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THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN MEMBERSHIP STATUS
OF RURAL YOUTH IN SELECTED ORGANIZATIONS
AND CERTAIN PERSONAL AND FAMILIAL
CHARACTERISTICS

by

Elizabeth Ann Brooks

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the Faculty of the Graduate School at
The University of North Carolina at Greensboro
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of the Requirements for the Degree
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Approved by

Irwin V. Sperry
Director

APPROVAL SHEET

This thesis has been approved by the following committee of the Faculty of the Graduate School at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro.

Thesis
Director

Erwin V. Sperry

Oral Examination
Committee Members

Lainie Howe
Donald W. Russell
Madeline B. Street

March 26, 1965

Date of Examination

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Extra-curricular activities have a place in the socialization process of today's youth. During adolescence, there is concern with acceptance by one's peer group. Extra-curricular activities, such as club membership, contribute to this socialization process in an informal group setting. Three organizations proposing to offer these experiences to youth are: the Future Farmers of America, Future Homemakers of America, and 4-H Clubs.

Research concerning these three organizations has been very limited. Studies of 4-H center around re-enrollment and characteristics of members. Materials concerning these organizations have been theoretical and popular in nature, but very little empirical literature exists.

Leaders of rural youth organizations are interested in the characteristics of youths' selectivity of membership. The present study was an investigation of the participation of rural youth in three organizations, FFA, FHA, and 4-H, that were secular in nature, school or community sponsored, and available to most rural high school youth throughout North Carolina.

In preparation for an earlier study, a list was made of all white, rural, North Carolina schools with FFA, FHA, and 4-H Clubs that were located in an area not exceeding 50,000 persons. By use of a table of random numbers,

schools were selected from each of the three geographical areas of the state, Coastal Plains, Piedmont, and Mountain. All of the ninth and tenth grade students were administered a questionnaire concerning personal and familial information. From the 8,000 questionnaires thus collected, a sample of 1500 students from each geographic area was selected by use of a table of random numbers. The resulting 4500 questionnaires constituted the sample for the present study.

Chi-square Tests of Independence were employed in the analysis of the data. The statistical analysis indicated that of those variables studied, residence, age, grade, and level of living were most consistently associated with youths' membership status. Seldom was intactness of family found in an association with membership choices. Family size was occasionally found in association with membership status. Some variation was noted within the organizations among the three geographic areas of the state.

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

Extra-curricular activities are being accepted as an important phase in the development of today's youth. While the home, church, and school have been considered responsible for the major portion of the child's socialization process, many contributions to this socialization are learned from interaction with others in an informal group setting.

High school pupils want an opportunity to participate in leisure time activities in order to improve their skills and techniques which are and will be needed to enjoy the leisure time that they face today and will face tomorrow. They want to develop skills that are necessary to be socially at ease with their own sex and the opposite sex; they want to be able to face sex without shyness and awkwardness. The pupil today needs the experiences received from group living which contribute to personality and character development and the respect for others.¹

During adolescence, youths are concerned with acceptance by their peer groups. Extra-curricular activities, such as club memberships, furnish for the adolescent an opportunity to become acquainted with a larger number of students, to sense "belonging" to a group, and to have the

¹Gladys Benerd, "How do Pupils Benefit by Participation in the Co-curricular Program?" National Association of Secondary School Principals Bulletin, 37:110, March, 1953.

opportunity to develop leadership and to learn the meaning of responsibility and dependability. Improvement of skills and techniques and completion of worthwhile projects appear to give the adolescent a feeling of achievement and acceptance. If one accepts the general prediction of increased leisure time, experiences in wise management of time, the use of personal and farm resources would seem invaluable in planning future activities. It was in view of these considerations that the present study was undertaken.

I. THE PROBLEM

Statement of the Problem

The present study, an outgrowth of Southern Regional Project, S-48,² was concerned with student information previously collected from approximately 8,000 ninth and tenth grade students from fifty-four randomly selected rural schools which represented the Coastal, Piedmont, and Mountain areas of North Carolina. Information sheets were administered in the selected schools to all ninth and tenth grade students as a means of classifying certain personal and familial characteristics. This information served as a basis for the selection of a student sample which was to be

²The earlier study, S-48 (N. C. H-164) entitled "Educational and Vocational Goals of Rural Youth in North Carolina," was sponsored by the North Carolina Agricultural Experiment Station and the School of Home Economics, University of North Carolina at Greensboro.

interrogated further as to some of their educational and vocational aspirations. Analysis of these data was underway at the time of the present study.

The purpose of the present investigation was to determine the relationship between student membership in 4-H Clubs, Future Homemakers of America Chapters, and Future Farmers of America Chapters, and (1) Age, (2) Grade, (3) Sex, (4) Residence, (5) Family Size, (6) Family Intactness, and (7) Level of Living. It was hypothesized that membership status of youth in rural youth organizations is influenced by certain personal and familial characteristics.

Importance of the Study

Little research is available regarding the influence of group participation upon the adolescent. The question arises, "What personal and familial characteristics among youth are associated with their choices to join, or not to join Future Farmers of America, Future Homemakers of America, or 4-H Clubs?" Several components have been suggested as variables in group participation; of these it is not known which are statistically related to membership and which are isolated observations. The present study was an investigation of the participation of rural youth in three organizations, which were secular in nature, school or community sponsored, and were available to most rural high school students throughout the state.

Leadership for the two school sponsored groups,

Future Farmers of America and Future Homemakers of America, is furnished by the vocational agriculture and home economics teachers, respectively. One responsibility of the assistant home and county agents in each county is leadership of 4-H Clubs, with the assistance of community leaders. Sponsors and leaders of youth groups have expressed interest in the characteristics of youth who choose to join or not to join these organizations. Drop-outs of youth groups have also been of concern to leaders.

The present study sought to investigate characteristics of rural ninth and tenth grade youth who choose to join, not to join, or to drop out of certain organizations available to them, and some of the demographic components related to these choices.

II. HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE OF THE ORGANIZATIONS

Several organizations, extra-curricular in nature, are available to youth in rural areas. The three included in the present study are: (1) Future Farmers of America, (2) Future Homemakers of America, and (3) 4-H Clubs.

Future Farmers of America

The Future Farmers of America organization was founded in 1928. Membership in the organization in 1960 was listed at 381,622, with a staff of thirty, and consisting of fifty

state and 8900 local chapters.³

The organization was designed for farm boys studying vocational agriculture in rural public secondary schools. Organized under the National Vocational Education Act, it was "to foster character development, agricultural leadership, and to supplement training opportunities for boys planning towards farming."⁴

This organization is sponsored by the Agricultural branch of the Vocational Education Division of the United States Office of Education. Hereafter, the commonly accepted abbreviation, FFA, will be used to designate the Future Farmers of America Chapters.

4-H Clubs

The 4-H Clubs were founded in 1914. A group of farm interest clubs preceded the 4-H Clubs. They were known as Corn Clubs and had been in operation since 1902. Membership in 4-H Clubs in 1960 was estimated at 2,301,722, with a staff of two hundred persons. Local clubs numbered 94,206.⁵ Over fifty per cent of this membership was in the Southeastern United States.

³National Organizations of the United States (Detroit, Michigan: Gale Research Company Book Tower, 1961), Vol. 1, 3rd Ed., p. 340.

⁴Ibid.

⁵Ibid., p. 235.

The 4-H Club was designed for rural or suburban boys and girls from ten to approximately twenty-one years of age. Increasingly more clubs are being formed in urban areas. When this study was conducted, the 4-H program in North Carolina was moving from the school sponsored club to the community sponsored club. The clubs met at a school during school hours, under the leadership of the assistant county farm and home economics agents. These clubs were currently being reorganized on a community basis with a community member assuming leadership.

The purpose of the organization was:

to foster character development and good citizenship, through a wide variety of farming, homemaking, community service, and other projects which emphasize the 'head, heart, hands, and health,' the objectives of the 4-H Club.⁶

The 4-H program is part of the national educational system of Co-operative Extension work shared by the United States Department of Agriculture, the state land-grant colleges, and the counties. Federal and State Extension Services have provided national and state leadership for the program. Throughout the present study, the name 4-H will refer to this group.

Future Homemakers of America

Future Homemakers of America Chapters were established in 1945. Estimated membership in 1960 was 485,070, with a

⁶Ibid.

staff of seven persons. State associations numbered fifty-one, and there were an estimated 10,208 local chapters.⁷

The organization was designed for girls and boys of junior and senior high school age who were studying, or had studied, homemaking in public and private schools in the United States and its territories. The purpose was:

to help individuals improve personal, family, and community living by: developing potential abilities; developing better understanding of family members, and contributing to their well-being; interpreting the values of home economics as a basic part of education; and promoting good will by getting to know neighbors at home and abroad;⁸

Sponsoring agencies for the Future Homemakers of America are the Home Economics branch of the United States Office of Education and the American Home Economics Association.

Throughout the present study, the commonly accepted abbreviation, FHA, will be used to designate Future Homemakers of America Chapters.

Though each organization has uniqueness in many respects, each has sought to fill certain needs of youth. Each organization stresses personal growth and development of skills, achievement, and ability to work well with adults and the adolescent's peer group.

⁷Ibid., p. 346.

⁸Ibid., p. 346.

III. DEFINITIONS OF TERMS USED

Terms have been defined as follows for use in the present study:

Membership status denoted the state of presently holding, having held at a previous time, or never having held membership in one or more of the three pertinent organizations.

Members were students enrolled as members of Future Farmers of America, Future Homemakers of America, or 4-H Club.

Previous members were students who had been enrolled as members of one or more of the organizations, but were not members at the time of the present study. Drop-out was used interchangeably with previous member.

Non-members were students who had never been enrolled as members of Future Farmers of America, Future Homemakers of America, or 4-H Club.

Age was the chronological age of the student, taken to the nearest birth date. For purposes of this study, ages were grouped into the following categories: 13-14; 15-16; and 17-18 year old groups.

Grade level denoted two classifications, ninth and tenth grade.

Residence was the student's place of residence at the time of data collection. Areas of residence for the present study were further defined as: (1) farm, if residence was in a rural area where at least a portion of livelihood was derived from farming or some farm-associated productive land use; (2) open country, if residence was in a rural non-farm area other than town or city; (3) town, if residence was in a rural area not exceeding a population of 2500, according to the 1950 United States Census, or (4) city, if residence was in an area with a population exceeding 2500, according to the 1950 United States Census.

Family Size was determined by the number of children in the family. Categories included: one, two, three, four, or five or more children.

Family intactness referred to whether or not the student lived with both parents. Categories included "yes" and "no" responses.

Level of living was determined by a scale measuring the items of conspicuous consumption within the student's home. Categories included: high, middle and low level of living groups. Further description of this scale is presented on page 24.

IV. ORGANIZATION OF THE REMAINDER OF THE THESIS

The remainder of the thesis is organized into chapters which present (1) a review of literature concerning youth participation in extra-curricular activities, and description of some variables having been found associated with membership status; (2) the procedural methods employed in data collection; (3) a presentation of the results of the questionnaire administered to ninth and tenth grade students in selected schools throughout the state, and (4) a summary of the findings of the study, conclusions drawn, and some recommendations for further study, based on the findings which might concern rural North Carolina youth.

CHAPTER II

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

A search of the literature relative to this investigation showed that much work has been done in an attempt to understand the adolescent and his problems. Personal and familial characteristics such as age, sex, grade level, residence, family size, family intactness, and level of living, have been studied in relation to a variety of variables. Very little research, however, is found concerning adolescent membership status in the three organizations of concern in this study.

Current literature concerning the FFA, FHA, and 4-H Club includes principally articles not of a research nature, but rather, the result of personal experiences of an advisor actively engaged in work within a particular club. These writings are primarily for information and program planning to further the work of the organizations.

Among the existing research is a study by Price¹ of three North Carolina Chapters of the Future Homemakers of America.

¹Mary Floyce Price, "Educational and Vocational Interests of Members of Future Homemakers of America" (unpublished Master's thesis, The Woman's College of the University of North Carolina, Greensboro, 1959).

The purpose of this study was to compare the vocational and educational interests of members of the Future Homemakers of America with those of non-members. Three schools in the Piedmont area of North Carolina were selected for the study. Cumulative records of these students furnished necessary information.

Data were obtained by matching thirty-nine FHA members with thirty-nine non-members on the basis of year level, age, intelligence quotient, and scholastic grades. Of the seventy-eight individuals in the study, eighteen were in the ninth, twenty-six in the tenth, twenty-two in the eleventh, and twelve in the twelfth grades.

Scores were obtained from the Kuder Vocational Preference Record² and Opinions about Education test.³ On the Kuder Preference Record, members scored higher in mechanical, persuasive, musical, and social service areas. Non-members scored higher in the outdoor, computational, artistic, literary, and clerical areas. Members scored significantly higher on only the mechanical and social service areas. Significant differences were not observed between the scores of members and non-members on the

²Ann Anastasi, Psychological Testing, (New York: The Macmillan Company, 1957), p. 574.

³A. N. Hieronymous, "A Study of Social Class Motivation: Relationships between Anxiety for Educational and Certain Socio-economic and Intellectual Variables," Journal of Educational Psychology, 42:193-205, April, 1951.

Opinions about Education test.

Krietlow, Pierce, and Middleton⁴ did a comparative analysis of 4-H membership and non-membership in the sixth grade in ten Wisconsin communities. Results showed a significant difference between the two groups in terms of mental ability, school achievement, willingness to work, and home and family background. The lack of clubs in the community was the most frequently reported cause of drop-outs.

Other studies of 4-H Clubs during the past twenty years have been concerned with problems of enrollment, reenrollment, and drop-outs. Cummings⁵ found that the range of years in club work was too great in most clubs in the county; that most girls and boys lost interest in club work in the first year so that they did not remain in the club long enough to realize benefits of the organization, and that the range of age in some clubs was too great. Work in 4-H was found most appealing to the eleven to fourteen year old age group. Reasons for dropping out were cited as dissatisfaction with leadership organization, undesirable

⁴Burton W. Krietlow, Lowell Pierce, and Curtis Middleton, Who Joins 4-H Clubs: An Analysis of the School and Home Backgrounds of 4-H Club Members and Nonmembers in Wisconsin Counties. Research Bulletin 215, Agricultural Experiment Station, University of Wisconsin, Madison, October, 1959.

⁵Alberta Heck Cummings, "An Investigation of 4-H Club Work in Cabell County, West Virginia," (unpublished Master's thesis, Ohio State University, Columbus, 1939).

project work, and failure of club meetings to meet group interests.

Howes⁶ compiled a list of factors which were associated with re-enrollment. It was found that the boy who tended to re-enroll usually carried on a satisfactory project that he owned. He likewise received adult help on this project, had brothers or sisters in the club, and parents who participated in community activities. This boy tended to be a member of a club that met after school hours, and which had a membership of from thirteen to eighteen members. It was not uncommon to find a best friend in the same club. The 4-H Club member also tended to be a participant in the club's activities.

Crile⁷ found that the average age of 4-H Club enrollment was between thirteen and fourteen years of age. Members enrolling at an early age tended to remain in the club. While education of the parents had bearing on club enrollment, factors of land tenure and farm size did not seem to affect enrollment in the 4-H program.

⁶Merle Lee Howes, "Some Factors Involved In The Non-Re-enrollment of First-Year 4-H Club Boys in Baltimore, Hartford, and Montgomery Counties, Maryland" (unpublished Master's thesis, The University of Maryland, College Park, 1952).

⁷Lucinda Crile, "The Relationship of Age and Other Factors To Enrollment and Continuation in 4-H Club Work," Extension Service Circular, 183 (February, 1933) United States Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.

In subsequent studies many of these findings have been substantiated. Copp and Clark⁸ found that there was no single cause responsible for failure to re-enroll. Factors associated with the child's remaining in the club were found to be age of first enrollment and higher family background opportunities which included residence, level of living, and parental social participation. Enrollment of best friends, brothers, or sisters, tended to increase likelihood of re-enrollment. Membership in other youth organizations was not associated with failure to re-enroll. Only a low degree of association was found between interest in farming as a career and tendency to re-enroll.

Some of these findings were reinforced in a study by Linstrom and Dawson.⁹ Members of 4-H more likely came from homes enjoying better economic and social advantages than non-members. Boys from larger farms tended to be members more often than other boys. Parents who were more discriminating in choice of their youth's social activity approved 4-H. Students who took part in other organizations were more often attracted to 4-H membership. In homes where parents actively participated in community activities,

⁸James H. Copp and Robert C. Clark, Factors Associated with Reenrollment in 4-H Clubs. Research Bulletin 195, University of Wisconsin, Madison, February, 1956.

⁹D. E. Linstrom and W. W. Dawson, Selectivity of 4-H Club Work: An Analysis of Factors Influencing Membership. Research Bulletin 426, Agricultural Experiment Station, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, July, 1936.

children more often tended to join 4-H. This 4-H Club had more appeal for children of native-born parents who had a liking for farm life, and transmitted this feeling to their children.

Very little has been done in relating membership status in FFA and FHA to personal and familial characteristics. There was an absence of research findings pertaining to the FFA organization. The available literature relating to FFA was generally of a popular nature, intended to spark new ideas and be of a practical help to FFA advisors throughout the country. An even greater lack of research literature was noted concerning FHA. Very little published literature was available aside from the official organizational materials.

Plunke's¹⁰ investigation concerning the clubs available to high school seniors used membership as a variable in a questionnaire study of general interests and activities of seniors. Membership of seniors in individual clubs, age, sex, residence, and expectation of college attendance were the variables used. In addition, costs of various club memberships were explored. Relevant to this study, the investigator stated:

¹⁰Harold H. Plunke, "Club Membership of High School Seniors," National Association of Secondary School Principals' Bulletin, 37:143-58, December, 1953.

Among farm boys in the school studied, Future Farmers of America was by far the most common club. Agricultural clubs were also prominent among farm boys. The Future Homemakers of America occupied a status of prominence among farm girls comparable to the F.F.A. among farm boys. Membership in home economics clubs was largely confined to rural girls. Town girls seemed to have less interest than farm girls in future homemaking--as reflected by membership in the two foregoing groups. Farm girls of both age groups reflected substantial interest in more different clubs than farm boys did.¹¹

In relating FFA, FHA, and 4-H to other rural school activities, Stone¹² found athletics the most common school activity for boys, with FFA running a close second. FHA was found to be the most frequent activity listed by girls. Another frequently listed activity was the 4-H Club.

This investigator was made aware of the limited amount of research available concerning the three organizations under study. From the literature at hand, however, it would seem that the 4-H Club member is most likely to be a farm youth who belongs to several organizations, who enjoys a higher socio-economic background, whose parents own their own farm and are participants in community activities.

Since comparable data are not available for comparison with FFA and FHA, it is not known if this would hold true for these two organizations also.

¹¹Ibid., p. 148.

¹²Carole L. Stone, The Place of Youth in a Small Rural Community, Washington Agricultural Experiment Station Circular 399, Pullman, Washington, March, 1962.

CHAPTER III

PROCEDURES

Selection of the Sample

In preparation for an earlier study,¹ a list was made of all white, rural, North Carolina schools with FFA, FHA, and 4-H Clubs that were located outside the corporate limits of cities with 50,000 or more population. Consequently, schools within the seven standard metropolitan areas,² as defined by the Bureau of the Census, were excluded from the study. Names of eligible schools were placed on cards and arranged alphabetically within the Coastal Plains, Piedmont, and Mountain areas of the state. In the tables, these geographical locations are denoted by Coastal Plain, Piedmont, and Mountain areas. By use of a table of random numbers, ten schools were selected from each area. Alternate schools were selected when needed, also using a table of random numbers. It was necessary to select seventeen schools from the Coastal Plains, eighteen

¹S-48, op. cit., p. 2.

²United States Bureau of the Census. U. S. Census of Population: 1960. General Social and Economic Characteristics, North Carolina. Final Report P C (1)-35C. U. S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C., 1961, pp. VII, IX, IX-X, 35-155.

from the Piedmont, and seventeen from the Mountain area in order to complete the sample selection for the regional project.³

After securing agreement from school authorities for the inclusion of a school in the study, the school was visited by a field investigator. Student Information Sheets were administered, in a group situation, to all ninth and tenth grade students in the selected school. An example of this schedule is found in the Appendix, pages 93-94 . Approximately eight thousand questionnaires were collected.

For the purpose of the present study, questionnaires from each school were grouped alphabetically within each of the three geographical areas, and each questionnaire was assigned a number. Numbered slips, corresponding to the questionnaires, were placed in a box and shuffled. A sample of 1500 was drawn from each of the three geographic areas. Numbers representing the selected questionnaires were drawn. These questionnaires comprised the sample of 4500 used in the study. Each of these 4500 students was classified in the six categories of membership status: (1) FFA, (2) FHA, (3) 4-H Clubs, (4) joint membership in FFA and 4-H or joint membership in FHA and 4-H, (5) previous members of these, (6) those never having been members. Area of the state was

³S-48, op. cit., p. 2.

the only controlled factor during the sample selection.

Description of the Sample

From a population of 8,000 Student Information Sheets, 4500 ninth and tenth grade students were selected at random; 1500 from each of the three areas of the state. Table I indicates the distribution of boys and girls in each geographical area. In instances in which there were no responses, N did not equal 1500.

TABLE I
NUMBER AND PERCENTAGES OF STUDENTS IN SAMPLE
BY SEX AND AREA

SEX	A R E A					
	Coastal Plains		Piedmont		Mountain	
	No.	Per Cent	No.	Per Cent	No.	Per Cent
Boys	742	49.5	767	51.1	672	44.8
Girls	758	50.5	733	48.9	828	55.2
N	1500	100.0	1500	100.0	1500	100.0

The age of students, presented in Table II, was from thirteen to eighteen years. The middle age group, 15-16 year olds, accounted for over fifty per cent of the sample in all three areas of the state. Approximately thirty per cent of the sample was 13-14 year olds. The percentage of 17-18 year olds was small, less than seven per cent.

TABLE II
NUMBER AND PERCENTAGES OF STUDENTS IN SAMPLE
BY AGE AND AREA

AGE	A R E A					
	Coastal Plains		Piedmont		Mountain	
	No.	Per Cent	No.	Per Cent	No.	Per Cent
13-14	421	28.1	504	33.6	559	37.3
15-16	983	65.6	936	62.4	875	58.4
17-18	95	6.3	59	4.0	65	4.3
N	1499	100.0	1499	100.0	1499	100.0

Table III shows the distribution of subjects by grade level and area. Within each area of the state, slightly more ninth grade students than tenth grade students were included in the study.

TABLE III
NUMBER AND PERCENTAGES OF STUDENTS IN SAMPLE
BY GRADE LEVEL AND AREA

GRADE	A R E A					
	Coastal Plains		Piedmont		Mountain	
	No.	Per Cent	No.	Per Cent	No.	Per Cent
Ninth	843	56.3	832	55.5	861	57.4
Tenth	654	43.7	666	44.5	638	42.6
N	1497	100.0	1498	100.0	1499	100.0

Farm youth in the Coastal Plains accounted for fifty per cent of the sample in that area, as seen in Table IV. The majority of the sample from the Piedmont and Mountain areas lived on a farm or in an open country area. In each of the three areas of the state, small percentages of students were found to be residing in towns and cities.

TABLE IV
NUMBER AND PERCENTAGES OF STUDENTS IN SAMPLE
BY RESIDENCE AND AREA

RES.	A R E A					
	Coastal Plains		Piedmont		Mountain	
	No.	Per Cent	No.	Per Cent	No.	Per Cent
Farm	754	50.3	525	35.0	585	39.1
Open Co.	345	23.0	611	40.8	606	40.5
Town	275	18.4	231	15.4	244	16.3
City	125	8.3	132	8.8	62	4.1
N	1499	100.0	1499	100.0	1497	100.0

As shown in Table V, approximately one-third or more rural youth reported five or more children in their family. The next largest group of youth reported their families as having three children. Very few one-child families were noted.

In Table VI, over eighty-seven per cent of the youth in this study lived with both parents, and less than

thirteen per cent did not.

TABLE V
NUMBER AND PERCENTAGES OF STUDENTS IN SAMPLE
BY FAMILY SIZE AND AREA

NO. OF CHILD.	A R E A					
	Coastal Plains		Piedmont		Mountain	
	No.	Per Cent	No.	Per Cent	No.	Per Cent
One Child	93	6.2	120	8.0	97	6.5
Two Child.	294	19.6	311	20.7	273	18.2
Three Child.	329	21.9	325	21.7	291	19.4
Four Child.	269	18.0	282	18.8	246	16.4
Five or More Child.	515	34.3	462	30.8	592	39.5
N	1500	100.0	1500	100.0	1499	100.0

TABLE VI
NUMBER AND PERCENTAGES OF STUDENTS IN SAMPLE
BY FAMILY INTACTNESS AND AREA

FAMILY INTACT- NESS	A R E A					
	Coastal Plains		Piedmont		Mountain	
	No.	Per Cent	No.	Per Cent	No.	Per Cent
Intact	1300	87.1	1332	89.2	1297	87.1
Not Intact	193	12.9	161	10.8	192	12.9
N	1493	100.0	1493	100.0	1489	100.0

As shown in Table VII, about one-half of the subjects in all state areas fell in the middle level of living category. Nearly one-third of the students in the Piedmont and Coastal Plains area were in the high level of living group. Approximately one-fourth of the Mountain students, to one-fifth of the students in the Coastal Plains and Piedmont areas were classified in the low level of living category.

TABLE VII
NUMBER AND PERCENTAGES OF STUDENTS IN SAMPLE
BY LEVEL OF LIVING AND AREA

LEVEL OF LIVING	A R E A					
	Coastal Plains		Piedmont		Mountain	
	No.	Per Cent	No.	Per Cent	No.	Per Cent
High	470	31.3	455	30.3	299	20.0
Middle	705	47.0	779	52.0	809	53.9
Low	325	21.7	266	17.7	392	26.1
N	1500	100.0	1500	100.0	1500	100.0

The Questionnaire

The Student Information Sheets were constructed for use in the S-48 study. Questions included: name, age, grade, and sex. Space was provided for the number of brothers and sisters to be listed. Family intactness was indicated by a "yes" or "no" response to the question, "Do you live with both parents?" Students were asked to check

the category of residence best describing where they presently lived. These categories included farm, open country, town, and city.

Membership status was established by the students' indication of the organizations, FFA, FHA, and 4-H, in which they held membership, or had previously held membership.

The last part of the questionnaire consisted of a level of living scale.⁴ This scale dealt mainly with items of conspicuous consumption found within the home.

Statistical Procedure

The Coding Manual for the S-48 study served as a guide for numerical coding of responses. The variables concerned: the subject's membership, non-membership, or previous membership in the three organizations studied; age; grade level; sex; residence; family size; family intactness; and level of living. Data were recorded on computer cards corresponding to the format of an existing program for the Chi-square Test of Independence. The Chi-square statistical test showed similarities and differences between the frequencies observed and expected for each variable studied. Data were treated separately for each of the three areas of the state and then compared.

⁴Robert A. Danley, Charles E. Ramsey, Standardization And Application of a Level of Living Scale for Farm and Non-Farm Families, Cornell University Agricultural Experiment Station, New York College of Agriculture, Memoir 362, Ithaca, New York, 1959.

Data were processed on the UNIVAC 1105 computer at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Computations totaled 108 contingency tables.

Significant differences at the .05 level and beyond were accepted.

CHAPTER IV

ANALYSIS OF DATA

I. RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN MEMBERSHIP STATUS AND AGE OF RURAL YOUTH

Age appeared to be significantly related to the membership status of rural youth in North Carolina. Membership status in FFA and age were significantly associated throughout the state. Membership status in 4-H was significantly related to age in the Coastal Plains, but failed to reach a significant level in the Piedmont and Mountain areas. Varying levels of significance were found between membership in FHA and age. Joint membership in FFA or FHA and 4-H formed no consistent pattern of relationship with the variables studied.

Membership Status and Age in the Coastal Plains Area

In the Coastal Plains area, membership status in each organization studied was consistently related to age, with the exception of joint membership in FFA and 4-H.

FFA and Age. Membership status in FFA and age were associated at the .01 level of significance. Among the 13-14 year old group, almost equal numbers were members and non-members. Three-fifths of the 15-16 year olds, and

nearly three-fourths of the 17-18 year olds were FFA members. Frequency of membership was found to increase with age.

FHA and Age. Membership in the FHA and age were significantly related at the .01 level. Three-fifths of the 13-14 year olds and over three-fifths of the 15-16 year olds were members of FHA. About one-third of the girls, 13-16 years of age, had never been members of this organization. Over one-half of the 17-18 year old girls had never held membership.

4-H Club and Age. Membership status in the 4-H Club and age were significantly related at the .01 level among both boys and girls. A sharp decrease in the frequency of membership was noted as the age of boys increased. Nearly sixty per cent of the boys in the 13-14 year old group, seventy per cent in the 16-17 year old group, and slightly over eighty per cent in the 17-18 year old groups were not members. In the younger age groups the number of previous members approximated the present membership. In the 17-18 year old age group, drop-outs were more than twice as frequent as members.

Girls in 4-H Club followed somewhat the same trend in membership as that of boys. The percentage of membership of the 13-14 year old group was the same for boys and girls, twenty-one per cent each. Age groupings of girls over

fifteen years of age had membership rates higher than those of boys at this same age. The number of non-members in each of the girls' groups was less than that for boys' in corresponding age groups.

FFA or FHA and 4-H Club and Age. No significant relationship was seen between age and joint membership in FFA and 4-H.

The membership status of girls in FHA and 4-H was found to be significant at the .05 level. Joint membership was more frequent among girls 13-14 than among girls 15 years or older. Drop-outs were more frequent among 15-16 year old girls than among 13-14 year olds. Seven per cent of the 17-18 year old girls held joint membership in FHA and 4-H Club.

Membership Status and Age in the Piedmont Area

No consistent relationship was found between membership status and age of rural youth in the Piedmont area. The FFA membership variable and age were significant at the .01 level. Joint membership in FFA and 4-H was significant at the .05 level. No other significant relationships were noted in this area.

FFA and Age. FFA membership and age were related at the .01 level of significance. Boys over fifteen years of age were more often members of FFA than were younger boys. Sixty per cent of the 13-14 year old group, and more than

TABLE VIII
 PERCENTAGES ACCORDING TO MEMBERSHIP STATUS
 AS RELATED TO AGE IN THE COASTAL PLAINS

ORGANI- ZATION	A G E G R O U P S								
	13-14			15-16			17-18		
	Mem.	Prev. Mem.	Non Mem.	Mem.	Prev. Mem.	Non Mem.	Mem.	Prev. Mem.	Non Mem.
FFA	51.4	.6	48.0	60.0	4.2	35.8	74.6	1.5	23.9
FHA	60.2	1.6	38.2	63.1	6.6	30.2	28.6	17.9	53.6
4-H (Boys)	21.1	21.1	57.7	14.6	15.4	70.0	6.0	13.4	80.6
4-H (Girls)	21.1	33.3	45.5	15.3	27.5	57.1	17.9	3.6	78.6
FFA/4-H	14.3	9.1	76.6	11.0	10.0	79.0	4.5	13.4	82.1
FHA/4-H	16.3	20.1	63.8	12.0	22.6	65.4	7.1	3.6	89.3
N (Boys)	175			500			67		
N (Girls)	246			483			28		

forty per cent in the other age groupings were non-members. The drop-out rate was less than five per cent in all age categories.

FHA and Age. No significant relationship existed between membership status in FHA and age.

4-H Club and Age. In the Piedmont area, no significant relationship was found between membership in 4-H Club and age of either boys or girls.

FFA or FHA and 4-H Club and Age. In the Piedmont area, joint membership status in the FFA and 4-H Club and age were significantly related at the .05 level. A higher percentage of members was found among 13-14 year olds, than among the two older groups. Approximately eighty per cent of all age groups had never held joint membership in these organizations. Drop-out rates were highest among the 15-16 year old group, yet none exceeded ten per cent.

Combined membership in FHA and 4-H was not significantly associated with age in the Piedmont area.

Membership Status and Age in the Mountain Area

Membership status and age were not consistently related in the Mountain area. A significant relationship was observed between age and membership status in FFA, FHA, and joint membership in the FFA and 4-H Club.

TABLE IX
 PERCENTAGES ACCORDING TO MEMBERSHIP STATUS
 AS RELATED TO AGE IN THE PIEDMONT AREA

ORGANI- ZATION	A G E G R O U P S								
	13-14			15-16			17-18		
	Mem.	Prev. Mem.	Non Mem.	Mem.	Prev. Mem.	Non Mem.	Mem.	Prev. Mem.	Non Mem.
FFA	39.1	.9	60.0	52.4	4.5	43.1	51.1	2.1	46.8
FHA	64.2	.7	35.0	62.2	3.8	34.0	50.0	8.3	41.7
4-H (Boys)	24.8	13.0	62.2	21.5	16.8	61.8	19.1	10.6	70.2
4-H (Girls)	28.8	28.1	43.1	30.2	21.9	47.9	16.7	16.7	66.6
FFA/4-H	13.9	2.6	83.5	12.9	10.0	77.1	10.6	6.4	83.0
FHA/4-H	22.3	15.0	62.8	20.6	14.1	65.3	8.3	0.0	91.7
N (Boys)	230			489			47		
N (Girls)	274			447			12		

FFA and Age. Membership in FFA and age were significantly associated at the .01 level. The percentage of members increased with age. In the 13-14 year old group, over twice as many students were found in the non-member category as in the member category. Approximately as many students were non-members as were members in the 15-16 and 17-18 year old age groups. No drop-outs were noted in the 13-14 year old group, and the drop-out rate among the other two age groups remained less than five per cent.

FHA and Age. Membership status in FHA and age were related at the .05 level. A slight decrease was noted in both membership and non-membership with increasing age. This was accounted for by increase in drop-out rates with age.

4-H Club and Age. Age was not a significant factor in the 4-H Club membership status of either boys or girls in the Mountain area.

FFA or FHA and 4-H Club and Age. Simultaneous membership in FFA and 4-H was significantly related to age at the .05 level. The number of boys holding joint membership in these organizations increased with age. The number of non-members was smallest in the 15-16 year old group. The percentages of members and previous members were similar in the 13-14 and the 15-16 year age groups. A decrease in drop-outs was noted among the 17-18 year olds.

TABLE X
 PERCENTAGES ACCORDING TO MEMBERSHIP STATUS
 AS RELATED TO AGE IN THE MOUNTAIN AREA

ORGANI- ZATION	A G E G R O U P S								
	13-14			15-16			17-18		
	Mem.	Prev. Mem.	Non Mem.	Mem.	Prev. Mem.	Non Mem.	Mem.	Prev. Mem.	Non Mem.
FFA	30.5	0.0	69.6	46.6	4.5	48.9	48.8	4.9	46.3
FHA	42.0	.6	57.4	38.7	4.8	56.5	37.5	8.3	54.2
4-H (Boys)	16.3	21.0	62.7	19.9	17.4	62.7	24.4	7.3	68.3
4-H (Girls)	19.9	25.8	54.3	20.5	25.9	53.6	16.7	25.0	58.3
FFA/4-H	5.6	4.7	89.7	11.1	10.8	78.1	14.6	4.9	80.5
FHA/4-H	12.9	6.1	81.0	10.3	10.3	79.5	8.3	16.7	75.0
N (Boys)	233			397			41		
N (Girls)	326			478			24		

Joint membership in FHA and 4-H and age were not significantly related.

II. RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN MEMBERSHIP STATUS AND GRADE LEVEL OF RURAL YOUTH

Grade level, generally speaking, was a significant component of the membership status of rural youth in North Carolina. Membership status in FFA and grade were consistently related throughout the state. FHA membership status was related to grade level in all three geographic areas of the state. Membership status in the 4-H Club and grade level were significantly related in the Coastal Plains and Mountain areas. No significant relationship existed between 4-H membership status and grade level in the Piedmont area.

Joint membership in FFA and 4-H and grade were significant in the Mountain area only. Grade level was associated with joint membership status in FHA and 4-H in the Coastal Plains and Mountain areas.

Membership Status and Grade Level in the Coastal Plains Area

Grade level was a significant constituent in the membership status of Coastal Plains youth. Joint membership in FFA and 4-H was the only exception to this observation.

FFA and Grade Level. A relation significant at the .05 level existed between membership status in FFA and grade level. Almost three-fifths of the ninth and tenth grade

students were members. Thirty-nine per cent of the ninth, and thirty-six per cent of the tenth graders were listed in non-member categories. Drop-outs were small at both grade levels.

FHA and Grade Level. A significant relationship at the .01 level was found between membership status in FHA and grade. Among both ninth and tenth grade girls, members constituted approximately sixty per cent. Approximately one-third of both grades had never belonged to the FHA. There was a decrease in the frequency of membership among tenth graders.

4-H Club and Grade Level. Boys' membership in 4-H was significantly related to grade at the .05 level, and girls' membership status and grade level were associated at the .01 level. Less than twenty per cent of the ninth grade boys were members. Decreases were noted among members in the tenth grade. Over sixty per cent of the ninth grade and over seventy per cent of the tenth grade group stated that they had never belonged to the 4-H Club. The number of drop-outs approximated the number of members in the ninth grade group, and exceeded the number of members in the tenth grade group.

Twenty-one per cent of the girls in the ninth and twelve per cent of the girls in the tenth grade were members. Girls who were non-members accounted for approximately fifty

to sixty per cent in the ninth and tenth grades, respectively. The number of drop-outs exceeded the number of members in the ninth grade. There were more than twice as many drop-outs as members in the tenth grade.

FFA or FHA and 4-H Club and Grade Level. No significant relationship existed between boys' joint membership in FFA and 4-H and grade level in the Coastal Plains.

Girls who had combined membership in FHA and 4-H and their grade level were statistically associated at the .01 level of significance. Over sixteen per cent of the ninth grade girls chose membership in both of these organizations, whereas this percentage dropped for the tenth graders. Previous membership exceeded present membership among both age groups, and more than sixty per cent at both the ninth and tenth grade levels were non-members of both organizations.

Membership Status and Grade Level in the Piedmont Area

A significant relationship existed between membership status in FFA and grade level, and FHA and grade level for rural youth in the Piedmont area of North Carolina. Grade level was not significantly associated with membership in 4-H.

FFA and Grade Level. An association at the .01 level of significance was evidenced between membership status in FFA and grade level. Forty-four per cent of the ninth and

TABLE XI
 PERCENTAGES ACCORDING TO MEMBERSHIP STATUS
 AS RELATED TO GRADE LEVEL IN THE COASTAL PLAINS

ORGANI- ZATION	GRADE LEVEL					
	Ninth			Tenth		
	Mem.	Prev. Mem.	Non Mem.	Mem.	Prev. Mem.	Non Mem.
FFA	59.5	1.2	39.3	58.9	5.4	35.7
FHA	62.4	1.4	36.2	58.9	10.9	30.2
4-H(Boys)	18.2	17.7	64.1	11.7	15.3	73.0
4-H(Girls)	21.1	29.9	49.1	12.1	26.8	61.1
FFA/4-H	13.3	9.3	77.4	8.4	11.1	80.5
FHA/4-H	16.5	19.7	63.8	8.7	22.7	68.5
N(Boys)	407			333		
N(Girls)	436			321		

fifty-two per cent of the tenth grade subjects were FFA members. Frequency of membership increased with grade level. Drop-outs were light for both grade groups.

FHA and Grade Level. Membership status and grade level were statistically related at the .05 level. Slightly over sixty per cent of the girls in each grade were members, and over thirty per cent of the tenth and over thirty-six per cent in the ninth grade were non-members.

4-H Club and Grade Level. Membership status of boys and girls in 4-H Clubs in the Piedmont area was not significantly related to grade level.

FFA or FHA and 4-H Club and Grade Level. Joint membership status in neither FFA and 4-H nor FHA and 4-H was significantly related to the grade level of Piedmont youth.

Membership Status and Grade Level in the Mountain Area

Significant relationships were found between membership status in FFA, FHA, and 4-H, and grade level in the Mountain area of North Carolina.

FFA and Grade Level. Membership in FFA and grade level were related at the .01 level of significance. Over forty per cent of the ninth and tenth grade boys were members of FFA in the Mountain area. Between fifty and sixty per cent of the boys in each grade were not members.

TABLE XII
 PERCENTAGES ACCORDING TO MEMBERSHIP STATUS
 AS RELATED TO GRADE LEVEL IN THE PIEDMONT

ORGANI- ZATION	G R A D E L E V E L					
	Ninth			Tenth		
	Mem.	Prev. Mem.	Non Mem.	Mem.	Prev. Mem.	Non Mem.
FFA	44.9	1.4	53.6	52.0	5.4	42.6
FHA	62.2	1.2	36.6	63.7	4.8	31.5
4-H(Boys)	24.4	15.0	60.6	19.9	15.6	64.5
4-H(Girls)	28.5	24.9	46.7	30.9	23.2	45.9
FFA/4-H	12.8	6.3	80.9	13.4	9.1	77.6
FHA/4-H	19.6	14.4	66.0	22.9	14.0	63.1
N(Boys)	414			352		
N(Girls)	418			314		

FHA and Grade Level. A dependent relationship, significant at the .01 level, was observed between membership status in FHA and grade level. Approximately forty per cent of the girls from each grade level were members of FHA. A larger percentage of the ninth and tenth grade students were in the non-member category. Drop-outs were less than one per cent for the ninth and less than seven per cent for the tenth grades.

4-H Club and Grade Level. Grade level was a significant factor in the 4-H Club membership status of both boys and girls, significant at the .01 level. More tenth grade boys were members than ninth grade boys. Non-membership, decreasing in the tenth grade, remained above fifty per cent. Drop-outs increased with grade level.

More ninth grade girls than tenth grade girls were 4-H members. Over fifty per cent of the girls had never belonged to this organization. Drop-outs, comprising over twenty per cent of the ninth grade, increased to more than thirty per cent among the tenth grade group.

FFA or FHA and 4-H Club and Grade Level. A dependent relationship, significant at the .01 level, was found between grade level and joint membership status in FFA and 4-H and FHA and 4-H. Few boys held membership in both FFA and 4-H. Percentages of previous members approximated present members in both grades. From three-fourths to almost nine-tenths

of the boys in both the ninth and tenth grade groups were in the non-member categories.

A decrease in girls' joint membership status in both of these organizations was noted in the tenth grade, accompanied with an increase in previous members. Nearly four-fifths of the girls in both the ninth and tenth grades had never been members of both organizations.

III. RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN MEMBERSHIP STATUS AND RESIDENCE OF RURAL YOUTH

Throughout North Carolina, the residence of rural youth generally was associated with membership status. A consistent association was noted between membership in FFA and place of residence. Membership status in FHA and residence were significantly associated only in the Mountain area. In all three geographic areas, 4-H membership status was significantly associated with rural youths' residence. Joint membership in FFA and 4-H or FHA and 4-H was generally significantly related.

Membership Status and Residence in the Coastal Plains Area

Membership status in the organizations studied was statistically dependent upon the residence of Coastal Plains youth, with the exception of membership in FHA.

FFA and Residence. Membership status in FFA and residence were significantly related at the .01 level.

TABLE XIII
 PERCENTAGES ACCORDING TO MEMBERSHIP STATUS
 AS RELATED TO GRADE LEVEL IN THE MOUNTAINS

ORGANI- ZATION	G R A D E L E V E L					
	Ninth			Tenth		
	Mem.	Prev. Mem.	Non Mem.	Mem.	Prev. Mem.	Non Mem.
FFA	40.6	.5	58.9	41.8	6.3	51.9
FHA	40.1	.6	59.3	39.9	6.8	53.3
4-H(Boys)	15.0	17.1	68.0	24.2	19.6	56.1
4-H(Girls)	23.4	21.5	55.1	15.9	31.4	52.7
FFA/4-H	6.5	5.7	87.9	13.3	11.9	74.7
FHA/4-H	12.4	5.7	81.9	9.6	13.0	77.3
N(Boys)	387			285		
N(Girls)	474			353		

Of these students living on farms, four-fifths were members. Of non-farm students living in the open country, over fifty per cent were members. Membership was less frequently found among students living in the more suburban areas. Only fifteen per cent of the city dwellers had ever belonged to FFA. Drop-outs were less than five per cent for all categories of residence.

FHA and Residence. In the Coastal Plains, no significant relationship was observed between the area of residence and membership status in FHA.

4-H Club and Residence. Membership status of boys and of girls in 4-H Club and residence were related at the .01 level. Farm residents were more often members, followed by youth from open country and town areas. Seven per cent of the students from cities were members. Over sixty per cent of the boys from farm, open country, and town areas had never joined 4-H Club and ninety per cent of the city boys were non-members. Previous membership increased as the area became more urban, except in the case of city boys where there were relatively few members originally.

Membership in 4-H among girls followed the same trend as that observed for boys. Farm residents were more often 4-H members than other girls, and the percentages of girls holding membership decreased in more urban areas. Seven per cent of the city girls were listed as members. Over

fifty per cent of the girls from farms, towns, and open country were not 4-H members, and over eighty per cent of the girls residing in cities were non-members. Percentages of previous members exceeded present membership in each category of residence, drop-outs being more prevalent among town girls.

FFA or FHA and 4-H Club and Residence. Membership status in both FFA and 4-H and residence were significantly related at the .01 level. As the boys' residences became more urban, frequency of joint membership in FFA and 4-H decreased. Approximately fifteen per cent of the farm boys, as compared with eight per cent, six per cent, and four per cent from open country, town, and city, respectively were members. Drop-out percentages were identical in farm and town areas, and slightly higher in open country areas. No drop-outs were noted among those youth from cities.

Joint membership in FHA and 4-H had no significant relationship with place of residence.

Membership Status and Residence in the Piedmont Area

The residence of rural youth in the Piedmont area was associated with membership status in the organizations studied, with the exception of membership status in FHA.

FFA and Residence. Membership status in FFA and residence were statistically related at the .01 level. Approximately four-fifths of the farm boys were FFA members.

TABLE XIV

PERCENTAGES ACCORDING TO MEMBERSHIP STATUS AS
RELATED TO RESIDENCE IN THE COASTAL PLAINS

ORGANI- ZATION	R E S I D E N C E											
	Farm			Open Country			Town			City		
	Mem.	Prev. Mem.	Non Mem.	Mem.	Prev. Mem.	Non Mem.	Mem.	Prev. Mem.	Non Mem.	Mem.	Prev. Mem.	Non Mem.
FFA	80.0	3.9	16.1	51.7	4.1	44.1	32.4	1.4	66.2	14.5	0.0	85.5
FHA	61.0	6.5	32.5	62.0	5.0	33.0	63.2	3.6	33.1	51.8	3.6	44.7
4-H (Boys)	19.0	13.5	67.5	13.1	22.0	64.8	12.0	26.8	61.3	7.2	1.4	91.3
4-H (Girls)	19.8	29.6	50.7	18.5	26.5	55.0	13.5	36.1	50.4	7.1	10.7	82.1
FFA/4-H	15.3	10.6	74.0	8.3	13.1	78.6	6.3	10.6	83.1	4.3	0.0	95.7
FHA/4-H	14.3	22.0	63.7	14.0	20.5	65.5	12.0	24.8	63.2	7.1	7.1	85.7
N(Boys)	385			145			142			69		
N(Girls)	369			200			133			56		

Less than half of this number of open country and town boys were members. Frequency of membership decreased as the place of residence became more urban. Over sixty per cent of the open country, sixty-eight per cent of the town residents, and approximately ninety-two per cent of the city residents were non-members. Drop-out rates were less than five per cent for all categories of residence.

FHA and Residence. No significant relationship was observed between membership status in FHA and residence.

4-H Club and Residence. The residence of both boys and girls was significantly associated with their membership status in 4-H Club. Boys from more rural areas of residence were more frequently members than boys from the more urban areas. Larger non-member percentages were found in more urban areas. Drop-out rates were higher among boys from the open country than among boys from other places of residence.

Similar numbers of farm girls were found in 4-H member and non-member categories. Membership decreased markedly as the area became more urban. Over eighty per cent of the city residents indicated that they had never belonged to 4-H. Larger drop-out rates were found among girls living in the open country than among girls from other places of residence.

FFA or FHA and 4-H Club and Residence. Joint membership in FFA and 4-H and FHA and 4-H was related to residence at the .01 level of significance. The largest number of boys holding joint membership in these organizations was farm residents. Membership was less frequent among youth from more urban areas. The membership-previous membership figures were similar for non-farm and town residents. Of the four categories of residence, non-membership was less frequent among farm youth. Non-membership rates increased in more urban areas.

Farm girls more frequently than other girls held simultaneous membership in FHA and 4-H. Membership and previous membership, except from farm to open country residence, decreased with more urban residence. No girls living in cities were presently members of both of these organizations, while about six per cent indicated that they had once belonged to both organizations.

Membership Status and Residence in the Mountain Area

Residence was observed as a significant component of the membership choices of Mountain youth. Associations between residence and membership status were observed among the organizations studied.

FFA and Residence. Membership status in FFA and residence were related at the .01 level of significance. The largest percentages of farm boys were FFA members.

TABLE XV

PERCENTAGES ACCORDING TO MEMBERSHIP STATUS AS
RELATED TO RESIDENCE IN THE PIEDMONT

ORGANI- ZATION	R E S I D E N C E											
	Farm			Open Country				Town			City	
	Mem.	Prev. Mem.	Non Mem.	Mem.	Prev. Mem.	Non Mem.	Mem.	Prev. Mem.	Non Mem.	Mem.	Prev. Mem.	Non Mem.
FFA	79.1	3.1	17.8	35.6	4.2	60.2	29.3	2.4	68.3	5.9	1.5	92.6
FHA	68.9	1.7	29.4	63.4	3.4	33.2	50.9	3.7	45.4	57.8	1.6	40.6
4-H (Boys)	32.8	13.9	53.3	20.1	18.0	61.9	11.4	12.2	76.4	7.4	14.7	77.9
4-H (Girls)	38.2	23.1	38.7	30.7	28.6	40.7	22.2	18.5	59.3	3.1	14.1	82.8
FFA/4-H	25.4	10.8	63.8	7.3	7.6	85.1	4.1	4.1	91.9	1.5	0.0	98.5
FHA/4-H	28.2	14.3	57.6	22.4	17.7	59.9	13.9	8.3	77.8	0.0	6.3	93.8
N(Boys)	287			289				123			68	
N(Girls)	238			322				108			64	

Membership in FFA decreased as the area of residence became more urban. No city boys in the sample had ever been FFA members. The drop-out rate was higher among town residents than among boys from other areas of residence.

FHA and Residence. Membership status in FHA and area of residence were statistically associated at the .01 level of significance. The largest percentages of farm girls belonged to FHA, with smaller proportions of members coming from rural non-farm and town areas. Few members were found in city areas. As many girls were non-members as were members among the farm group, and non-members exceeded present members in the three other categories of residence. Drop-outs were small and fairly evenly distributed with the greatest number found among town girls.

4-H Club and Residence. Membership status of boys in 4-H and their residence were significantly related at the .05 level. Larger percentages of the farm and town boys were members than boys from other categories of residence. Non-member percentages, while over fifty per cent in the farm area, increased within the more urban places of residence. Drop-outs in 4-H equalled members among farm, open country, and city boys, however, in the town areas, members exceeded drop-outs.

The residence of Mountain girls and 4-H membership status were related at the .01 level. Members were more

frequently found among farm girls than among other girls. In all categories of residence, frequency of non-members exceeded frequency of membership by a substantial margin. With the exception of farm girls, a greater percentage of previous members than members were noted.

FFA or FHA and 4-H Club and Residence. A statistical association at the .01 level was observed between the residence of Mountain youth and joint membership status in FFA and 4-H and between FHA and 4-H. Boys who were farm residents more frequently belonged to both FFA and 4-H. Relatively few boys from open country and town areas were members of both organizations, and no city boys indicated joint membership. Drop-outs of farm and town boys equalled present joint membership, but almost twice the number of open country residents held joint membership as had dropped out.

Of the small percentages of girls who held joint membership in FHA and 4-H, town and farm girls were more frequently attracted than other girls. Seventy-five per cent or more of rural girls indicated they had never joined both organizations. Previous membership percentages decreased with more urban areas. No city girls indicated presently belonging to, or ever having belonged to both organizations.

TABLE XVI
 PERCENTAGES ACCORDING TO MEMBERSHIP STATUS AS
 RELATED TO RESIDENCE IN THE MOUNTAINS

ORGANI- ZATION	R E S I D E N C E											
	Farm			Open Country			Town			City		
	Mem.	Prev. Mem.	Non Mem.	Mem.	Prev. Mem.	Non Mem.	Mem.	Prev. Mem.	Non Mem.	Mem.	Prev. Mem.	Non Mem.
FFA	67.7	2.1	30.1	28.4	3.4	68.3	7.9	5.0	87.1	0.0	0.0	100.0
FHA	48.5	2.6	48.8	38.5	2.7	58.9	34.3	6.3	59.4	9.3	2.3	88.4
4-H (Boys)	22.0	22.0	56.0	15.7	15.3	69.0	19.8	15.8	64.4	10.5	10.5	78.9
4-H (Girls)	27.4	24.1	48.6	14.5	29.0	56.5	22.4	23.8	53.8	7.0	18.6	74.4
FFA/4-H	15.2	15.2	69.5	6.3	3.4	90.3	3.0	3.0	94.1	0.0	0.0	100.0
FHA/4-H	13.2	12.2	74.6	9.5	8.6	82.0	14.7	4.2	81.1	0.0	0.0	100.0
N(Boys)	282			268			101			19		
N(Girls)	303			338			143			43		

IV. RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN MEMBERSHIP STATUS
AND FAMILY SIZE OF RURAL YOUTH

No consistent relationship was noted between membership status and family size of rural youth in North Carolina. Membership status in FFA and family size were significantly related in all three areas of the state. Membership status in FHA and size of family were significant only in the Piedmont area. Membership status in 4-H was independent of family size, but joint membership in FHA and 4-H in the Coastal Plains was significantly related.

Membership Status and Family Size in the Coastal Plains Area

The membership status of boys in FFA, and of girls' joint membership status in FHA and 4-H were significantly related to size of family.

FFA and Family Size. Membership status in FFA and family size were related at the .01 level of significance. Membership and non-membership percentages were similar in the two and three child categories, but were dissimilar in the one, four, and five or more child categories. Nearly seventy-two per cent of those boys from families of five or more children were members. Membership was more frequent among boys from larger families.

FHA and Family Size. Membership status in FHA was not significantly related to family size.

4-H Club and Family Size. Membership in 4-H was not statistically associated with family size.

FFA or FHA and 4-H Club and Family Size. Membership status in FFA and 4-H was statistically independent of family size. Membership status in FHA and 4-H was associated with family size at the .05 level of significance. Between fifty-eight and seventy per cent of the girls from each family size category had never belonged to both clubs. Of the girls from one to three child families, approximately one-fourth had dropped membership in one or both clubs. Fewer drop-outs were observed among youth from larger families.

Membership Status and Family Size in the Piedmont Area

Membership status in FFA and in FHA were significantly associated with family size.

FFA and Family Size. Membership status in FFA and family size were related at the .01 level of significance. Frequency of membership generally increased with the number of children in the family, except one child families, which showed a higher percentage of membership than two or three child families. Approximately forty to fifty per cent of the boys in families of from one to four children were members. Sixty-two per cent of the boys from families of five or more children were members. Drop-out rates were small among boys from all family sizes. The largest proportional number of drop-outs was found in one-child families.

TABLE XVII
 PERCENTAGES ACCORDING TO MEMBERSHIP STATUS AS
 RELATED TO FAMILY SIZE IN THE COASTAL PLAINS

ORGANI- ZATION	NUMBER OF CHILDREN														
	One			Two			Three			Four			Five or More		
	Prev. Mem.	Non Mem.	Mem.	Prev. Mem.	Non Mem.	Mem.	Prev. Mem.	Non Mem.	Mem.	Prev. Mem.	Non Mem.	Mem.	Prev. Mem.	Non Mem.	Mem.
FFA	41.9	0.0	58.1	50.3	2.5	47.1	50.6	5.3	44.1	64.2	2.2	33.6	71.8	2.9	25.2
FHA	72.0	0.0	28.0	67.9	2.2	30.0	63.5	7.5	28.9	54.1	5.9	40.0	57.4	6.5	36.1
4-H (Boys)	14.0	9.3	76.7	19.7	21.7	58.6	17.6	17.6	64.7	15.7	16.4	67.9	10.9	13.9	75.2
4-H (Girls)	18.0	30.1	52.0	17.5	32.1	50.4	18.9	33.3	47.8	15.6	25.9	58.5	17.3	24.9	57.8
FFA/4-H	11.6	2.3	86.0	12.7	12.7	74.5	13.5	8.2	78.2	11.2	11.9	76.9	8.4	10.1	81.5
FHA/4-H	14.0	24.0	62.0	15.3	24.8	59.9	14.5	27.7	57.9	8.9	20.0	71.1	13.7	15.2	71.1
N(Boys)	43			157			170			134			238		
N(Girls)	50			137			159			135			277		

FHA and Family Size. Membership status in FHA and family size were significantly related at the .05 level. A decrease in membership was noted among girls from larger families. Approximately seventy per cent of the girls from families of one or two children were members. Drop-outs did not exceed four per cent in any family size group.

4-H Club and Family Size. Membership status of boys and girls in 4-H and the size of their families were not significantly related.

FFA or FHA and 4-H and Family Size. Membership in FFA and 4-H or FHA and 4-H was not significantly related to family size.

Membership Status and Family Size in the Mountain Area

Membership status and family size of rural youth in the Mountain area were not found to be statistically related except in the instance of membership status in FFA.

FFA and Family Size. An association significant at the .05 level of significance was observed between membership status in FFA and size of family. Membership generally increased with the number of children in the family, from twenty-two per cent in one-child families to fifty per cent in families having five or more children. Previous membership remained less than five per cent in all family size groups.

TABLE XVIII
 PERCENTAGES ACCORDING TO MEMBERSHIP STATUS AS
 RELATED TO FAMILY SIZE IN THE PIEDMONT

ORGANI- ZATION	NUMBER OF CHILDREN														
	One			Two			Three			Four			Five or More		
	Prev. Mem.	Non Mem.	Non Mem.	Prev. Mem.	Non Mem.	Non Mem.	Prev. Mem.	Non Mem.	Non Mem.	Prev. Mem.	Non Mem.	Non Mem.	Prev. Mem.	Non Mem.	Non Mem.
FFA	41.7	8.3	50.0	37.3	2.6	60.0	41.4	3.6	55.0	47.8	1.9	50.3	62.3	3.0	34.6
FHA	70.0	0.0	30.0	70.8	1.9	27.3	66.0	1.9	32.1	51.2	4.0	44.8	59.3	3.9	36.8
4-H (Boys)	20.0	16.7	63.3	19.3	17.3	63.3	21.9	16.6	61.5	24.2	12.7	63.1	23.8	14.3	61.9
4-H (Girls)	30.0	25.0	45.0	27.3	23.0	49.7	31.4	24.4	44.2	21.6	29.6	48.8	33.8	21.6	44.6
FFA/4-H	8.3	6.7	85.0	8.7	8.0	83.3	11.2	5.9	82.8	14.6	6.4	79.0	17.3	9.5	73.2
FHA/4-H	26.7	15.0	58.3	22.4	12.4	65.2	21.8	17.9	60.3	13.6	13.6	72.8	22.1	13.0	64.9
N(Boys)	60			150			169			157			231		
N(Girls)	60			161			156			125			231		

FHA and Family Size. Family size was not statistically related to membership status in FHA.

4-H Club and Family Size. The size of neither boys' nor girls' families was statistically associated with their 4-H membership status.

FFA or FHA and 4-H Club and Family Size. Membership status in FFA and 4-H or FHA and 4-H was not statistically related to the family size of Mountain youth.

V. RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN MEMBERSHIP STATUS
AND FAMILY INTACTNESS

Family intactness was seldom related to the membership status of rural youth in North Carolina. It should be indicated that there were relatively few non-intact families.

Membership Status and Family Intactness in the Coastal
Plains Area

Intactness of family was not significantly related to membership status in FFA, FHA, or 4-H Club, or to joint membership in these organizations in the Coastal Plains area.

FFA and Family Intactness. Intactness of family was not associated with the membership status of boys in FFA.

FHA and Family Intactness. Membership status in FHA, likewise, was not related to intactness of family.

TABLE XIX
 PERCENTAGES ACCORDING TO MEMBERSHIP STATUS AS
 RELATED TO FAMILY SIZE IN THE MOUNTAINS

ORGANI- ZATION	NUMBER OF CHILDREN														
	One			Two			Three			Four			Five or More		
	Prev. Mem.	Non Mem.	Mem.	Prev. Mem.	Non Mem.	Mem.	Prev. Mem.	Non Mem.	Mem.	Prev. Mem.	Non Mem.	Mem.	Prev. Mem.	Non Mem.	Mem.
FFA	22.6	3.8	73.6	37.3	2.2	60.4	36.3	4.9	58.7	41.2	2.0	56.9	50.2	2.5	47.3
FHA	43.1	4.6	52.3	45.3	2.2	52.5	49.3	4.1	46.6	37.5	3.5	59.0	34.6	3.1	62.3
4-H (Boys)	20.8	22.6	56.6	20.1	17.9	61.9	16.8	22.4	60.8	22.5	13.7	63.7	17.6	16.7	65.7
4-H (Girls)	27.3	20.5	52.3	22.3	25.9	51.8	16.2	25.0	58.8	20.1	29.2	50.7	20.1	25.5	54.4
FFA/4-H	5.7	9.4	84.9	9.0	5.2	85.8	7.7	9.8	82.5	12.7	4.9	82.4	10.0	10.5	79.5
FHA/4-H	22.7	6.8	70.5	13.7	11.5	74.8	10.8	8.1	81.1	11.8	8.3	79.9	8.8	8.5	82.7
N(Boys)	53			134			143			102			239		
N(Girls)	44			139			148			144			353		

4-H Club and Family Intactness. Family intactness was not associated with membership status in 4-H Clubs.

FFA or FHA and 4-H Club and Family Intactness. Family intactness and joint membership in FFA and 4-H or FHA and 4-H Club were not statistically related.

Membership Status and Family Intactness in the Piedmont Area

Family intactness was not statistically related to the membership status of Piedmont youth, except for youth holding joint membership in FFA and 4-H.

FFA and Family Intactness. No significant relationship was found between membership status in FFA and family intactness.

FHA and Family Intactness. Family intactness showed no association with membership status in FHA in the Piedmont area.

4-H Club and Family Intactness. Boys' and girls' membership status in 4-H was not related to family intactness.

FFA or FHA and 4-H Club and Family Intactness. Joint membership status in the FFA and 4-H was significantly related to family intactness at the .05 level. Approximately equal proportional numbers of boys from intact and non-intact families belonged to both of these organizations.

TABLE XX
 PERCENTAGES ACCORDING TO MEMBERSHIP STATUS
 AS RELATED TO FAMILY INTACTNESS
 IN THE COASTAL PLAINS

ORGANI- ZATION	F A M I L Y I N T A C T N E S S					
	Intact			Not Intact		
	Mem.	Prev. Mem.	Non Mem.	Mem.	Prev. Mem.	Non Mem.
FFA	60.1	2.8	37.1	54.3	5.3	40.4
FHA	61.0	5.5	33.5	62.6	4.0	33.3
4-H(Boys)	15.7	17.1	67.2	12.8	13.8	73.4
4-H(Girls)	17.8	28.2	54.0	14.1	31.3	54.5
FFA/4-H	11.5	9.9	78.6	8.5	11.7	79.8
FHA/4-H	13.4	20.6	66.0	13.1	24.2	62.6
N(Boys)	644			94		
N(Girls)	656			99		

Eighty-five per cent of the boys from non-intact homes, as compared with seventy-nine per cent from intact homes, had never held membership in both of these organizations.

No significant relationship was noted among girls joining both FHA and 4-H, and the intactness of their families.

Membership Status and Family Intactness in the Mountain Area

In the Mountain area of the state, intactness of family generally was not related to membership status. Only with the FHA variable was family intactness associated.

FFA and Family Intactness. Membership status in FFA was not significantly related to intactness of family.

FHA and Family Intactness. Membership status in FHA and family intactness were statistically associated at the .05 level. Forty-one per cent of the girls from intact families and thirty per cent of the girls from non-intact families were members. The percentage of membership was higher among girls from intact families. Drop-outs among both groups were nominal.

4-H Club and Family Intactness. Family intactness was not significantly related to the 4-H membership status of either boys or girls.

TABLE XXI
 PERCENTAGES ACCORDING TO MEMBERSHIP STATUS
 AS RELATED TO FAMILY INTACTNESS
 IN THE PIEDMONT

ORGANI- ZATION	F A M I L Y I N T A C T N E S S					
	Intact			Not Intact		
	Mem.	Prev. Mem.	Non Mem.	Mem.	Prev. Mem.	Non Mem.
FFA	49.1	3.6	47.4	41.4	1.1	57.5
FHA	63.3	2.6	34.1	58.1	4.1	37.9
4-H(Boys)	22.5	14.7	62.8	20.7	17.2	62.1
4-H(Girls)	29.7	24.2	46.1	27.0	24.3	48.7
FFA/4-H	13.3	7.7	79.0	10.3	4.6	85.1
FHA/4-H	21.5	14.3	64.2	17.6	13.6	68.9
N(Boys)	675			87		
N(Girls)	657			74		

FFA or FHA and 4-H Club and Family Intactness. Family intactness and membership status in FFA and 4-H or FHA and 4-H were not statistically related.

VI. RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN MEMBERSHIP STATUS
AND LEVEL OF LIVING OF RURAL YOUTH

The membership status of rural youth in North Carolina was in general, significantly related to their families' level of living.

Membership Status and Level of Living in the Coastal Plains Area

Level of living was statistically associated with youths' membership status with the exception of girls' status in the 4-H Club.

FFA and Level of Living. Membership status in FFA and level of living were significantly related at the .05 level. Approximately one-half to two-thirds of all boys representing the three level of living categories were FFA members. Frequency of membership increased as the level of living declined. Few drop-outs were noted among each of the level of living categories.

FHA and Level of Living. FHA membership and level of living were significantly associated at the .01 level. Percentages of members in the high, middle, and low levels of living groups were: seventy-one per cent, sixty-one

TABLE XXII
 PERCENTAGES ACCORDING TO MEMBERSHIP STATUS
 AS RELATED TO FAMILY INTACTNESS
 IN THE MOUNTAINS

ORGANI- ZATION	F A M I L Y I N T A C T N E S S					
	Intact			Not Intact		
	Mem.	Prev. Mem.	Non Mem.	Mem.	Prev. Mem.	Non Mem.
FFA	42.0	3.3	54.7	33.7	1.1	65.2
FHA	41.5	3.1	55.5	30.1	3.9	66.0
4-H(Boys)	18.1	18.2	63.7	24.7	19.1	56.2
4-H(Girls)	20.7	26.8	52.6	16.5	20.4	63.1
FFA/4-H	9.2	8.2	82.6	11.2	10.1	78.7
FHA/4-H	12.2	9.4	78.4	4.9	4.9	90.3
N(Boys)	576			89		
N(Girls)	721			103		

per cent, and forty-five per cent, respectively. Considerable decrease in frequency of membership was noted as the level of living declined.

4-H Club and Level of Living. While the membership status of girls in 4-H and level of living were not statistically related, the membership status of boys in 4-H was related to their level of living at the .01 level. Frequency of membership increased with level of living. Among each of the level of living groups, drop-outs approximated or were more than members. Larger drop-out rates occurred among the high level of living group.

FFA or FHA and 4-H Club and Level of Living. A statistically significant relationship was found between level of living and joint membership status in FFA and 4-H, and between FHA and 4-H.

Membership in FFA and 4-H and level of living were significantly related at the .01 level. A larger proportion of boys from the high level of living group held simultaneous membership in FFA and 4-H than did boys from other groups. Non-membership increased as the level of living decreased.

The joint membership status of girls in FHA and 4-H was significantly related to their level of living at the .05 level. Frequency of membership increased as the level of living increased. Over fifty-seven per cent of the high

and seventy-five per cent of the low level of living group had never been members of both organizations. The number of drop-outs was higher than the number of members among all level of living groups studied.

Membership Status and Level of Living in the Piedmont Area

Level of living was found generally to have a significant relationship with the membership status of youth in the Piedmont area of North Carolina.

FFA and Level of Living. Membership status in FFA and level of living were significantly related at the .05 level. A higher incidence of membership was found among boys from the low level of living group, than among the middle and high groups. Non-membership increased with level of living. Drop-out rates for each of the three level of living groups were small.

FHA and Level of Living. Level of living and membership in FHA were significantly associated at the .01 level of significance. The percentage of members ranged from sixty-eight per cent in the high level of living group to fifty-one per cent in the low level of living group. Drop-outs were small for all three level of living classifications.

4-H Club and Level of Living. The membership status of boys in 4-H Club was significantly related to their level of living at the .01 level. Membership was more

TABLE XXIII
 PERCENTAGES ACCORDING TO MEMBERSHIP STATUS
 AS RELATED TO LEVEL OF LIVING
 IN THE COASTAL PLAINS

ORGANI- ZATION	L E V E L O F L I V I N G								
	High			Middle			Low		
	Mem.	Prev. Mem.	Non Mem.	Mem.	Prev. Mem.	Non Mem.	Mem.	Prev. Mem.	Non Mem.
FFA	52.2	3.1	44.7	59.9	2.7	37.3	68.5	4.0	27.5
FHA	71.7	3.3	25.0	61.2	5.6	33.1	45.5	8.0	46.6
4-H (Boys)	22.1	19.9	58.0	12.8	16.9	70.3	11.4	10.7	77.9
4-H (Girls)	21.3	29.5	49.2	16.0	27.8	56.2	14.8	28.4	56.8
FFA/4-H	15.9	13.3	70.8	9.8	10.4	79.8	7.4	4.7	87.9
FHA/4-H	17.2	25.0	57.8	12.7	20.4	66.9	9.1	16.5	74.4
N (Boys)	226			367			149		
N (Girls)	244			338			176		

frequent among boys from a high level of living background. From fifty-two to sixty-nine per cent of the boys from each level of living background had never belonged to 4-H.

Girls' membership status in 4-H and level of living were not significantly related.

FFA or FHA and 4-H Club and Level of Living. Membership status in both FFA and 4-H was significantly associated with level of living at the .05 level. Joint membership in these organizations declined as the level of living declined. A larger drop-out rate was noted among boys in the low level of living category than among other categories.

No significant relationship was found between girls' joint membership in FHA and 4-H Club.

Membership Status and Level of Living in the Mountain Area

Level of living was not consistently related to the membership status of Mountain youth.

FFA and Level of Living. Membership in FFA and level of living were significantly related at the .05 level. An increase in membership was noted among the middle and low level of living groups. Forty-eight to sixty-eight per cent of the boys from each of the three level of living categories were non-members. There were few drop-outs, and these were evenly distributed throughout the three level of living categories.

TABLE XXIV
 PERCENTAGES ACCORDING TO MEMBERSHIP STATUS
 AS RELATED TO LEVEL OF LIVING
 IN THE PIEDMONT

ORGANI- ZATION	L E V E L O F L I V I N G								
	High			Middle			Low		
	Mem.	Prev. Mem.	Non Mem.	Mem.	Prev. Mem.	Non Mem.	Mem.	Prev. Mem.	Non Mem.
FFA	43.0	4.5	52.5	47.6	3.2	49.3	59.0	1.5	39.6
FHA	67.9	3.0	29.1	63.8	3.0	33.2	50.8	1.5	47.8
4-H (Boys)	31.7	16.3	52.0	19.4	14.8	65.8	15.7	14.9	69.4
4-H (Girls)	30.8	26.1	43.2	28.6	21.8	49.6	29.5	27.3	43.2
FFA/4-H	18.1	8.1	73.8	11.7	6.3	82.0	9.0	10.4	80.6
FHA/4-H	25.6	16.2	53.8	18.8	14.4	66.6	18.9	9.8	71.2
N (Boys)	221			412			134		
N (Girls)	234			367			132		

FHA and Level of Living. Level of living and membership status in FHA were statistically significant at the .05 level. Membership tended to be found more often among the high and middle level of living groups. Percentages of non-members ranged from almost fifty per cent in the high to sixty-five per cent in the low level of living categories. Drop-outs were few among the three level of living groupings.

4-H Club and Level of Living. The membership status of boys and girls in 4-H was not significantly related to their level of living.

FFA or FHA and 4-H Club and Level of Living. Level of living was not a significant variable in the membership choices of boys. A significant relationship, however, existed between level of living and joint membership in FHA and 4-H, significant at the .01 level. More girls from the high level of living held simultaneous membership than girls in the middle and low level of living categories. Drop-outs were also more frequent among girls from high level of living backgrounds.

TABLE XXV
 PERCENTAGES ACCORDING TO MEMBERSHIP STATUS
 AS RELATED TO LEVEL OF LIVING
 IN THE MOUNTAINS

ORGANI- ZATION	L E V E L O F L I V I N G								
	High			Middle			Low		
	Mem.	Prev. Mem.	Non Mem.	Mem.	Prev. Mem.	Non Mem.	Mem.	Prev. Mem.	Non Mem.
FFA	29.0	3.2	67.7	42.2	2.6	55.3	47.8	3.8	48.4
FHA	46.3	4.0	49.7	41.9	3.1	55.0	31.8	3.0	65.2
4-H (Boys)	21.8	22.6	55.6	17.7	17.5	64.8	19.5	16.4	64.2
4-H (Girls)	22.3	28.6	49.1	21.7	24.8	53.6	15.9	25.8	58.4
FFA/4-H	10.5	8.1	81.5	9.5	7.2	83.3	8.2	11.3	80.5
FHA/4-H	17.1	13.7	69.1	11.9	7.4	80.7	5.6	7.7	86.7
N (Boys)	124			389			159		
N (Girls)	175			420			233		

CHAPTER V

SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS, AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FURTHER STUDY

Extra-curricular activities have a place in the socialization process of today's youth. During adolescence, there is concern with acceptance by one's peer group. Extra-curricular activities such as club membership, contribute to this socialization process in an informal group setting. Three organizations proposing to offer these experiences to youth are: the Future Farmers of America, Future Homemakers of America, and 4-H Clubs.

Research concerning these three organizations has been very limited. Studies of 4-H center around re-enrollment and characteristics of members. Materials concerning these organizations have been theoretical and popular in nature, but very little empirical literature exists.

Leaders of rural youth organizations are interested in the characteristics of youths' selectivity of membership. The present study was an investigation of the participation of rural youth in three organizations, FFA, FHA, and 4-H, that were secular in nature, school or community sponsored, and available to most rural high school youth throughout North Carolina.

In preparation for an earlier study a list was made of all white, rural, North Carolina schools with FFA, FHA, and 4-H Clubs that were located in an area not exceeding 50,000 persons. By use of a table of random numbers, schools were selected from each of the three geographical areas of the state. All of the ninth and tenth grade students were administered a questionnaire concerning certain personal and familial information. From the 8,000 questionnaires thus collected, a sample of 1500 students from each geographic area was selected at random. The resulting 4500 questionnaires constituted the sample for the present study.

Chi-square Tests of Independence were employed in the analysis of the data. The statistical analysis indicated that of those variables studied, residence, age, grade, and level of living were most consistently associated with youths' membership status. Seldom was intactness of family found in an association with membership choices. Family size was occasionally found in association with membership status. Some variation was noted within the organizations among the three geographic areas of the state.

SUMMARY

Membership Status and Age

Age appeared to be significantly related to the membership status of rural youth in North Carolina. Membership status in FFA and age were significantly associated

throughout the state. Membership status in 4-H and age were significantly related in one area of the state, but failed to reach a significant level in the other two areas. Varying levels of significance were found between membership in FHA and age. Joint membership in FFA or FHA and 4-H formed no consistent pattern of relationship with age.

Membership Status and Grade Level

Grade level was generally a significant component of membership status among rural youth in North Carolina. Membership in FFA and membership status in FHA were related to grade level in all three geographic areas of the state. Membership status in the 4-H and grade level were significantly related in two areas of the state. Joint membership in FFA and 4-H and grade were significant in only one area. Grade level was associated with joint membership status in FHA and 4-H in two sections of the state.

Membership Status and Residence

Throughout North Carolina, the residence of rural youth generally was associated with membership status. FHA membership and residence were significantly associated in only one area of the state, whereas residence was a statewide component in the membership choices of both boys and girls in 4-H Clubs.

Membership Status and Family Size

No consistent relationship was noted between membership status and family size of rural youth in North Carolina. Membership status in FFA and family size were consistently related in all areas of the state, whereas membership status in FHA and family size were significantly related in only one area. Membership status in 4-H was independent of family size, but joint membership in FHA and 4-H were associated with membership status in one area of the state.

Membership Status and Family Intactness

Family intactness was seldom related to the membership status of rural youth in North Carolina. FHA in one area of the state, and joint membership in FFA and 4-H in another, were the only two instances in which family intactness was associated with membership status.

Membership Status and Level of Living

The membership status of rural youth in North Carolina was, in general, significantly related to their families' level of living. Exceptions to these observations were girls' 4-H membership status throughout the state, and boys' membership status in one section of the state.

CONCLUSIONS

On the basis of present findings, it may be concluded that certain personal and familial characteristics were

associated with rural ninth and tenth grade youths' membership choices in North Carolina.

Membership Status in FFA

FFA was most appealing to boys living on farms. Greater participation was noted among boys from farms and among those from larger families. Particular appeal was noted among boys 15 years of age or older, and among those from a low level of living background. FFA membership had greater appeal to tenth grade students than to those on the ninth grade level. Whether boys lived with both of their parents was not an influence in their decisions regarding FFA membership. Boys in the ninth and tenth grade age groups tended to remain in FFA once they had become members.

Based on results of the present study, FFA is reaching the group of boys in the rural population for which this organization was intended. It is possible that a relationship exists between the frequency of participation among boys from low level of living backgrounds and large families, these two phenomena frequently being found in combination. Requirement of a relatively small outlay of funds for projects and dues may also be a deciding influence in participation in FFA among low level of living boys. Low drop-out rates among rural boys in the ninth and tenth grade age groups is predictable, since membership had been available to them only one or two years.

Membership Status in FHA

Throughout North Carolina, FHA membership was more pronounced among girls in the middle and high level of living groups, and among those girls from small families. Family intactness had little relationship with membership choices. Frequency of membership increased with age, and the members came almost equally from the ninth and tenth grades. Membership in FHA had about equal appeal to girls from all places of residence, with slightly less appeal to city girls. Indications were that once members of this organization, girls in the age groups included in this study tended to remain members. The low drop-out percentages were predictable since membership was first available to girls on the ninth grade level, consequently there was little opportunity for drop-outs among this group. There were indications that some aspects of chapter activity should be broadened to give appeal to low level of living girls.

Prerequisite for membership in FHA is present enrollment in, or completion of one year of home economics. With present emphasis on the academic curriculum, many girls do not have an opportunity to elect home economics. Should FHA re-evaluate its membership requirements to facilitate participation of girls who lack home economics course work but are interested in homemaking activities? As requirements now stand, many girls are unable to participate in

this organization as evidenced by the large number of girls who were found in the non-member category.

Membership Status and 4-H Club

The membership status of boys and girls in 4-H and family size followed no clear-cut pattern. It may be noted that younger girls and older boys were more frequently members, in the age groups studied. Membership in 4-H Club had more appeal to boys from middle and high level of living backgrounds. Intactness of family was not related to membership status. While membership was more prevalent in rural areas, members were found in towns and cities. Generally, more ninth than tenth grade students were members, and drop-out rates increased with age.

Variables associated with girls' membership status in 4-H also tended to be associated with boys' membership status in 4-H. These variables included: residence, age, and grade. The only deviation from this pattern of similarity between boys' and girls' membership status was the association of level of living with boys' membership status in 4-H.

Since first enrollment in 4-H occurs in the elementary grades, students have had ample opportunity to drop membership by the time high school is reached. Enrollment requirements are not academically based, or limiting in any way. As previously noted, boys' membership status and level of living were significantly associated, whereas girls'

membership status was not related to their level of living group. Since many homemaking projects do not have an expensive initial cost, girls from all level of living groups are attracted to membership. Are initial project costs presently too high to attract many boys into 4-H Club work who might otherwise be interested? Could this be a possible indicator that club focus for boys' 4-H participation needs broadening to include interests and resources of the low level of living group?

It is hoped that reorganization of the club as a community activity will enable even more youths to take advantage of club opportunities. If in the future of 4-H, sponsors anticipate expanding clubs into more urban areas, it would seem that basic differences between interest and resources of urban and rural youth must be considered.

Membership Status in FFA or FHA and 4-H Club

Few youth held membership in both FFA and 4-H or FHA and 4-H. While simultaneous membership was more frequent among 13-14 year old girls in the ninth grade, joint membership was more frequent among boys over 15 years of age in the tenth grade. Boys from farms more frequently than other boys joined both organizations, while few differences in girls' membership choices were found among girls from various places of residence. Neither family size nor family intactness was associated with membership. Joint membership had more appeal to both boys and girls in the high level of

living group than to other groups.

Although it has been said that youth who join one rural youth organization will join the other, the present study has not found this to be the case. Since membership had more appeal to the high level of living group, such determinants as project costs, dues, and time available for activities may be limiting participation of youth from other levels of living.

Joint membership choices resembled membership characteristics of each organization involved. As in FFA, a great number of boys holding joint membership were 15 years or older, from larger families, and were in the tenth grade. Characteristics of 4-H were reflected in the family size and level of living variables. Both organizations had in common a special appeal to farm boys, and the observation that family intactness had no association with membership choices.

Joint membership in FHA and 4-H was equally appealing to girls from all residence areas. Both organizations were attractive to the middle and high level of living girls. As reflected in 4-H characteristics, membership status and family size were not significantly associated. It would seem that girls who tend to join either FHA or 4-H or both of these organizations, form a fairly homogeneous group.

Simultaneous membership rates were small, indicating that few high school students are participating in two

rural youth organizations. Costs, meeting times, availability of transportation to meetings, and friends and siblings in the same organization tend to contribute to youths' selectivity.

It may be concluded that although similar in goals, organization appeal varied according to youths' age, grade level, sex, residence area, family size, and level of living.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FURTHER STUDY

Consolidation of many rural schools, and added emphasis on the academic curriculum is bringing about change in the character of education in the state. In light of these changes, organizations such as the FFA, FHA, and 4-H must re-evaluate their programs to meet needs of today's youth.

Problems common to all three organizations include: enrollment, re-enrollment, increase of organization appeal, and perpetuation of interest.

As a result of this investigation, it is apparent that more study is needed in the relationship of personal and familial characteristics and their influence upon youths' activities. Questions that came to the attention of this investigator were: (1) changes in patterns of extra-curricular activities of the state's youth resulting from consolidation; (2) reasons for high non-member percentages

in these organizations; (3) patterns of enrollment, re-enrollment, and characteristics associated with membership status in both FFA and FHA during the last two years of high school; (4) appeal of FFA to the low level of living group, and the appeal of FHA to the middle and high level of living groups; (5) a study of the desirability of amending of FHA membership requirements to include those students unable to incorporate homemaking education into their high school curriculum; (6) a survey of FFA and FHA advisors to ascertain the feasibility of a short training course for new advisors, in light of the high drop-out and non-member rates throughout the state; and (7) a study of youths' selectivity of membership in community 4-H Clubs and related characteristics.

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TABLE XXV

SIGNIFICANCE LEVELS OF RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN
 RESIDENTIAL STATUS AND PERSONAL AND
 SOCIAL CHARACTERISTICS
 OF THE GENERAL PUBLIC

RESIDENTIAL STATUS	Variable	F		D.F.	
		F	100%	D.F.	100%
OWN	Age	40	100%	Age	100
	Grade	40	100%	Grade	100
	Residence	35	100%	Residence	100
	Family Size	40	100%	Family Size	100
	Family	40	100%	Family	100
	Attachment	40	100%	Attachment	100
RENT	Level of Living	40	100%	Level of Living	100
	Age	40	100%	Age	100
	Grade	40	100%	Grade	100
	Residence	40	100%	Residence	100
	Family Size	40	100%	Family Size	100
	Family	40	100%	Family	100
RENT-4	Attachment	40	100%	Attachment	100
	Level of Living	40	100%	Level of Living	100
	Age	40	100%	Age	100
	Grade	40	100%	Grade	100
	Residence	40	100%	Residence	100
	Family Size	40	100%	Family Size	100
RENT-4	Family	40	100%	Family	100
	Attachment	40	100%	Attachment	100
	Level of Living	40	100%	Level of Living	100
	Age	40	100%	Age	100
	Grade	40	100%	Grade	100
	Residence	40	100%	Residence	100

APPENDIX

TABLE XXVI
SIGNIFICANCE LEVELS OF RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN
MEMBERSHIP STATUS AND PERSONAL AND
FAMILIAL CHARACTERISTICS
IN THE COASTAL PLAINS

ORGANI- ZATION	BOYS		ORGANI- ZATION	GIRLS	
	Variable	<u>P</u>		Variable	<u>P</u>
FFA	Age	.01	FHA	Age	.01
	Grade	.05		Grade	.01
	Residence	.01		Residence	NS
	Family Size	.01		Family Size	NS
	Family			Family	
	Intactness	NS		Intactness	NS
	Level of Living	.05		Level of Living	.01
4-H	Age	.01	4-H	Age	.01
	Grade	.05		Grade	.01
	Residence	.01		Residence	.01
	Family Size	NS		Family Size	NS
	Family			Family	
	Intactness	NS		Intactness	NS
	Level of Living	.01		Level of Living	NS
FFA/4-H	Age	NS	FHA/4-H	Age	.05
	Grade	NS		Grade	.01
	Residence	.01		Residence	NS
	Family Size	NS		Family Size	.05
	Family			Family	
	Intactness	NS		Intactness	NS
	Level of Living	.01		Level of Living	.05

TABLE XXVII
SIGNIFICANCE LEVELS OF RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN
MEMBERSHIP STATUS AND PERSONAL AND
FAMILIAL CHARACTERISTICS
IN THE PIEDMONT AREA

ORGANI- ZATION	BOYS		ORGANI- ZATION	GIRLS	
	Variable	<u>P</u>		Variable	<u>P</u>
FFA	Age	.01	FHA	Age	NS
	Grade	.01		Grade	.05
	Residence	.01		Residence	NS
	Family Size	.01		Family Size	.05
	Family			Family	
	Intactness	NS		Intactness	NS
	Level of Living	.05		Level of Living	.01
4-H	Age	NS	4-H	Age	NS
	Grade	NS		Grade	NS
	Residence	.01		Residence	.01
	Family Size	NS		Family Size	NS
	Family			Family	
	Intactness	NS		Intactness	NS
	Level of Living	.01		Level of Living	NS
FFA/4-H	Age	.05	FHA/4-H	Age	NS
	Grade	NS		Grade	NS
	Residence	.01		Residence	.01
	Family Size	NS		Family Size	NS
	Family			Family	
	Intactness	.05		Intactness	NS
	Level of Living	.05		Level of Living	NS

TABLE XXVIII
SIGNIFICANCE LEVELS OF RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN
MEMBERSHIP STATUS AND PERSONAL AND
FAMILIAL CHARACTERISTICS
IN THE MOUNTAIN AREA

ORGANI- ZATION	BOYS		ORGANI- ZATION	GIRLS	
	Variable	<u>P</u>		Variable	<u>P</u>
FFA	Age	.01	FHA	Age	.05
	Grade	.01		Grade	.01
	Residence	.01		Residence	.01
	Family Size	.05		Family Size	NS
	Family			Family	
	Intactness	NS		Intactness	.05
	Level of			Level of	
Living	.05	Living	.05		
4-H	Age	NS	4-H	Age	NS
	Grade	.01		Grade	.01
	Residence	.05		Residence	.01
	Family Size	NS		Family Size	NS
	Family			Family	
	Intactness	NS		Intactness	NS
	Level of			Level of	
Living	NS	Living	NS		
FFA/4-H	Age	.05	FHA/4-H	Age	NS
	Grade	.01		Grade	.01
	Residence	.01		Residence	.01
	Family Size	NS		Family Size	NS
	Family			Family	
	Intactness	NS		Intactness	NS
	Level of			Level of	
Living	NS	Living	.01		

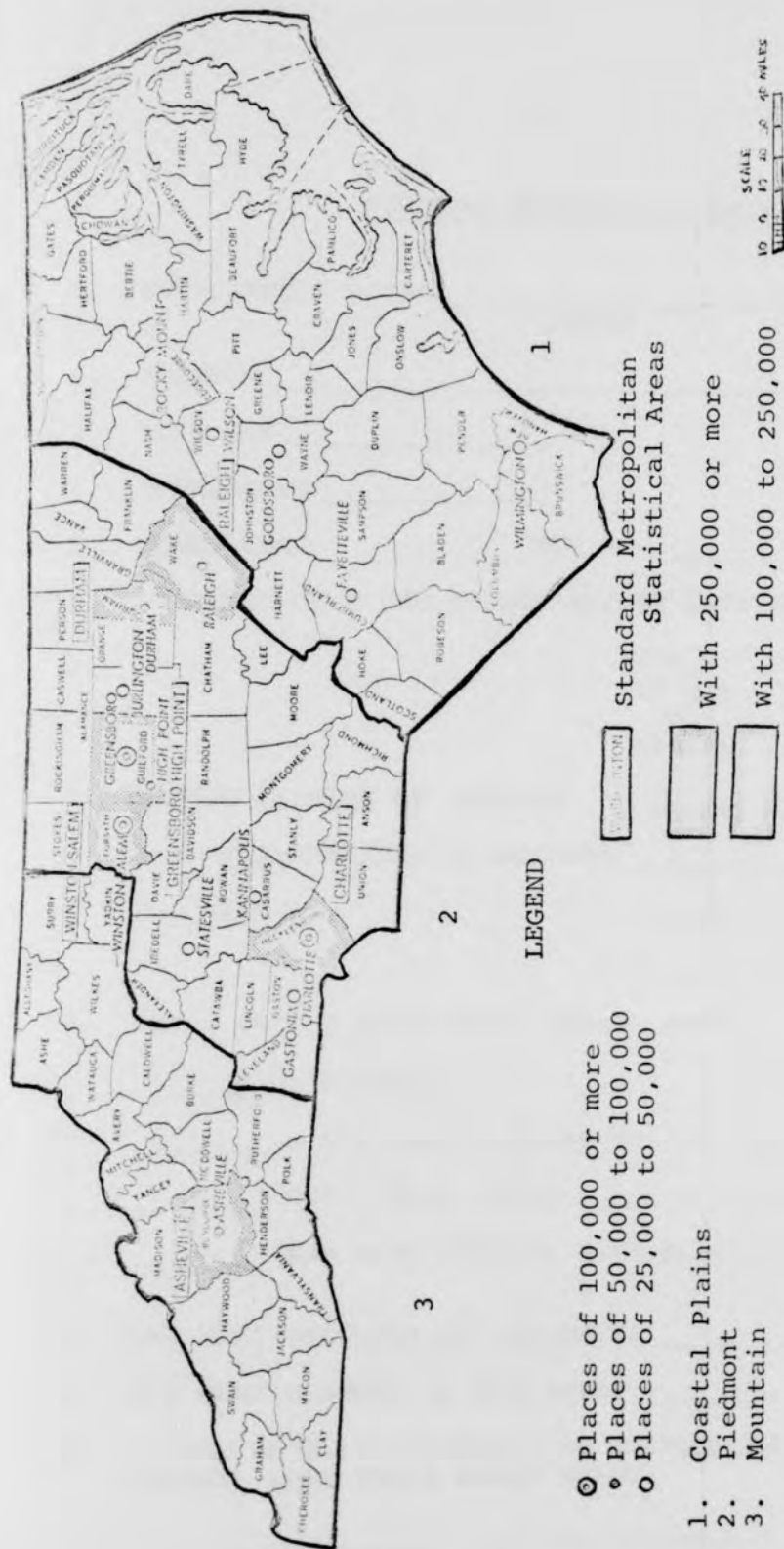


FIGURE 1

NORTH CAROLINA: THE THREE GEOGRAPHICAL DIVISIONS OF THE STATE, COUNTIES, PLACES OF 25,000 OR MORE, AND STANDARD METROPOLITAN STATISTICAL AREAS

11. DO YOU LIVE WITH BOTH PARENTS? (this includes step parents)
- _____ YES _____ NO
12. DO YOU HAVE WATER PIPED INTO YOUR HOUSE? _____ YES _____ NO
- _____ HOT AND COLD
- _____ ONLY COLD
13. DO YOU HAVE AN INDOOR BATHROOM? _____ YES _____ NO
- _____ TUB
- _____ SHOWER
14. DO YOU HAVE A POWER WASHING MACHINE? _____ YES _____ NO
- _____ Automatic, semi-automatic, or combination
of washer-and-dryer
- _____ Wringer type
15. DO YOU HAVE: YES NO
- a. deep freeze unit, separate from refrigerator? _____
- b. pressure cooker or pressure saucepan? _____
- c. electric vacuum cleaner? _____
- d. piano? _____
- e. telephone? _____
- f. concrete basement floor? _____
- g. radio? _____
- h. television? _____
- i. electric clock? _____
16. WHAT YEAR IS YOUR FAMILY'S CAR(S)? THIS DOES NOT MEAN TRUCKS.
- a.
- b.
- c. _____ NO CAR
- d.
17. HOW MANY DIFFERENT MAGAZINES DOES YOUR FAMILY GET REGULARLY?
- _____ NONE _____ THREE
- _____ ONE
- _____ TWO _____ FOUR OR MORE