving the degree. From 1928 to 1936 inclusive, only one or two young men per year were fortunate enough to earn this honor with the exception of 1935 when three were awarded the degree. The last eight years shows a decided increase in the number receiving the degree each year. This steady increase is due partially to the increased number of students in

\* Includes those who are deceased.

\*\* Does not include those who are deceased.

vocational agriculture and also to an awakened interest in agricultural problems arising today. The fact that of seventy-one questionnaires sent, 60 or 84.5% were returned proves the continued interest held by these men in agriculture.

TABLE NO. 2

THE NUMBER OF YEARS OF VOCATIONAL AGRICULTURE TAKEN BY EACH OF THE SIXTY AMERICAN FARMERS STUDIED.

Years of Vocational Agriculture	1	2	3	4
Number of Students	0	0	8	52

This table shows that only 8 or 13.3% of the sixty American Farmers had less than four years of vocational agriculture and of this number none had less than three years. The main reasons for the eight having only three years vocational training is due to their failure to pursue the agricultural course the first year in school and the vocational agriculture course being added to the curriculum after the student enrolled in high school.

TABLE NO. 3

THE NUMBER OF VOCATIONAL AGRICULTURE TEACHERS EACH OF THE SIXTY BOYS HAD WHILE STUDYING VOCATIONAL AGRICULTURE.

Number of Teachers	1	2	3
Number of Students	37	19	4
Per cent of Students	61.6	31.7	6.7

This table indicates that the greater number of teachers the young men may have during their 4-year agriculture course the less

are their chances of attaining the American Farmer Degree. Four or 6.7% of the American Farmers had three teachers, 19 or 31.7% had two, whereas 37 or 61.6% of the total group only had one instructor during his four years training.

TABLE NO. 4

LIST OF PERSONS WHO SUPPLIED THE INCENTIVE FOR STUDENTS TO SECURE THE DEGREE.

Person Supplying Incentive	Number of Students Inspired	% of Students Inspired
Teacher	56	92.3
Parents	40	66.7
Business Man	4	6.7
Former Students	2	3.3

A majority of the sixty American Farmers listed two or more of the above persons as furnishing the necessary incentive for them to carry on to a successful finish in attaining the degree. Fifty-six or 93.3% of the questionnaires stated the teacher offered the greatest incentive, while parents followed closely with 40 or 66.7% of the boys giving credit to them. Business men received 4 or 6.7% while former students received credit in two cases. Three of the four cases where business men were of help to the young student has taken place the last few years. This would seem to indicate that business men are realizing the importance of furthering the efforts of the young future farmers.

TABLE NO. 5

THE NUMBER OF THE SIXTY AMERICAN FARMERS WHO HELD LOCAL, STATE OR NATIONAL OFFICES IN THE FUTURE FARMERS OF AMERICA ORGANIZATION.

Offices held in	Number and per cent of young men holding office											
	Pres.		V. Pres.		Sec.		Treas.		Reporter		Watchdog	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Local	37	61.6	24	40	22	36.6	22	36.6	13	21.6	5	8.3
State	4	6.7	4	6.7	2	3.3	0	0	2	3.3	0	0
National	2	3.3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>71.6</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>46.6</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>36.6</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>8.3</b>

FIGURE 1.

THE PERCENTAGE OF YOUNG MEN HOLDING OFFICE IN LOCAL, STATE, AND NATIONAL F.F.A. ORGANIZATION.

<u>Office held</u>	<u>% holding office</u>	<u>Each (X) represents 2% of Students</u>
1. Local		
President	61.6	XX
Vice President	40.	XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
Secretary	36.6	XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
Treasurer	36.6	XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
Reporter	21.6	XXXXXXXXXXXX
Watchdog	8.3	XXXX
2. State		
President	6.7	XXX
Vice President	6.7	XXX
Secretary	3.3	XX
Treasurer	0	
Reporter	3.3	XX
Watchdog	0	
3. National		
President	3.3	XX
Vice President	0	
Secretary	0	
Treasurer	0	
Reporter	0	
Watchdog	0	

FIGURE 2.

THE PERCENTAGE OF YOUNG MEN HOLDING OFFICE IN OTHER CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES WHILE IN HIGH SCHOOL.

<u>Office held</u>	<u>% holding office</u>	<u>Each (X) represents 2% of Students</u>
1. Miscellaneous	66.7	XX
2. Class Offices	60.	XX
3. Student Council	23.3	XXXXXXXXXXXXXX
4. Cap't. Athletic Teams	18.3	XXXXXXXXXXXX
5. Newspaper Staff	6.7	XXX

TABLE NO. 6

ADDITIONAL EVIDENCE OF LEADERSHIP SHOWN BY THE SIXTY AMERICAN FARMERS IN EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES WHILE IN HIGH SCHOOL.

<u>Organization Leadership Demonstrated in</u>	<u>Offices held by young men</u>	<u>% Holding Office</u>
Student Council	14	23.3
Class Officers	36	60.
Captain Athletic Team	11	18.3
Newspaper Staff	4	6.7
Miscellaneous	40	66.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>175</b>

Tables 5 and 6 definitely show that these young men were leaders in not only agricultural circles, but also in their respective schools as a whole. These tables show a total of 242 general offices were held by the sixty American Farmers during their high school career. Of this group of 60, all but three held offices in the Future Farmer Organization while these three were definite leaders in other phases of school work. This group furnished 43 presidents, 28 vice-presidents, 24 secretaries, 22 treasurers, 15 reporters, and 5 watchdogs for the Future Farmer program of work. These young men also had 14 representatives in student councils, 36 class officers, 11 athletic team captains, 4 newspaper reporters and

40 others showed outstanding leadership abilities such as band soloist, honor society officers, Sunday School Superintendents, recipients of Sears Roebuck Farm Foundation Scholarships, and similar activities. Five of these young men, due to their outstanding leadership ability, received high National honors. Two of them were chosen National president, three were named Star Farmer of the South, one of whom was named Star Farmer of America. The latter is the most outstanding yearly award given by the National F.F.A. organization. It will be noted that many of these young men held more than one outstanding office during their high school agriculture careers. The fact that so many of the more select offices were held by this group would indicate the importance which vocational agriculture departments and F.F.A. organizations give to developing strong leadership among the future farm leaders of tomorrow.

TABLE NO. 7

## GROUP A

KIND AND NUMBER OF LIVESTOCK OWNED BY STUDENTS AT TIME OF RECEIVING THE AMERICAN FARMER DEGREE THE FIRST TEN YEARS THE DEGREE WAS GIVEN. (1928 to 1938) (12 AMERICAN FARMERS INCLUDED IN THIS GROUP)

Kind of Livestock	Number of Animals	Value of Animals	% of Total Livestock	No. owning Inv. the Animals	% Owning
Beef <sup>21</sup>	99	\$7,950	62.5	7	58.3
Swine	37	705	5.4	4	33.3
Dairy	22	2,375	18.9	3	25.
Sheep	28	815	6.4	3	25.
Poultry	873 (birds)	380	3.	3	25.
Work Stock	7	485	3.8	3	25.
Total		\$12,710			

TABLE NO. 8

KIND AND NUMBER OF LIVESTOCK OWNED TODAY BY GROUP A REPRESENTED IN TABLE 7. (1947)

Kind of Livestock	Number of Animals	Value of Animals	% of Total Livestock Inv.	No. owning the Animals	% Owning
Beef	319	\$43,616	66	6	50
Swine	188	8,071	12.2	5	42
Dairy	85	11,130	16.8	4	33.3
Sheep	85	975	1.4	2	16.6
Poultry	2,025(birds)	1,775	2.6	5	42
Work Stock	18	535	.8	3	25
Total		\$66,102			

Group A represented in Tables 7 and 8 is composed of twelve American Farmers who received the American Farmer Degree between the years 1928 to 1938. The study shows that of these twelve three are now not engaged in farming, but remain in agricultural work: i.e., teaching, farm machinery salesman, and agricultural economics research. At the completion of their agricultural course of study the twelve represented here already had acquired a sizeable amount of livestock. Their total livestock was valued at \$12,710. Today this group's livestock is worth more than five times as much as when the group received the degree. The fact that three of this group are not farming today, and, therefore, have no livestock tends to hold the total value much lower than it otherwise would be if all were farming. The study shows that raising beef cattle and dairying are the two major enterprises of the group with swine raising making rapid gains due to high pork prices at the present time.

TABLE NO. 9

## GROUP B

KIND AND NUMBER OF LIVESTOCK OWNED BY STUDENTS AT TIME OF RECEIVING  
THE AMERICAN FARMER DEGREE DURING THE FOUR YEAR PERIOD FROM 1938 to 1942.  
(19 AMERICAN FARMERS INCLUDED IN THIS GROUP)

Kind of Livestock	Number of Animals	Value of Animals	% of Total Livestock	No. owning Inv. the Animals	% Owning
Beef	230	\$19,195	56.5	15	79
Swine	364	6,860	20.2	12	63
Dairy	31	2,450	7.2	6	31.6
Sheep	218	4,258	12.5	8	42.1
Poultry	437 (birds)	247	.7	4	21.
Work Stock	11	960	2.9	6	31.6
Total		\$33,970			

TABLE NO. 10

KIND AND NUMBER OF LIVESTOCK OWNED TODAY BY GROUP B REPRESENTED  
IN TABLE 9. (1947)

Kind of Livestock	Number of Animals	Value of Animals	% of Total Livestock	No. owning Inv. the Animals	% Owning
Beef	240	\$35,800	68.9	14	73.6
Swine	84	4,500	8.7	7	36.8
Dairy	76	10,675	20.6	7	36.8
Sheep	0	0	0	0	0
Poultry	450 (birds)	335	.6	3	15.7
Work Stock	6	610	1.2	4	21.
Total		\$51,920			



Of this group of nineteen young men represented in Tables 9 and 10, we find Beef production still leads as the major enterprise both when these young men finished school, between 1938 and 1942, and now. From the study it appears that dairying has made the greatest increase among the farm enterprises established by these nineteen men. Possible reasons for this are the governmental war demand for dairy products and the continued increase in importance of dairying in the state since 1910. Starting with thirty-one animals valued at \$2,450, the business has reached a peak today of seventy-six dairy cows, the majority of which are registered, valued at \$10,675. The value of the dairy herds has increased much more accordingly than the number of animals which fact shows that these young men are trying to improve the quality of their herds. Of this group of nineteen, thirteen were in military service an average of two years each. Approximately half of these men sold their livestock while they were in the service and today are trying to rebuild their livestock program. At least four have bought no stock whatsoever since returning from the service due to high prices and possibility of a future drop in prices. So far as size and value of livestock business is concerned, the war has definitely retarded this group as a whole.

TABLE NO. 11

## GROUP C

KIND AND NUMBER OF LIVESTOCK OWNED BY STUDENTS AT TIME OF RECEIVING THE AMERICAN FARMER DEGREE DURING THE FIVE YEAR PERIOD FROM 1942 to 1946 INCLUSIVE. (29 AMERICAN FARMERS IN THIS GROUP)

Kind of Livestock	Number of Animals	Value of Animals	% of Total Livestock	No. owning Inv. the Animals	% Owning
Beef	367	\$38,858	54.2	21	72.4
Swine	466	11,718	16.4	21	72.4
Dairy	87	14,750	20.5	12	41.4
Sheep	297	4,580	6.3	10	34.5
Poultry	823 (birds)	745	1.	9	31.
Work Stock	14	1,150	1.6	5	17.2
Total		\$71,801			

TABLE NO. 12

KIND AND NUMBER OF LIVESTOCK OWNED TODAY BY GROUP C REPRESENTED IN TABLE 11. (1947)

Kind of Livestock	Number of Animals	Value of Animals	% of Total Livestock	No. Owning Inv. the Animals	% Owning
Beef	415	\$52,330	46.3	19	65.5
Swine	480	15,100	13.2	14	48.3
Dairy	249	40,355	35.6	17	58.6
Sheep	95	3,300	2.9	5	17.2
Poultry	510 (birds)	500	.4	6	20.7
Work Stock	20	1,750	1.6	6	20.7
Total		\$113,335			

Tables 11 and 12 show the results of the study of twenty-nine Future Farmers who received the American Farmer Degree during the War years 1942 to 1946, inclusive. Although this is a larger group than either Group A or B,

these young men have been farming for a much shorter period of time. Of the twenty-nine studied only ten were members of the armed forces. The other nineteen were either deferred for farm work or were too young for military service. The ten in service spent an average of eighteen months each before returning to the farm. This definitely retarded their farming programs, but the majority state that they plan to work harder than ever to make up for lost time. Beef and dairy continue to be the expanding livestock enterprises with swine at probably its highest peak due to high prices. An interesting trend of the study is the growing interest in milking shorthorns. A large percentage of those interested in dairying indicate they are starting herds of milking shorthorns. This group of twenty-nine own 415 beef cattle valued at \$52,330. There are 249 dairy cows, the majority of which are registered, valued at \$40,355. This study indicates that the dairying business may soon rival beef production if such percentages continue to increase. This also corresponds to the increased emphasis of dairying in Oklahoma.

TABLE NO. 13

KIND AND NUMBER OF LIVESTOCK OWNED BY SIXTY AMERICAN FARMERS AT TIME OF RECEIVING THE AMERICAN FARMER DEGREE.

Kind of Livestock	Number of Animals	Value of Animals	% of Total Livestock	No. Owing Inv. Animals	% Owing
Beef	696	\$66,003	55.6	43	71.6
Swine	867	19,283	16.2	37	61.6
Dairy	130	19,575	16.4	21	35.
Sheep	543	9,653	8.3	21	35.
Poultry	2,133 (birds)	1,372	1.3	16	26.6
Work Stock	32	2,595	2.2	14	23.3
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$118,481</b>			

TABLE NO. 14

KIND AND NUMBER OF LIVESTOCK OWNED BY SIXTY AMERICAN FARMERS TODAY.

Kind of Livestock	Number of Animals	Value of Animals	% of Total Livestock	No. Owing Inv. the Animals	% Owing
Beef	974	\$131,746	57.	39	65.
Swine	752	27,671	11.9	26	43.3
Dairy	410	62,160	26.9	28	46.6
Sheep	180	4,275	1.9	7	11.6
Poultry	2,985 (birds)	2,610	1.1	14	23.3
Work Stock	44	2,895	1.2	13	21.6
Total		\$231,357			

Tables 13 and 14 give an overall picture of the progress made by sixty American Farmers in nineteen years from 1928 until the present. The value of livestock at the completion of the vocational agriculture program was \$118,481. Today this figure reached a total of \$231,357 or practically double. This is all the more significant in view of the fact that ten of the sixty have no livestock whatsoever because they are not farming and have sold all livestock as a direct result of having been in the armed forces. Upon completion of the supervised farming program, 43 owned beef cattle whereas today only 39 own beef. The dairy enterprises increased from 21 to 28, the present day number. Today fewer are engaged in a larger swine business than previously. The study indicates that due to high prices of grain only those who produced feed grains and were equipped to raise hogs successfully remained in the business on a larger scale. It would appear that only enough poultry for local market and self use are being produced by this group. By the small number of work stock owned by these sixty young farmers, it would indicate that the tractor is definitely the main source of power on the farm.

FIGURE 3.

THE VALUE OF VARIOUS KINDS OF LIVESTOCK OWNED BY SIXTY AMERICAN FARMERS AT TIME OF RECEIVING THE AMERICAN FARMER DEGREE.

<u>Units of Livestock</u>	<u>Value</u>	<u>Each (X) represents \$3,000 value.</u>
1. Beef	\$66,003	XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
2. Dairy	19,575	XXXXXX
3. Swine	19,283	XXXXXX
4. Sheep	9,653	XXX
5. Poultry	1,372	X
6. Work Stock	2,595	X

FIGURE 4.

THE VALUE OF VARIOUS KINDS OF LIVESTOCK OWNED BY SIXTY AMERICAN FARMERS TODAY (1947).

<u>Units of Livestock</u>	<u>Value</u>	<u>Each (X) represents \$3,000 value.</u>
1. Beef	\$131,746	XX
2. Dairy	62,160	XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
3. Swine	27,671	XXXXXXXXXX
4. Sheep	4,275	X
5. Poultry	2,610	X
6. Work Stock	2,895	X

FIGURE 5.

THE PERCENTAGE OF YOUNG MEN OWNING VARIOUS KINDS OF LIVESTOCK  
AT TIME OF RECEIVING THE AMERICAN FARMER DEGREE.

<u>Units of Livestock</u>	<u>% owning Livestock</u>	<u>Each (X) represents 2% of the men.</u>
1. Beef	71.6	XX
2. Swine	61.6	XX
3. Dairy	35.	XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
4. Sheep	35.	XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
5. Poultry	26.6	XXXXXXXXXXXX
6. Work Stock	23.3	XXXXXXXXXX

FIGURE 6.

THE PERCENTAGE OF MEN OWNING VARIOUS KINDS OF LIVESTOCK TODAY.

(1947)

<u>Units of Livestock</u>	<u>% owning Livestock</u>	<u>Each (X) represents 2% of the men.</u>
1. Beef	65.	XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
2. Swine	43.3	XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
3. Dairy	46.6	XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
4. Sheep	11.6	XXXXXX
5. Poultry	23.3	XXXXXXXXXX
6. Work Stock	21.6	XXXXXXXXXX

FIGURE 7.

THE PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL INVESTMENT IN VARIOUS KINDS OF LIVESTOCK  
AT TIME OF RECEIVING THE AMERICAN FARMER DEGREE.

<u>Units of Livestock</u>	<u>% of total Livestock Inv.</u>	<u>Each (X) represents 2% of the total Investment.</u>
1. Beef	55.6	XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
2. Dairy	16.4	XXXXXXXX
3. Swine	16.2	XXXXXXXX
4. Sheep	8.3	XXXX
5. Poultry	1.3	X
6. Work Stock	2.2	X

FIGURE 8.

THE PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL INVESTMENT IN VARIOUS KINDS OF LIVESTOCK  
TODAY. (1947)

<u>Units of Livestock</u>	<u>% of total Livestock Inv.</u>	<u>Each (X) represents 2% of the total Investment.</u>
1. Beef	57.	XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
2. Dairy	26.9	XXXXXXXXXXXXXX
3. Swine	11.9	XXXXXX
4. Sheep	1.9	X
5. Poultry	1.1	X
6. Work Stock	1.2	X

TABLE NO. 15

## Group A

KIND AND VALUE OF EQUIPMENT OWNED BY STUDENTS AT TIME OF RECEIVING THE AMERICAN FARMER DEGREE THE FIRST TEN YEARS THE DEGREE WAS GIVEN (1928 to 1938) (12 American Farmers in this group)

Kind of Equipment	Value	% of Total Equipment Inv.	No. Owning the Equip't.	% Owning
Tractors & Equipment	\$2,000	65.8	2	16.6
Plows & Cultivators	525	17.4	5	41.6
Feeding	420	13.5	6	50.
Poultry	100	3.3	1	8.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$3,045</b>			

TABLE NO. 16

KIND AND VALUE OF EQUIPMENT OWNED BY GROUP A REPRESENTED IN TABLE 15.

Kind of Equipment	Value	% of Total Equip't. Inv.	No. Owning the Equip't.	% Owning
Tractors & Equipment	\$21,700	50.6	9	75. <i>100</i>
Plows	6,350	14.8	6	50. <i>75</i>
Combines	8,050	18.8	6	50.
Feed	215	.5	1	8.4
Poultry	215	.5	2	16.6
Miscellaneous	6,300	14.8	9	75.
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$42,830</b>			



Tables 15 and 16 compare the total value of equipment owned by twelve American Farmers at the time they received the degree during the ten year period from 1928 to 1938 and today. The value of equipment owned by boys upon receiving the degree was \$3,045, while today, their equipment is worth \$42,830. This shows that at the time these men started farming, they possessed only 7.1% of the total value of equipment which they possess today. This same group owned a total of \$12,710 worth of livestock which would indicate a desire to increase the scope of their major enterprises before obtaining farm equipment. The results of this study show that much of the necessary equipment needed by these young men was borrowed from their parents until they were financially able to buy their own.

TABLE NO. 17

## GROUP B

KIND AND VALUE OF EQUIPMENT OWNED BY STUDENTS AT TIME OF RECEIVING THE AMERICAN FARMER DEGREE DURING THE FOUR YEAR PERIOD FROM 1938 to 1942.  
(19 AMERICAN FARMERS IN THIS GROUP.)

Kind of Equipment	Value	% of Total Equip't. Inv.	No. Owning the Equip't.	% Owning
Tractors & Equipment	\$5,525.	64.9	6	31.6
Plows	295.	3.4	2	10.5
Combines	1,000.	11.8	1	5.2
Miscellaneous (Drills, Mowers, etc.)	1,700.	19.9	6	31.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$8,520</b>			

TABLE NO. 18

KIND AND VALUE OF EQUIPMENT OWNED BY GROUP B REPRESENTED IN  
TABLE 17.

Kind of Equipment	Value	% of Total Equipment Inv.	Number owning the equip- ment	Per Cent Owning
Tractors & Equipment	\$14,450	27.5	11	57.9
Plows	4,227	8.0	8	42.1
Combines	16,200	30.8	7	36.8
Trucks	8,325	15.8	6	31.6
Feed Grinders	475	.9	2	10.5
Milk Machine & Cooler	700	1.3	1	5.2
Miscellaneous (Bailers, mowers, etc.)	8,025	15.7	10	52.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$52,402</b>			

When these nineteen young men started farming at the completion of their F.F.A. work, they owned approximately \$8,520 worth of farm machinery and equipment as shown in Table 17. Today this same group owns \$52,402 worth of machinery and equipment. The majority of the group stated that they used their parents' equipment until they were financially able to buy their own. From the type of equipment listed in Table 18, it appears that the production of small grain is among the major enterprises of this group.

TABLE NO. 19

## GROUP C

KIND AND VALUE OF EQUIPMENT OWNED BY STUDENTS AT TIME OF  
RECEIVING THE AMERICAN FARMER DEGREE DURING THE FIVE YEAR PERIOD  
FROM 1942 to 1946 INCL.  
(29 American farmers in this GROUP)

Kind of Equipment	Value	Per Cent of Total Equip- ment Inv.	Number Owning the Equipment	Per Cent Owning
Tractors & Equipment	\$14,850	54.5	16	55.1
Plows	2,565	9.4	7	24.1
Combines	4,250	15.6	4	13.8
Trucks	2,750	11	4	13.8
Drills	1,124	4.1	4	13.8
Miscellaneous	1,350	4.2	6	20.7
Show Equipment	350	1.2	3	10.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$27,239</b>			

TABLE NO. 20

KIND AND VALUE OF EQUIPMENT OWNED BY GROUP C REPRESENTED IN TABLE 19.  
(1947)

Kind of Equipment	Value	Per Cent of Total Equipment Inv.	Number Owning the Equipment	Per Cent Owning
Tractors & Equipment	\$24,870	38.5	20	68.9
Plows	3,830	6.	11	37.9
Combines	8,142	12.6	9	31.
Trucks	13,900	21.4	8	27.5
Drills	2,559	3.9	8	27.5
Miscellaneous	9,635	14.8	14	48.
Milk & Dairy	800	1.3	1	3.4
Swine Equipment	1,000	1.5	1	3.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$64,736</b>			

Although Group C represented in Tables 19 and 20 is a larger group than either A or B, there is still a greater percentage of farm equipment owned by this group especially at the time they receive the American Farmer Degree. Four years is the longest time any one of this group has been farming for himself. The figures show that farm machinery was acquired at a much earlier date by this group in comparison to the other thirty-one. This may be partially due to the higher prices the farmer is receiving today for his goods over previous periods, which means more cash available for machinery.

TABLE NO. 21

KIND AND VALUE OF EQUIPMENT OWNED BY SIXTY AMERICAN FARMERS AT TIME OF RECEIVING THE AMERICAN FARMER DEGREE.

Kind of Equipment	Value	Per Cent of Total Equipment Inv.	Number Owning the Equipment	Per Cent Owning
Tractors & Equipment	\$22,375	57.7	24	40.
Plows	3,385	8.7	14	23.3
Feeding	420	1.1	6	10.
Combines	5,250	13.5	5	8.3
Trucks	2,750	7.1	4	6.6
Miscellaneous (Drills, mowers, bailers, poultry, etc.)	4,624	11.9	24	40.
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$38,804</b>			

TABLE NO. 22  
KIND AND VALUE OF EQUIPMENT OWNED BY SIXTY AMERICAN FARMERS  
(50 FARMING)

Kind of Equipment	Value	Per Cent of Total Equipment Inv.	Number Owning the Equipment	Per Cent Owning
Tractors & Equipment	\$61,020	38.3	40	66.6
Plows	14,407	9.2	25	41.6
Combines	32,392	20.3	22	36.6
Trucks	22,225	13.9	14	23.3
Feed Grinders	475	.4	2	3.3
Milking Machines & Coolers	1,500	.9	2	3.3
Miscellaneous	27,949	17.	44	73.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$159,968</b>			

As shown in Table 21, the sixty American Farmers owned a total of \$38,804 worth of equipment at completion of their supervised agricultural training period. Twenty-four of the young men owned tractors valued at \$22,375 for the largest value of any item listed. Fourteen of the sixty owned plows of all descriptions valued at \$3,385. Combines valued at \$4,250 were owned by five of the group. Table 22 shows that at the present time this group of fifty now farming own equipment valued at \$159,968 or 75.7% more than when they completed vocational agriculture. Over 66% of the total group own tractors today. Twenty-two or 36.6% own combines valued at \$32,392. This study shows that although this group was slow in purchasing equipment, due to the accessibility of the machinery belonging to their parents, they have as a whole made up their deficit by having well equipped farms today.

FIGURE 9

THE VALUE OF VARIOUS KINDS OF EQUIPMENT OWNED BY SIXTY AMERICAN FARMERS AT TIME OF RECEIVING THE AMERICAN FARMER DEGREE.

<u>Units of Equipment</u>	<u>Value</u>	<u>Each (X) represents \$3,000 value</u>
1. Tractors & Equipment	\$22,375	XXXXXXXX
2. Combines	5,250	XX
3. Miscellaneous	4,624	XX
4. Trucks	2,750	X
5. Plows	3,385	X
6. Feeding	420	X

FIGURE 10

THE VALUE OF VARIOUS KINDS OF EQUIPMENT OWNED BY SIXTY AMERICAN FARMERS (1947.)

<u>Units of Equipment</u>	<u>Value</u>	<u>Each (X) represents \$3,000 value.</u>
1. Tractors & Equipment	\$61,020	XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
2. Combines	32,392	XXXXXXXXXXXX
3. Miscellaneous	27,949	XXXXXXXXXX
4. Trucks	22,225	XXXXXX
5. Plows	14,407	XXXXX
6. Feeding	475	X
7. Milking Machines	1,500	X

FIGURE 11

THE PERCENTAGE OF YOUNG MEN OWNING VARIOUS KINDS OF EQUIPMENT AT TIME OF RECEIVING THE AMERICAN FARMER DEGREE.

<u>Units of Equipment</u>	<u>Per Cent Owning Equipment</u>	<u>Each (X) represents 2% of the men</u>
1. Tractors & Equipment	40.	XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
2. Miscellaneous (drills, etc.)	40.	XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
3. Plows	23.3	XXXXXXXXXXXXXX
4. Feeding	10.	XXXXX
5. Combines	8.3	XXXX
6. Trucks	6.6	XXX

FIGURE 12

## THE PERCENTAGE OF MEN OWNING VARIOUS KINDS OF EQUIPMENT (1947)

<u>Units of Equipment</u>	<u>Per Cent Owning Equipment</u>	<u>Each (X) represents 2% of the men.</u>
1. Tractors & Equipment	66.6	XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
2. Miscellaneous (drills,)	73.3	XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
3. Plows	41.6	XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
4. Feeding	3.3	XX
5. Combines	36.6	XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
6. Trucks	23.3	XXXXXXXXXX
7. Milking Machines & Coolers	3.3	XX

FIGURE 13

## THE PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL INVESTMENT IN VARIOUS KINDS OF EQUIPMENT AT TIME OF RECEIVING THE AMERICAN FARMER DEGREE.

<u>Units of Equipment</u>	<u>Per Cent of total Equipment Inv.</u>	<u>Each (X) represents 2% of Total Investment</u>
1. Tractors & Equipment	57.7	XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
2. Miscellaneous	11.9	XXXXXX
3. Plows	8.7	XXXX
4. Feeding	1.1	X
5. Combines	13.5	XXXXXX
6. Trucks	7.1	XXXX

FIGURE 14.

## THE PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL INVESTMENT IN VARIOUS KINDS OF EQUIPMENT. (1947).

<u>Units of Equipment</u>	<u>Per Cent of total Equipment Inv.</u>	<u>Each (X) represents 2% of the total Investment.</u>
1. Tractors & Equipment	38.3	XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
2. Miscellaneous	17.	XXXXXXXX
3. Plows	9.2	XXXX
4. Feeding	.4	X
5. Combines	20.3	XXXXXXXX
6. Trucks	13.9	XXXXXX
7. Milking Machines & Coolers	.9	X

TABLE NO. 22A

INCREASE OF LIVESTOCK AND MACHINERY INVESTMENTS BY PERIODS  
FROM TIME RECEIVING THE DEGREE.

TOTAL INVESTMENT

Groups	Degree Received	Investment	1947 Inv.	% increase of Inv.	Ave. Yrly. % Increase
Group A (12 in study)	1928-38	- \$15,755	\$108,932	14	1.4
Group B (19 in study)	1938-42	- 42,490	104,322	41	10.
Group C (29 in study)	1942-47	- 99,040	178,071	50	10.

VALUE OF INVESTMENT AT TIME OF RECEIVING THE DEGREE.

Group	Value	Each (X) represents \$4,000 investment.
Group A	\$15,755	XXXX
Group B	42,490	XXXXXXXXXXXX
Group C	99,040	XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

VALUE OF INVESTMENT (1947)

Group	Value	Each (x) represents \$4,000 investment.
Group A	\$108,932	XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
Group B	104,322	XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
Group C	178,071	XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

Table 22A presents the total livestock and machinery investments of the sixty American Farmers by periods. The twelve represented in Group A receiving the degree during the ten year span from 1928-38 have a total investment of \$108,932 or 14% increase in value from time they received the degree. The next group of nineteen who received the degree from 1938-42 have an investment of \$104,322 or 41% increase in value. Group C with twenty-nine American Farmers in the group and receiving the degree from 1942-47 have an investment of \$178,071 or 50% increase.



Group A started farming during a period when prices were on a downward trend. Although the time represented by Group B is only a period of four years, or six years less than Group A, the total investment for this group proved much greater accordingly with a total of \$104,322. At this time prices were on a slight upward trend which fact was advantageous to the farmer. Group C, who received the degree between 1942-47, was at a definite advantage as these young men started farming during a period of rapid price increase. Young men fortunate enough to begin farming during the rising scale of prices have a definite advantage over those starting to farm during a period of dropping prices.

TABLE NO. 23

NUMBER OF ACRES AND VALUE OF LAND OWNED BY SIXTY AMERICAN FARMERS AT TIME DEGREE WAS RECEIVED AND DESIGNATED PERIODS.

Acres	<u>Years since student received the degree</u>			Value
	<u>4 or less</u> No.	<u>5 to 8</u> No.	<u>9 to 19</u> No.	
50 or less	1			\$3,000
51 - 150	1	1		7,000
151 - 300	2	2	1	39,800
<b>Total</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>\$49,800</b>

TABLE NO. 24

NUMBER OF ACRES OF CROP LAND RENTED AND AMOUNT RENT PAID BY SIXTY AMERICAN FARMERS AT TIME DEGREE WAS RECEIVED.

Acres	<u>No. of years since student received the degree</u>			Ave. Rent
	<u>4 or less</u> No.	<u>5 to 8</u> No.	<u>9 to 19</u> No.	
50 or less	5	2	3	1/3 of crop
51 - 150	6	5	2	"
151 - 300	9	6	2	"
301 - 500	4	2	0	"
501 and over	1	1	2	"
<b>Total</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>1/3 of crop</b>

Tables 23 and 24 show the acres of land owned and rented by the 60 American Farmers at the time they received the degree. Table 23 shows there is a slightly greater trend toward ownership of land by the boys who received the degree during the last few years. Many of the young farmers, however, did not own any land at all. The study shows where no land was owned, generally a greater number of acres were rented. Table 24 shows that more students rented on an average of 151 to 300 Acres of land. This seemed to be the most suitable size of farm for the young Future Farmer to launch into his career as a farmer. The average rent paid for use of land amounted to 1/3 of the crop produced, or its equivalent. This would indicate the accepted rental price for Oklahoma farm land especially to F.F.A. members to be 1/3 of the crop produced.

TABLE NO. 25

ACRES OF CROPS GROWN THIS LAST SEASON BY SIXTY AMERICAN FARMERS  
(1946 - 50 YOUNG MEN FARMING)

Crops grown	Acres Grown	No. of Students Growing	Per Cent of Students
Wheat	6,337	35	58.3
Cotton	359	9	15
Legumes	1,753	37	61
Corn	732	22	36.7
Oats	1,564	35	58.3
Barley	287	14	23.3
Miscellaneous (Gr. Sorghums, Peanuts, Soybeans, etc.)	896	17	28.3
Total Acres 11,928			

Of this group of sixty, approximately forty-five are actively engaged in producing farm crops today. Ten of the sixty not being actively engaged in farming and five being released from military service too late to plant crops this last spring and fall. At least 61% raise legumes with 58.3% raising wheat and oats on their farms. This statement may be misleading as the 58.3% producing wheat produced 6,337 acres whereas the 58.3% producing oats had only 1,564 acres. This total indicates that wheat will in all probability remain Oklahoma's No. 1 grain crop for some time to come as of the 11,928 acres of crops grown by these young men, over half of this amount is in wheat. The intense interest in growing legumes is in all probability due to the greater number of livestock found on the farms of these young men, the increased need for protein



to the decrease in acres in cotton and their training in soil conservation in vocational agricultural classes.

TABLE NO. 26

THE NUMBER OF JUDGING CONTESTS PARTICIPATED IN BY SIXTY AMERICAN FARMERS WHILE ACTIVELY ENGAGED IN F.F.A. ACTIVITIES.

Contest	Local No.	Per Cent	State No.	Per Cent	National No.	Per Cent
Livestock	43	71.6	29	48.3	5	8.3
Dairy	29	48.3	27	45	1	1.6
Crops	22	36.6	16	26.6	0	0
Poultry	24	40	15	25	0	0
Grain	13	21.6	11	18.3	0	0
Terracing	15	25	10	16.6	0	0
Public Speaking	13	21.6	5	8.3	0	0
Total contests entered	159		113		6	

This group of men were active participants in judging contests. Many of the group participating in three and four events. Livestock seemed to attract more participants than any other contest, but all classes had many entries. A majority were successful in winning places in the local contests and the group proved to be well represented in the State meets. Of 159 local contests entered, 113 were successful and competed in State events. The number entering National competition proved a little disappointing as only 6 stated that they entered this level of judging.

TABLE NO. 27

## METHODS USED IN BECOMING ESTABLISHED IN FARMING BY THE SIXTY AMERICAN FARMERS.

Method	Number	Per Cent
Started with parents	41	68.3
Earned money as ( parents	14	23.3
laborer on farm ( others	6	10
Borrowed money	41	68.3
Moved on farm alone	3	5
Total Number	105	

At the present time fifty of the sixty American Farmers are actually engaged in farming. The other ten, however, do have jobs very closely related to agriculture. Of those farming today, a total of 105 answers were given as to how they became established in farming. Forty-one or 68% started with their parents and the same number borrowed money to help get started in their chosen field. Fourteen earned money as laborers on their parents' farm while six earned money as a laborer on other than his parent's farm. Three took over complete duties of farming immediately upon graduating from vocational agriculture. Because of the illness and death of their fathers, two of the boys took complete charge while the third lived alone for a short period of time with his own stock due to lack of grazing land at home.

TABLE NO. 28

SKILLS LEARNED IN VOCATIONAL AGRICULTURE BEING USED TODAY BY  
OKLAHOMA AMERICAN FARMERS.

Skill	Number using	Per Cent Using
Castrating	55	91.6
Balancing rations	54	90.
Soil Conservation	20	33.3
Fruit spraying	13	21.6
Livestock spraying	10	16.6
Vaccination	7	11.6
Farm Mechanics	5	8.3
Milk testing	4	6.6
Total skills	168	
Ave. skills used by each American Farmer	2.8	

From the 60 questionnaires returned, 55 reported that they did all their own livestock castrating and helped others with the same job. Fifty-four fed or helped feed balanced rations to livestock. Of the group actually owning livestock, 100% are feeding balanced rations. We must keep in mind that part of the group have not become completely established in farming since release from military service. A more complete soil conservation program is being established, with twenty considering the practice very important. From all indications this group does not go into an extensive fruit growing program as only thirteen have the need for seasonal spraying of fruits. Ten of the thirteen have a more complete use of their spray equipment by spraying livestock and barns. Seven vaccinate their own

animals, while five do welding and similar skills learned in the farm shop. Only four deem it necessary to test their own milk.

TABLE NO. 29

NUMBER OF THE SIXTY OKLAHOMA AMERICAN FARMERS WHO ATTENDED COLLEGE.

No. who entered College	No. who graduated	No. earning Masters Degree	Courses pursued	
			Agriculture	Non Agriculture
24	7	4	22	2

A total of 24 of the young men attended college for at least one semester with the average attendance slightly over one year. Seven attained a B. S. Degree with four of the seven doing advanced work, receiving higher degrees. One of the seven is a veterinarian in Oklahoma today. At present five of the 24 are still in college. Twenty-two of the 24 pursued or are pursuing agricultural courses. Oklahoma A. and M. claimed 19 while five more students attended three other colleges.

TABLE NO. 30

HONORS ATTAINED BY THE TWENTY-FOUR AMERICAN FARMERS WHO ATTENDED COLLEGE.

Honor	Number	Per Cent
Major honors		
Alpha Zeta	5	20.8
Phi Kappa Phi	2	8.3
Who's Who	1	4.2
Class Officer	2	8.3
Student Council	2	8.3



TABLE NO. 30 Continued

Honor	Number	Per Cent
Other honors		
Judging team	5	20.8
Blue Key	2	8.3
Deans Honor Roll	2	8.3
Danforth Award	1	4.2
Athletic award	1	4.2

As Table 30 suggests, a high percentage of the twenty-four American Farmers attending college won collegiate honors. Alpha Zeta, a National honorary scholastic fraternity, which only has chapters at agricultural colleges, claimed 20.8%. Phi Kappa Phi, a National honor society composed of undergraduates ranking in the upper eighth of each school, Class Officers and Student Council each had a representation of 8.3% of the group. One American Farmer rated Who's Who. Some of the other honors attained by these young men while in college were membership on various judging teams, Blue Key, Dean's Honor Roll, Danforth and Athletic awards. These selective honors speak well for the leadership training received while in high school F.F.A. activities.

TABLE NO. 31

ATTENDANCE AT PART-TIME OR EVENING CLASSES HELD BY THE INSTRUCTOR OF VOCATIONAL AGRICULTURE.

Class	Number Attending	Per Cent Attending
Part-time	10	16.6
Evening	24	40.
Total	34	56.6

Table 31 shows that 34 or 56.6% of the group of American Farmers furthered their education while at home through the medium of part-time or evening classes conducted by their local vocational agriculture department. Forty percent took advantage of evening classes while 16.6% attended part-time classes.

TABLE NO. 32

PRESENT (1947) FARMING STATUS OF OKLAHOMA AMERICAN FARMERS.  
(50 AMERICAN FARMERS IN THIS STUDY)

Status	Number	Per Cent	Acres	Average Size Acres
Own farm	24	48	4,343	86.8
Rent farm	35	70	7,507	150
Farm manager	7	14	2,450	49
Partnership	13	26	7,123	142
Share cropper with parents	1	2	320	320
Total acres being farmed			21,743	Average 435

Fifty of the sixty who are actively engaged in farming have a total of 21,743 acres under their jurisdiction, averaging 435 acres each. Twenty-four own 4,343 acres while many of the same group with others totaling thirty-five rent 7,507 acres of land. A small group of seven are serving in the capacity of farm managers while thirteen more are farming in partnership with father, brother, or friend. Only one signified that he was farming on the share with his parents.

TABLE NO. 33

NUMBER OF AMERICAN FARMERS KEEPING RECORDS ON MAJOR AND  
MINOR ENTERPRISES.

(50 LIVING ON FARMS)

Enterprise	Number Keeping Records	Per Cent Keeping Records
Major enterprises	44	88
Minor enterprises	35	70

FIGURE 18

PRESENT FARMING STATUS OF OKLAHOMA AMERICAN FARMERS

<u>Status</u>	<u>Acres being Farmed</u>	<u>Each (X) represents 300 acres.</u>
1. Rent farm	7,507	XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
2. Partnership	7,123	XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
3. Own farm	4,343	XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
4. Farm Manager	2,450	XXXXXXX
5. Share cropper with parents	320	X

<u>Status</u>	<u>Per Cent Farming</u>	<u>Each (X represents 2% of the Farmers</u>
1. Rent farm	70	XX
2. Own Farm	48	XX
3. Partnership	26	XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
4. Farm Manager	14	XXXXXXX
5. Share cropper with parents	2	X

FIGURE 19.

THE PERCENTAGE OF AMERICAN FARMERS IN FARM ORGANIZATIONS  
TODAY.

<u>Organization</u>	<u>% of Farmers</u>	<u>Each (X) represents 1% of the Farmers.</u>
1. Farmer's Union	33.3	XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
2. Farm Bureau	18.3	XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
3. Farmer's Coop	11.6	XXXXXXXXXX
4. Cattlemen's Ass.	11.6	XXXXXXXXXX
5. Dairy Breeders Ass.	10.0	XXXXXXXXXX
6. Shorthorn Breeders	8.3	XXXXXXX
7. Miscellaneous	8.3	XXXXXXX
8. Swine Breeders	6.6	XXXXXX
9. Artificial Insemination.	3.3	XXX

Table 33 shows that a great majority of these men continue to keep records of their major and minor enterprises after leaving the direct influence of their vocational agriculture instructor. Of the group of 50 farming today, 44 or 88% keep complete records on their major enterprises while 35 or 70% keep records on their minor enterprises.

TABLE NO. 34

NUMBER OF FARM ORGANIZATIONS OF WHICH THE SIXTY AMERICAN FARMERS  
ARE MEMBERS TODAY. (1947)

<u>Organization</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>Offices Held</u>	<u>% Holding</u>
Farmer's Union	20	33.3	2	10.
Farm Bureau	11	18.3	2	18.
Farmer's Coop	7	11.6	0	0
Dairy Breeder's Assoc.	6	10.	2	33.3
Cattlemen's Assoc.	7	11.6	1	14.3
Shorthorn Breeders Assoc.	5	8.3	1	20.
Swine Breeder's Assoc.	4	6.6	2	50.
Artificial Insemination	2	3.3	1	50.
Miscellaneous	5	8.3	0	0.
<b>Total</b>	<b>67</b>		<b>11</b>	

Table 34 suggests that the sixty American Farmers continue to be active leaders in their community and State farm organizations. These 60 men hold 67 active memberships in farm organizations. Eleven are not only active members, but hold offices at the present time in their farm groups. The Farmer's Union has the greatest number of members from this group with the Farm Bureau claiming the second highest representation.

TABLE NO. 35

NUMBER OF THE SIXTY AMERICAN FARMERS IN ARMED FORCES AND EFFECT UPON FUTURE FARMING PLANS.

Military		Service		Ave. No. months in service	Future plans changed	
Yes	No.	No.	No.		Yes	No.
No.	%	No.	%			
25	41.6	35	58.4	23	12	13
Ways in which future farming plans were changed:					No.	%
Temporarily delayed					7	11.6
Appreciate farm life more					3	5.
Raise grain instead of livestock.					1	1.7
Bought milking shorthorn herd instead of so many beef cattle					1	1.7
Total					12	20.

A total of twenty-five of the sixty American Farmers served an average of twenty-three months each in the armed forces. Twelve of the group claim that their future farming plans have been changed somewhat due to the average lapse of twenty-three months in their farming program. Thirteen have started where they left off with no particular change in their farming schedule. Seven, or 11.6%, were temporarily delayed

in reaching the size of business they desire in their farming program, while three others suggested that they appreciate farm life more than ever after military service and plan to do a better job in their community farming program. Because of the higher costs of livestock, one young farmer claimed he could not afford to pay the price at this time to get livestock hence would raise more grain than previously. Still another decided to diversify his main cattle enterprises by adding dairy animals to a herd that was previously composed entirely of beef. Table 35 suggests that the majority of the twenty-five in military service have returned to what will undoubtedly prove to terminate in a more profitable and deeper fulfillment of life on Oklahoma farms.

## SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

After compiling the results of the 60 questionnaires returned from 71 living Oklahoma American Farmers, many interesting deductions were made. Having proved themselves worthy to be holders of the coveted American Farmer Degree, these 60 young men have continued their strides in agriculture and leadership, contributing much in raising the standard of rural living for the Oklahoma farmer.

EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENTS OF THE 60 OKLAHOMA AMERICAN FARMERS

All 60 of the American Farmers studied had received their diplomas from high school. A total of 52 or 86.7% studied vocational agriculture during the complete four year course. None of the group had less than three years vocational agriculture during their high school career.

A total of 24 or 40% of the young men attended college, for an average attendance of one year. Seven attained their B.S. Degree in Agriculture with four of the seven receiving even higher agriculture degrees. Twenty-two of the 24 pursued or are pursuing agricultural courses. Deyoe<sup>1</sup> in his study of young men from Michigan found that 30% of vocational agriculture graduates from high school attended college for a short period of time. From this comparison we can see that the Oklahoma American Farmer is more concerned in advancement by furthering his education than the average vocational agricultural graduate.

---

<sup>1</sup>G.P. Deyoe, "Young Men from Michigan Farms," Michigan State College Bulletin Number 256, pp. 47-48.

### DEGREE OF LEADERSHIP SHOWN

A high percentage of leadership ability has been shown by these men from the time they were enrolled in vocational agriculture until the present day. This group of 60 held a total of 242 organization offices during their high school career. All but three held offices in the F.F.A., while these three were definite leaders in other phases of school work. There were 43 F.F.A. presidents, 28 vice-presidents, 24 secretaries, 22 treasurers, 15 reporters, and 5 watchdogs represented in this group of 60. Also there were 14 representatives on student councils, 36 class officers, 11 athletic team captains, 4 newspaper reporters, and 40 others who showed outstanding leadership ability such as band soloist, honor society officers, and Sunday School Superintendents.

A high degree of leadership continued with the group into college life. Twelve of the 24 entering college won 12 major leadership honors, while 11 more followed with minor leadership honors.

While becoming established in farming it appears as though these men continue to be active leaders in their respective communities. Fifty-five of the 60 actively engaged in not only doing their own jobs, but are helping others perform special skills when the need arises. Eleven hold office in local and state farm organizations with 60 of the men holding 67 memberships in these activities. The Farmer's Union has the greatest number of members from this group with 20. Two hold major offices. The Farm Bureau claims the second highest representation of 11 and two of these hold office.

### BECOMING ESTABLISHED IN FARMING

The 50 American Farmers actually farming today listed 5 major methods used in becoming established in farming. Some used two and three of the



methods suggested, giving a total of 105 answers as to the procedure of becoming established in farming. Sixty-eight and three tenths per cent started with their parents and in addition borrowed money. Twenty-three and three tenths per cent earned money while working as laborers for parents while 10% earned money working as laborers for persons other than their parents. A small group of 5% borrowed money and moved on farm alone so as to acquire the needed space for livestock.

A majority of the parents, being progressive, owned all or a part of the farm land. This would appear to be an incentive in helping the young farmer establish himself in farming sooner than those whose parents do not own the home farm. Most of this group were well on their way to successful farming careers at the end of the first five year period. Kenestrick<sup>2</sup> in Ohio found that establishment in farming was faster in the case of those who came from farms in which the parents had full ownership or part ownership. According to Hoskins<sup>3</sup> study of "young men partially or fully established in farming were usually the sons of progressive farmers."

#### LIVESTOCK AND EQUIPMENT OWNED BY OKLAHOMA AMERICAN FARMERS

Of the 60 young men answering the questionnaire, only 50 are actively engaged in farming, therefore, only 50 own livestock and equipment necessary for the welfare of any successful farm business.

At the completion of the vocational agricultural course these young men owned \$118,481 worth of livestock while today the value of their

---

<sup>2</sup>H.G. Kenestrick, "Some Economic Factors Affecting the Establishment of All-Day Students of Vocational Agriculture in Ohio in Farming," Department of Agricultural Education, Ohio State University, 1936.

<sup>3</sup>E.R. Hoskins, "Young Men in Farming" Vocational Education Bulletin Number 188. Washington, D.C.: Office of Education, 1936.

livestock is worth \$231,357 or a total gain of \$112,876 in livestock value. This is all the more significant in view of the fact that 10 of the 60 have no livestock whatsoever. Also approximately 50% of the American Farmers have received their degree during the last five years which would naturally limit the time necessary to build good livestock herds. Dairying has been advancing rapidly and from all indications will become a major enterprise in Oklahoma. At the time this group finished their vocational agricultural course 43 owned beef and 21 owned dairy herds whereas today 30 own beef and 28 own dairy herds.

The value of equipment owned by the group has made a spectacular rise from \$38,804 at time of completion of vocational agricultural work, to a value of \$159,968 or 75.7% increase. Possibly this great increase in value of farm equipment is due to the high prices being received for grain which suggests the need for tractors, combines, etc., to help speed production in conducting an efficient farm business.

#### FARMING STATUS

Fifty of the American Farmers actively engaged in farming have a total of 21,743 acres under their jurisdiction, averaging 435 acres each. Twenty-four own farms, 35 rent, 13 are in partnership, 7 act as farm managers while one is farming on the share with his parents. Of the 21,743 acres under their control, a total of 11,928 were in crops this last season (1946). Sixty-one per cent of the group farming raised legumes while 58.3% produced wheat and oats. The 58.3% producing wheat harvested 6,337 acres whereas the 58.3% producing oats only harvested 1,564 acres. Also the 61% growing legumes, only produced 1,753 acres

which would show that wheat is definitely the leader among the field crops. The rest of the acreage is divided among cotton, corn, barley, grain sorghums, peanuts, and soybeans. A majority of the men continue to keep records of their major and minor enterprises when they begin to farm for themselves. Eighty-eight per cent keep records on their major enterprise while 70% deem it necessary to keep records on their minor enterprises. According to these young men, they consider keeping records of value and continue to do so as is evidenced by the facts just stated.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

1. Deyoe, G. P., "Young Men From Michigan Farms." A Study of Farm-reared Men Who Attended Certain Michigan High Schools Which Maintain Departments of Vocational Agriculture. Department of Education, Michigan State College Bulletin Number 256.
2. Kenestrick, H. G., "Some Economic Factors Affecting the Establishment of All-Day Students of Vocational Agriculture in Ohio in Farming." Columbus, Ohio: Department of Agricultural Education, Ohio State University, 1936.
3. Hoskins, E. R., "Young Men in Farming." Vocational Education Bulletin Number 188. Washington, D.C.: Office of Education, 1936.

**Thelma P. Pickens**

**Typist**