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**AN EVALUATION OF THE SUCCESS OF THE RURAL YOUTH
PROGRAM IN SOUTH DAKOTA**

By
John D. Orr

A thesis submitted
in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the
degree Master of Science at South Dakota
State College of Agriculture
and Mechanic Arts

June, 1958

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AN EVALUATION OF THE RURAL YOUTH PROGRAM
IN SOUTH DAKOTA

This thesis is approved as a creditable, independent investigation by a candidate for the degree, Master of Science, and acceptable as meeting the thesis requirements for this degree; but without implying that the conclusions reached by the candidate are necessarily the conclusions of the major department.

 Thesis Advisor

 Head of the Major Department

115659

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

This study was made under the supervision of Dr. J. Howard Kramer, Head of the Education Department at South Dakota State College. His able guidance and patient assistance were of great value to the writer and are hereby gratefully acknowledged.

The writer also wishes to express his sincere thanks to Dr. C. R. Wiseman, Professor of Education, for his guidance and encouragement during the time spent on work toward a Master of Science Degree, and to John F. Younger, State 4-H Club and Rural Youth Leader, for his assistance.

Appreciation is also extended to the county Extension personnel and to the Rural Youth members who provided information in response to the opinionnaire.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'J. H. K.', is located in the lower right quadrant of the page.

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SECTION I

Introduction

For a third of a century the Cooperative Extension Service has contributed to the national welfare through its educational services. Major advancements in agriculture, home-making, and rural life have resulted from the efforts of the Extension Service in drawing upon its experiences and in disseminating research findings of our Land Grant Colleges and Universities, the United States Department of Agriculture, and other groups and agencies.¹

Major emphasis by the Extension Service has been directed toward working with youth of 4-H Club age and with adult men and women. In recent years the Extension Service has also concerned itself with meeting the interests and needs of young men and women in the eighteen to thirty year age group. That further progress in this area is desired is clearly recognized by the enactment of the Smith-Lever, Smithhead-Flemming, and subsequent legislative acts. It has been further emphasized by the Joint Committee on Extension Programs, Policies and Goals of the United States Department of Agriculture and the Association of Land Grant Colleges and Universities.

The Honorable Ezra Taft Benson, Secretary of Agriculture, speaking before the convention of the National Association of County Agricultural Agents at the Ben Franklin Hotel, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, October 11, 1953, stressed five major areas in which he hoped Extension would be able to make a useful contribution. They are: 1) marketing and distribution;

¹ Warren Schmidt, "Report of National Extension Young Adult Planning Conference" (Unpublished report submitted to the Committee on Extension Organization and Policy of the Association of Land Grant Colleges and Universities), p. 1.

2) farm and home planning; 3) housing and health; 4) greater assistance to those young men and women who are above the 4-8 age group, but not fully established as farmers and homemakers; and 5) more effective Extension assistance to families on small and less productive farms.²

National literature issued from the United States Department of Agriculture refers to work with rural young people, eighteen to thirty years of age, as "Young Men and Women." The program in many states is referred to by a variety of terms such as "Young Farmers and Homemakers," "Older Youth" and "Young Extension Cooperatives." In states in this area the term "Rural Youth" has been used inasmuch as established literature and word materials are designated by that name. In all states, however, there is a gradual change toward the use of the term "Young Men and Women" when referring to the work with rural young people in the eighteen to thirty year age group as an Extension activity. This research gives a history and an analysis of the success of this program.

Review of Literature

Only a limited amount of printed material has been compiled by persons interested in the history and success of the Extension Rural Youth program; however, many books and pamphlets have been printed about the sociological problems of the rural young people. There are no studies available, as far as is known, which deal with the history of the South Dakota Rural Youth program or an analysis of the success of the activity.

² Gordon L. Berg, "NACAA Records Fall at the 38th Convention," County Agent, Vo-Ag Teacher, (November, 1953), p. 23.

Velma Mayole Woodough, in an essay presented to the Faculty of the Graduate School of Cornell University, traced the history of the Kansas young adult program which has been in existence since 1931. McCaugh states that,

"The majority of the 105 counties in Kansas have had an organized group of young people at one time or another . . . since 1931. In 1932 there were thirty-one actively organized Rural Life Associations with a total membership of 1,125. It is possible to help young people, between the ages of eighteen and thirty years, with their problems when working in known of their activities, interests, needs and abilities. Professional and lay leaders alike can be of great assistance when they not only become aware of the developmental needs of this age group but also equip themselves with the techniques for interpreting their problems in terms of suitable solutions."³

Harlan E. Odger, in an essay presented to the Graduate School of Public Administration, Harvard University, developed a thumbnail sketch of ten state young adult programs. In the preface to his study he made this statement:

To insure their needs we must take off the blinders imposed by the traditional subject matter programs and approach the situation, not from the standpoint of what is required to raise a good herd of hogs, or to can tomatoes, but from the standpoint of how to help the young people secure later capable, well-adjusted adults, who are well equipped emotionally and educationally to live satisfying lives as members of their communities.⁴

³ Velma Mayole Woodough, "Developmental Trends of Young Men and Women in the Kansas Rural Life Association," (Unpublished Master's Thesis, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York, 1953), p. 2.

⁴ Harlan E. Odger, "Developing an Extension Program for Young Men and Women," (Unpublished Essay, Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass., 1952), p. 1.

History of the South Dakota Rural Youth Program

National attention was first directed by the Extension Service of the United States Department of Agriculture toward older rural youth about 1931. Naturally some local and even state leaders were working in this field, but there had been no planned program and seemingly little general awareness that young people out of school, particularly those still unskilled, had insufficient organized social life or that they needed help with their problems. Since that time, however, investigations have been carried on, conditions formed and conferences held.

The first published mention of the existence of an older youth program in South Dakota is found in the Annual Report of H. N. Jones, State Club Leader, covering the period from December 1, 1934, to November 30, 1935.⁵ He reported that there were regular meetings of the Proxa Twilight Circle in Turner County, The Progressive Americans in Bon Homme County and a rural recreation club in Minnehaha County. As a general rule, these organizations hold meetings once each month. They were well attended and the young people showed intense interest in the subjects under discussion, some of which were, "Reading by Rural People," "Discussion Reading," "Optimismatics in Farming," "The Great Plains Settlement" and "Foreign Countries." In addition to study and discussion, each group also carried on a recreational program consisting of dramas and folk dancing.

⁵ H. N. Jones, "Older Youth Activities," (Unpublished Annual Report of H. N. Jones, State Club Leader, December 1, 1934, to November 30, 1935, South Dakota State College, Brookings), p. 23.

The development of the South Dakota "Older Youth" program was slow. The number of counties having such an organization remained small until 1940 when there were eleven counties carrying on an organized program. This increase was no doubt due to the expansion that was planned on the program during the years before World War II. In 1938 Mr. Eugene Merritt of the United States Department of Agriculture met with approximately fifty local 4-H leaders and others interested in the problem of "Older Youth" at the annual Farm and Home Week at South Dakota State College, Brookings, South Dakota.⁶ Other activities prior to 1940 that influenced the building of organizations included a special camp for "Older Youth" at the Pictorial Lake Hotel, located on Pictorial Lake in Day County, September 23-24, 1939. In 1940 two district camps for "Older Youth" were held. The theme for the two conferences was "What's Ahead for South Dakota Rural Youth?"

In 1941 an Older Youth Camp was held on its own regular basis at Camp Labadie which is located near Lead, South Dakota. This five-day camp drew from eight counties in attendance at this camp. Other activities in 1941 included tours to Minneapolis and to the Black Hills of South Dakota as well as participation in the National Country Life Association Conference held in Nashville, Tennessee. Jerome Olson, District Club Agent, accompanied the five delegates to Nashville for the conference. At the close of the year 1941, there were fifteen counties with organized

⁶ H. H. Jones, "Older Youth Activities," (Unpublished Annual Report of H. H. Jones, State Club Leader, December 1, 1937, to December 30, 1938, South Dakota State College, Brookings), p. 25.

"Older Youth" groups with a total state membership of 537 members. This was the largest number of members during the years 1935 to 1949, according to an examination of the Annual Reports of H. M. Jones,⁷ Tyrus Thompson⁸ and Nile Opdahl,⁹ State Club Leaders for the years 1935 to 1949.

In 1942 the "Older Youth" program showed a decrease in membership from the high membership of 537 in 1949 to 150 in 1942. The large number of youth that were inducted into the armed services and others who left to take jobs in the defense industries caused "Older Youth" groups to decline in membership and to cease to function. Figure I on page 7 shows the rise and decline of Rural Youth membership from 1935 to 1935.

Anna Walker was hired by the Agricultural Extension Service as full-time Assistant Club Leader in charge of Older Youth work in 1946; however, she resumed her former duties as Extension Clothing Specialist after a short time and the program was again in the hands of the state 4-H Club workers.

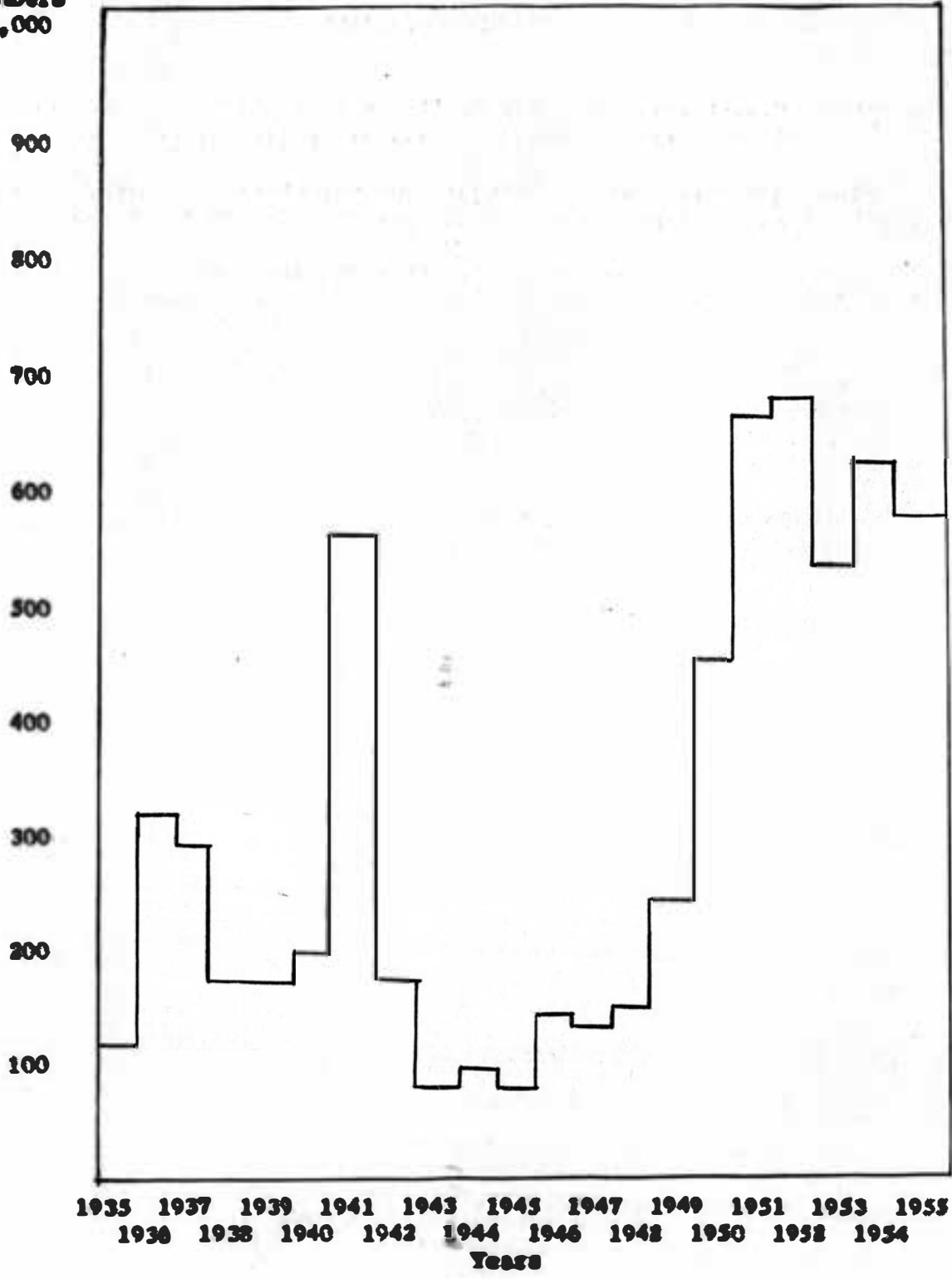
Normal changes began to indicate by May, 1949, that "Older Youth" in South Dakota was to have a revival. Nile S. Opdahl, who was then

⁷ H. M. Jones, "Older Youth Activities," (Unpublished Annual Reports of H. M. Jones, State Club Leader, December 1, 1935, to November 30, 1942, South Dakota State College, Brookings).

⁸ Tyrus Thompson, "Older Youth Activities," (Unpublished Annual Reports of Tyrus Thompson, State Club Leader, December 1, 1942, to November 30, 1944, South Dakota State College, Brookings).

⁹ Nile Opdahl, "Older Youth Activities," (Unpublished Annual Reports of Nile Opdahl, State Club Leader, December 1, 1944, to November 30, 1949, South Dakota State College, Brookings).

Number of
Members
1,000



1935 1937 1939 1941 1943 1945 1947 1949 1951 1953 1955
1936 1938 1940 1942 1944 1946 1948 1950 1952 1954
Years

FIGURE I

MEMBERSHIP RECORD FOR RURAL YOUTH
FROM 1935 to 1955

State 4-H Club Leader in South Dakota, received an invitation from Nebraska Rural Youth to attend the first Western Regional Conference in Omaha, Nebraska, and to represent South Dakota's interests in the revival of this new program. Upon returning from Western Regional Rural Youth Conference, assisted by the 4-H Club staff as well as other appointed committee, Mr. Opdeli worked out plans for holding a summer camp. This camp was to be referred to as the State Rural Youth Camp.

In August of 1949 the Rural Youth Camp became a reality and was conducted at the State 4-H Camp at Lakota, near Madison, South Dakota. One hundred twenty-five young men and women were in attendance. In addition to many county and home Extension agents from over the state. The Nebraska State Rural Youth President, Verlin Livingston, was selected as guest speaker for the camp program. He added much zeal and enthusiasm in encouraging county members to go home and start organizing. Since there was still no State Rural Youth Leader appointed to carry on the work in South Dakota, the 4-H Club staff was instrumental in assisting individual counties with their problems.

On September 1, 1949, George I. Alderson, Director of the Agricultural Extension Service at South Dakota State College, advised that the Board of Regents had confirmed the appointment of John F. Younger, Area District 4-H Club Agent of the Southeast District of South Dakota, as State Rural Youth Leader.

John F. Younger, who was given the responsible and challenging job of heading the Rural Youth program in the state, worked independently from the 4-H Club Department, yet cooperated in all ways possible with

the 4-H Club staff. At that time George I. Gilbertson, Director of the South Dakota Extension Service, made this statement:

I know of no other agency than Extension which concerns itself with the destinies of the entire farm family. However, in one segment, namely, "Rural Youth," we have been slow in servicing this group. These young people need our help and guidance. Their interests must become our interests. People are agriculture's basic resource. The farm family today and especially the youth of that family holds the unique responsibility of transferring our pattern of living to the citizens of tomorrow. Recognizing this, let us as Extension workers bridge the gap between the 4-H and adult Extension by strengthening the work with our Rural Youth.¹⁰

Rural Youth work moved with great strides during the years 1949, 1950 and 1951 until more than twenty-five counties were organized in 1951. Since many counties organized on the crest of the initial enthusiasm, and since personal assistance and guidance could not be given to as many counties as was necessary, several county groups survived only a few months; however, many have since been reorganized. At the present time there are thirty-five counties with an organized Rural Youth program.

In January, 1952, the United States Department of Agriculture recommended that each state combine 4-H and Rural Youth Club programs and that the person in charge of that program should be referred to as the State 4-H Club and Young Men and Women Leader.

John F. Younger, former Rural Youth leader, was given the responsibility of the 4-H Club work in the state and became the State 4-H Club and Rural Youth leader; John D. Orr became the Assistant State Rural Youth leader.

¹⁰ John F. Younger, "The Rural Youth Challenge," (Unpublished Annual Report of John F. Younger, State Rural Youth Leader, December 1, 1948, to November 30, 1949, South Dakota State College, Brookings), p. 1.

In 1954 the strike Rural Youth membership increased slightly and several new projects were added to the program. For the first time, a Rural Youth Leadership Laboratory and Institute was held at the Box Rider Organizational Camp near Reno in the Snake Hills of South Dakota. Radio Station WMAX sponsored a leadership award program and a sports program was inaugurated. These programs were carried out in addition to the following established events and activities: Rural Youth Spring Meeting, Western Regional Conference, Rural Youth of the United States of America Conference, Man and Woman of the Year Award, Rural Youth Talk Meet, International Para Youth Exchange, 4-H recreation, film discussion, parties and service projects.

No new projects were added in 1955 and the strike Rural Youth membership remained approximately the same. The Executive Board of the South Dakota Rural Youth continues to do the major job of planning state events. A marked increase in attendance was noted after this action was taken.

Several Rural Youth leader conferences have been held in the years 1940 to 1955 on a nationwide basis. The most notable conference was the national Extension "Young Adult Planning Conference" at Westin, West Plains, February 21-25, 1949, and the "Young Adult Planning Conference" at Bloomington, Illinois, October 10-13, 1955. The Rural Youth of the United States of America and the Western Regional Youth Conferences are held annually for young adults.

SECTION II

Purpose

The purpose of this study is to record the history and to make an evaluation of the Rural Youth program in South Dakota.

Procedure

In order to compile a brief history of the Rural Youth program in South Dakota, the researcher studied all existing records of its origin and development that were available. To evaluate its effectiveness, the opinions of Extension personnel and Rural Youth members were obtained on the extent to which the stated objectives of the program were being realized, the values of the program phases, the reasons for clubs not being organized, the influences of the Rural Youth program and the factors which affect club success.

In order that the opinions of Rural Youth members and county Extension personnel might be evaluated in an orderly fashion, an opinionnaire was started in 1955 and the completed opinionnaire was sent out in November of the same year.¹¹

The opinionnaire was divided into two sections. The Rural Youth Program and Its Objectives constituted part one and General Information part two.

The objectives of the Rural Youth program are:

¹¹ Appendix A.

1. To provide activities leading to the improvement, enrichment and appreciation of rural life.
2. To teach youth how to plan and carry out programs and develop democratic organizations which will meet their needs and interests.
3. To provide an opportunity for youth to work together for fuller personal development through sharing responsibility, cooperation and service.
4. To help provide broader and more wholesome recreation for Rural Youth.
5. To provide helpful information on improved farm and home practices.¹²

The four phases of the Rural Youth program are:

1. Special interests
2. Social interests
3. Study
4. Service¹³

The general information section was divided into the following parts:

1. Reasons given for not having Rural Youth in certain areas.
2. The influence of the Rural Youth program on young adults remaining in a community and the effectiveness of Rural Youth Clubs in making a contribution to the agricultural Extension work in a county.
3. Factors affecting a Rural Youth Club's success.

¹² John F. Younger, "Rural Youth Objectives and Phases," (Unpublished Annual Report of John F. Younger, State Rural Youth Leader, December 1, 1951, to November 30, 1952, South Dakota State College, Brookings), p. 13.

¹³ Ibid., p. 14.

In answering the opinionnaire each respondent was asked by checking to assign a value to the item. The values were designated:

1. Not at all
2. Very little
3. Moderately
4. Considerably
5. Extensively

There were two groups included in the study: county Extension personnel and the South Dakota Rural Youth members.

Fifty-two county Extension personnel in counties having an organized Rural Youth program were sent opinionnaires. This included twenty-four county Extension agents, eight assistant county Extension agents, eighteen county home Extension agents and two assistant county home Extension agents. Returns were received from forty county Extension personnel which was 77 per cent of those included.

A sampling of 175 Rural Youth members was selected by choosing every fourth member from the 1954-1955 membership lists. Those selected were sent opinionnaires. The 116 Rural Youth members who replied were 66 per cent of those included. A blank was provided on each opinionnaire for the name, address, occupation and number of years that the respondent had been in Rural Youth Club work. The county Extension personnel were not asked to complete this section.

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SECTION III

Study Results

In tabulating the section of the survey dealing with the occupations of Rural Youth respondents and the number of years' experience in Rural Youth Club work, it was found that those answering the opinionnaire were engaged in the following occupations:

| | | | |
|-----------------|----|--------------------------|---|
| Farming | 56 | Part-time farming | 2 |
| Student | 21 | Navy | 1 |
| Rural housewife | 14 | Blacksmith | 1 |
| Stenographer | 10 | Service station operator | 1 |
| Teaching | 5 | Telephone operator | 1 |
| Mechanic | 3 | Pilot | 1 |

The number of years that members reported that they had been in Rural Youth work can be divided into the following data:

| | | | |
|-------------|----|--------------------|----|
| One year | 20 | Four years | 22 |
| Two years | 21 | Five years | 20 |
| Three years | 27 | Six years and over | 6 |

Rural Youth members and county Extension personnel are in general agreement as to the extent to which the objectives of the Rural Youth program are being realized. In the majority of instances there were few percentage points' difference in the opinions of each group, and it was rare for the evaluations to be more than 10 per cent apart.

In the case of objectives 1, 2, 3 and 4, the majority of respondents felt that the objectives were being realized to a considerable degree. Fifty-nine per cent of the Rural Youth members and 54 per cent of the county Extension personnel felt that objective 5, "Helping to provide wholesome recreation for young men and women," was realized to an extensive degree. Eighty-two per cent of the Rural Youth respondents felt

that very little or moderate emphasis was being placed on the sixth objective which is "to provide helpful information on improved farm and home practices."

On objective 1, (Provides activities which lead to the improvement and enrichment of rural life), of the 114 Rural Youth respondents, 13 per cent felt that the objective was being realized extensively, 51 per cent considerably, 34 per cent moderately and only 2 per cent very little. The Extension personnel were in substantial agreement with the Rural Youth. Eight per cent were of the opinion that objective 1 was being realized extensively, 30 per cent considerably, 34 per cent moderately and only 8 per cent very little. It will be noted that in two categories the per cent values given by Rural Youth and Extension personnel are almost identical.

Of the 108 Rural Youth respondents, 20 per cent felt that objective 2, (Teaches youth to plan and carry out their own worthwhile programs and develop democratic procedures in the conduct of youth organizations), was being realized extensively, 45 per cent considerably, 23 per cent moderately, 2 per cent very little, and 1 per cent not at all. The Extension personnel were in close agreement with the Rural Youth. Of the thirty-eight respondents, 16 per cent were of the opinion that objective 2 was being realized extensively, 45 per cent considerably, 30 per cent moderately and 9 per cent very little. Even though there is an over-all agreement, 13 per cent more Rural Youth respondents than county Extension personnel felt that the objective was being realized extensively.

TABLE I

OPINIONS OF 116 RURAL YOUTH AND 42 COUNTY EXTENSION PERSONNEL ON THE DEGREE TO WHICH THE OBJECTIVES OF THE RURAL YOUTH PROGRAM ARE REALIZED

| No. | (1) | | (2) | | (3) | | (4) | | (5) | | Total |
|-----|-------------------|----------------|--------|-----------------|-------------------|----------------|-------|-------|-----|-----|-------|
| | Not at all any | Very little | Little | Mod- erately | Con- siderably | Ext- remely | Total | Total | | | |
| 1. | 2 | 3 | 20 | 13 | 58 | 19 | 15 | 3 | 114 | 38 | |
| 2. | 2 | 8 | 34 | 34 | 51 | 50 | 13 | 8 | 100 | 100 | |
| 3. | 2 | 3 | 25 | 11 | 49 | 17 | 31 | 6 | 108 | 37 | |
| 4. | 2 | 8 | 29 | 30 | 45 | 46 | 29 | 16 | 100 | 100 | |
| 5. | 16 | 12 | 57 | 20 | 41 | 6 | 114 | 28 | | | |
| 6. | 14 | 32 | 50 | 53 | 36 | 15 | 100 | 100 | | | |

*Rural Youth Extension Personnel

TABLE I (CONTINUED)

OPINIONS OF 116 RURAL YOUTH AND 42 COUNTY EXTENSION PERSONNEL ON THE DEGREE TO WHICH THE OBJECTIVES OF THE RURAL YOUTH PROGRAM ARE REALIZED

| | (1) Not at all obj. | (2) Very little | | (3) Moderately | | (4) Considerably | | (5) Extremely | | Total |
|---|---------------------------|--------------------|------|-------------------|------|---------------------|----|------------------|-----|-------|
| | | RY | E | RY | E | RY | E | RY | E | |
| 4. Trains for citizenship by the development of leadership abilities. | 2 | 4 | 32 | 9 | 55 | 19 | 25 | 5 | 114 | 37 |
| 5. Helps provide wholesome recreation for young men and women. | 2 | 11 | 28 | 24 | 48 | 51 | 22 | 14 | 100 | 100 |
| 6. Provides helpful information on improved farm and home practices. | 1 | 1 | 5 | 6 | 40 | 10 | 45 | 20 | 111 | 37 |
| | 1 | 3 | 5 | 16 | 35 | 27 | 59 | 54 | 100 | 100 |
| | No. 3 | 40 | 54 | 19 | 14 | 2 | 4 | 1 | 115 | 41 |
| | % 3 | 35 | 46.5 | 47 | 46.5 | 11 | 5 | 4 | 100 | 100 |

*Rural Youth **Extension Personnel

The Rural Youth members were apparently more enthusiastic about objective 3, (Provides opportunities for youth to work together for fuller personal, group and civic development through sharing responsibilities), than were the county Extension personnel. Thirty-six per cent of the 114 Rural Youth respondents felt that this objective was being realized extensively, 50 per cent considerably and 14 per cent moderately. Only 5 per cent of the thirty-eight county Extension personnel felt that extensively was the correct evaluation, 53 per cent considerably and 32 per cent moderately. It will be noted that there were no responses in the "not at all" and "very little" categories from either group.

As in the case of objectives 1, 2 and 3, the highest percentage of respondents felt that objective 4, (Trains for citizenship by the development of leadership abilities), was being carried out to a considerable degree. Twenty-two per cent of the 114 Rural Youth respondents felt that the objective was being realized to an extensive degree, 48 per cent considerably, 28 per cent moderately and only 2 per cent very little. The county Extension personnel were in substantial agreement with the Rural Youth. Fourteen per cent of the thirty-seven respondents were of the opinion that objective 4 was being realized to an extensive degree, 51 per cent considerably, 24 per cent moderately and 11 per cent very little. No respondent in either group indicated "not at all."

The highest percentage of respondents from both groups felt that objective 5, (Helps provide wholesome recreation for young men and women), was being realized to an extensive degree. Fifty-nine per cent of the 111 Rural Youth respondents felt that the objective was realized extensively,

35 per cent considerably, 5 per cent moderately, 1 per cent very little and no respondents checked the "not at all" column. Fifty-four per cent of the county Extension Personnel were of the opinion that objective 5 was being realized extensively, 37 per cent considerably, 3 per cent very little and as in the case of the Rural Youth respondents no one indicated "not at all."

The only objective which was ranked moderately or below was objective 6. (Provides helpful information on farm and home practices). Forty-six per cent of the Extension Personnel felt that this objective was being realized very little, 46 per cent moderately, 5 per cent extensively, and 2 per cent not at all. The Rural Youth members were in substantial agreement with the county Extension Personnel with 35 per cent of the opinion that objective 6 was being realized very little, 47 per cent moderately, 11 per cent considerably and 4 per cent extensively. Three per cent of the Rural Youth members felt that this objective was not at all effective. The four phases of the Rural Youth program are: 1) Special Interest; 2) Social Interests; 3) Study; 4) Service.

In analyzing Table II, it is found that both county Extension Personnel and Rural Youth felt that the Social Interest phase was being evaluated very stringently, while the Special Interest phase was stringently or very little and the Study and Service phases were evaluated moderately to considerably.

Rural Youth members feel more satisfied than do county Extension Personnel with phase 1, which is "Special Interests." Of 113 Rural Youth respondents, 1 per cent felt that this phase was realized extensively,

TABLE II

OPINIONS OF 116 RURAL YOUTH MEMBERS AND 42 COUNTY EXTENSION PERSONNEL ON THE DEGREE TO WHICH THE FOUR PHASES OF THE RURAL YOUTH PROGRAM ARE REALIZED

| | (1) | | (2) | | (3) | | (4) | | (5) | | Total | | |
|--|------------|---|-------------|----|------------|----|--------------|----|-------------|----|-------|-----|-----|
| | Not at all | | Very little | | Moderately | | Considerably | | Extensively | | RY | B | |
| | RY | B | RY | B | RY | B | RY | B | RY | B | RY | B | |
| 1. <u>Special Interests</u> (Projects, demonstrations on special individual interests.) | No. | 5 | 4 | 30 | 17 | 58 | 10 | 11 | 6 | 1 | 113 | 37 | |
| | % | 4 | 11 | 34 | 44 | 51 | 29 | 10 | 16 | 1 | 100 | 100 | |
| 2. <u>Social Interests</u> (recreation and social activity.) | No. | | | 1 | 11 | 7 | 42 | 15 | 61 | 14 | 114 | 37 | |
| | % | | | 3 | 10 | 19 | 36 | 41 | 54 | 37 | 100 | 100 | |
| 3. <u>Study</u> (The educational phase including speeches, tours, state events.) | No. | 1 | 1 | 8 | 7 | 51 | 24 | 41 | 5 | 12 | 2 | 113 | 39 |
| | % | 1 | 3 | 8 | 18 | 45 | 62 | 36 | 13 | 11 | 4 | 100 | 100 |
| 4. <u>Serve</u> (Community service projects) | No. | 2 | | 18 | 10 | 54 | 11 | 31 | 13 | 9 | 1 | 114 | 35 |
| | % | 2 | | 16 | 29 | 47 | 31 | 27 | 37 | 8 | 3 | 100 | 100 |
| Rural Youth | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| County Extension Personnel | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

10 per cent considerably, 51 per cent moderately, 34 per cent very little and 4 per cent not at all. Sixteen per cent of the county Extension personnel were of the opinion that phase 1 was being realized considerably, 29 per cent moderately, 44 per cent very little and 11 per cent not at all. It will be noted that the majority of evaluations are found in the very little and moderately columns.

On phase 2, (Social Interests), both groups assigned values of considerably to extensively. Of the 114 Rural Youth respondents, 24 per cent felt that the phase was being realized extensively, 36 per cent considerably and 10 per cent moderately. No Rural Youth respondents checked either the "very little" or the "not at all" columns. Of the thirty-seven county Extension personnel responding, 37 per cent marked the extensively column, 41 per cent considerably, 19 per cent moderately and 3 per cent very little. No county Extension personnel checked the "not at all" column.

The majority of respondents from both groups felt that phase 3, (Study), was being realized to a moderate degree. Of the 113 Rural Youth respondents, 11 per cent felt that the phase was being realized extensively, 35 per cent considerably, 45 per cent moderately, 8 per cent very little and only 1 per cent not at all. The county Extension personnel were in substantial agreement with the Rural Youth. Of the thirty-nine county Extension personnel responding, 4 per cent felt phase 1 was being realized extensively, 13 per cent considerably, 62 per cent moderately, 18 per cent very little and only 3 per cent not at all.

On phase 4, (Serve), of the 114 Rural Youth respondents, 8 per cent felt that the phase was being realized extensively, 37 per cent considerably, 47 per cent moderately, 10 per cent very little and only 2 per cent not at all. The county Extension personnel were in general agreement with the Rural Youth respondents. Three per cent of the county Extension personnel felt that phase 4 was being realized extensively, 37 per cent considerably, 31 per cent moderately, 29 per cent very little and no one checked the "not at all" evaluation.

From the response to the opinionnaire it was found that no one reason was dominant in the list as the most important in the failure to establish or to hold Rural Youth Clubs in certain areas. However, two reasons, four and five, did rank somewhat higher than the rest.

Rural Youth and county Extension personnel felt that reason 1, (Distance to the meeting place), was only a moderate or small obstacle to club success. Of the 114 Rural Youth respondents, 11 per cent felt that reason 1 was of extensive importance, 18 per cent considerable, 25 per cent moderate, 35 per cent very little and 11 per cent not at all. County Extension personnel were in general agreement with the Rural Youth. Of the twenty-nine county Extension personnel 10 per cent felt that reason 1 was of extensive importance, 17 per cent considerable, 14 per cent moderate, 26 per cent very little and 33 per cent not at all. It will be noted that the percentage values were spread evenly throughout the five columns showing little consistency of opinion.

The majority of both groups, county Extension personnel and Rural Youth members, felt that reason 2, (Number of young people in the age

TAB. III

OPINIONS OF 117 RURAL YOUTH MEMBERS AND 42 COUNTY EXTENSION PERSONNEL CONCERNING THE REASONS GIVEN FOR NOT HAVING A RURAL YOUTH CLUB IN A CERTAIN AREA

| | (1) Not at all any way | (2) Very little any way | (3) Moderately any way | (4) Considerably any way | (5) Extremely any way | Total | | | | | | | |
|---|------------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------|----|----|----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| 1. Distance to the working place. | No. 12 | 9 | 40 | 8 | 28 | 4 | 21 | 5 | 13 | 3 | 114 | 29 | |
| 2. Number of young people in the age group 18-30 in this area. | 1 | 11 | 39 | 35 | 24 | 25 | 14 | 18 | 17 | 11 | 10 | 100 | |
| 3. County Extension personnel too busy with existing program. | No. 20 | 8 | 36 | 9 | 25 | 6 | 26 | 5 | 8 | 2 | 115 | 30 | |
| 4. Other activities fulfill the need for a rural youth program. | 1 | 17 | 26 | 32 | 30 | 21 | 20 | 23 | 17 | 7 | 7 | 100 | |
| 5. Few persons are aware of the rural youth program. | No. 29 | 6 | 31 | 8 | 29 | 7 | 18 | 9 | 8 | 114 | 30 | 30 | |
| 6. Extension Personnel | 1 | 25 | 20 | 27 | 27 | 23 | 23 | 16 | 30 | 7 | 100 | 100 | |
| 7. Extension Personnel | No. 22 | 6 | 26 | 4 | 37 | 21 | 25 | 4 | 5 | 1 | 115 | 32 | |
| 8. Extension Personnel | 1 | 19 | 19 | 21 | 32 | 66 | 22 | 12 | 4 | 3 | 100 | 100 | |
| 9. Extension Personnel | No. 3 | 5 | 9 | 4 | 29 | 10 | 46 | 10 | 30 | 1 | 117 | 30 | |
| 10. Extension Personnel | 1 | 2 | 17 | 7 | 14 | 28 | 33 | 40 | 33 | 26 | 3 | 100 | 100 |

TABLE VII (CONTINUED)

OPINIONS OF 117 RURAL YOUTH MEMBERS AND 43 COUNTY EXTENSION PERSONNEL CONCERNING THE REASONS GIVEN FOR NOT HAVING A RURAL YOUTH CLUB IN A CERTAIN AREA

| | (1) Not at all any one | (2) Very little | | (3) Moderately | | (4) Considerably | | (5) Extensively | | Total | |
|--|------------------------------|--------------------|----|-------------------|----|---------------------|----|--------------------|----|-------|-----|
| | | RY | E | RY | E | RY | E | RY | E | | |
| 6. The program has been tried in this area and has failed. | No. 33 32 | 10 | 5 | 17 | 3 | 18 | 5 | 5 | 4 | 105 | 27 |
| 7. The program does not fulfill the needs and interests of the persons in this area. | 3 31 | 37 | 18 | 16 | 11 | 17 | 19 | 5 | 15 | 100 | 100 |
| 8. The size of the working hall affects the success of a Rural Youth Club. | No. 31 28 | 8 | 10 | 32 | 8 | 11 | 5 | 3 | 1 | 111 | 32 |
| 9. The cost of the working hall affects the success of a Rural Youth group. | 3 24 | 25 | 31 | 29 | 25 | 10 | 16 | 3 | 3 | 100 | 100 |
| | No. 39 34 | 10 | 5 | 16 | 10 | 14 | 5 | 7 | 2 | 116 | 32 |
| | 3 24 | 31 | 16 | 14 | 31 | 12 | 16 | 6 | 6 | 100 | 100 |
| | No. 28 24 | 15 | 3 | 22 | 3 | 15 | 7 | 20 | 3 | 116 | 31 |
| | 3 24 | 48 | 10 | 19 | 10 | 13 | 22 | 17 | 10 | 100 | 100 |

**Extension Personnel

group 18-30), had very little bearing on having Rural Youth Clubs in certain areas. However, an examination of Table III will show that there is a wide variance of opinions with a fairly even distribution in columns 1, 2, 3 and 4.

On reason 3, (County Extension personnel are too busy with existing programs), Rural Youth respondents and county Extension personnel are in close agreement. However, the percentages are again spread over the four columns, giving no one of the sections a distinct margin. If averaged, the majority opinions of both county Extension personnel and Rural Youth members would be in the "very little" area.

The county Extension personnel felt that reason 4, (Other activities fulfill the need for a Rural Youth program), was perhaps one of the major reasons for club failure. Sixty-six per cent of the county Extension personnel felt that it was moderately important, 12 per cent considerably, 3 per cent extensively, while only 19 per cent fell below the moderately column and were in the "not at all" classification. Rural Youth members were not of the same opinion. Fifteen per cent felt that reason 4 was not important, 23 per cent very little, 32 per cent moderately, 22 per cent considerably and 4 per cent extensively. From the table it would appear that reason 4 was more important in club failure than reasons 1, 2, 3, 6, 7 and 8.

Twenty-six per cent of the Rural Youth respondents felt that reason 5, (Few persons are aware of the Rural Youth program), was a cause of club failure to an extensive degree, 40 per cent to a considerable degree, 25 per cent to a moderate degree, 7 per cent very little and only 2 per cent

not at all. The county Extension personnel were not in agreement with the Rural Youth members on this item. Only 3 per cent of the Extension personnel felt that reason 5 was of extensive importance, 33 per cent considerable, 33 per cent moderate, 14 per cent very little and 17 per cent not at all. Even though the two groups were not in complete agreement, the table will show that reason 5 is the most important reason for club failure.

The majority of responses fell in the "not at all" and "very little" columns on reason 6, (The program has been tried in this area and has failed). Of the 105 Rural Youth respondents, 3 per cent felt reason 6 was extensively important, 17 per cent considerably important, 16 per cent moderately important, 31 per cent very little and 31 per cent felt that it was not at all important. One Rural Youth respondent wrote a side note on the questionnaire, "If at first you don't succeed, try, try again." Perhaps this will add additional meaning to the findings presented here.

Of the 111 Rural Youth respondents, 28 per cent felt that reason 7, (The program does not fulfill the needs and interests of the persons in this area), was of "not at all" importance, 31 per cent very little, 29 per cent moderately, 10 per cent considerably and only 3 per cent extensively. The county Extension personnel were in close agreement with the Rural Youth respondents. Twenty-five per cent of the thirty-two county Extension personnel reporting were of the opinion that reason 7 was not at all important, 31 per cent very little, 25 per cent moderately, 16 per cent considerably and only 3 per cent extensively.

Thirty-four per cent of the 116 Rural Youth respondents felt that reason 8, (The size of the meeting hall affects the success of a Rural Youth Club), was not at all important, 34 per cent very little, 14 per cent moderately, 12 per cent considerably, 6 per cent extensively. The county Extension personnel agreed with the Rural Youth on this item. Thirty-one per cent of the thirty-two county Extension personnel who reported checked the "not at all" column, 16 per cent very little, 31 per cent moderately, 16 per cent considerably and 6 per cent extensively. As was true in the case of reasons 1, 2 and 7, both groups placed heavy emphasis on the "not at all" and "very little" columns.

On reason 9, (The cost of the meeting hall affects the success of a Rural Youth group), there was no general agreement between the two reporting groups, and in the case of the county Extension personnel there was little resemblance of a trend in their reporting. Of the 116 Rural Youth respondents, 17 per cent felt that the reason was of extensive importance, 13 per cent considerably, 19 per cent moderately, 27 per cent very little and 24 per cent not at all. Of the thirty-two county Extension personnel reporting, 48 per cent felt that reason 9 was not at all important, 10 per cent very little, 10 per cent moderately, 22 per cent considerably and 10 per cent extensively.

Of the thirty-three county Extension personnel, 49 per cent said that statement 8, (Have Rural Youth activities been an influence upon young adults remaining in a community instead of migrating to larger cities?), made very little difference, 27 per cent felt it was not at

TABLE IV

OPINIONS OF 117 RURAL YOUTH MEMBERS AND 42 COUNTY EXTENSION PERSONNEL CONCERNING THE
 IMPACTS OF THE RURAL YOUTH PROGRAM ON YOUNG ADULTS REMAINING IN A COMMUNITY
 AND THEIR EFFECTIVENESS IN MAKING A CONTRIBUTION TO THE EXTENSION WORK
 IN THE COUNTY

| | (1) No. | (2) Very little | | (3) Moderately | | (4) Considerably | | (5) Extremely | | Total |
|--|------------|--------------------|----|-------------------|----|---------------------|----|------------------|---|-------|
| | | NY | E | NY | E | NY | E | NY | E | |
| B. Have Rural Youth activities been an influence upon young adults remaining in a community instead of migrating to larger cities? | No. 19 | 9 | 44 | 16 | 40 | 6 | 12 | 2 | 1 | 116 |
| | % 16 | 27 | 38 | 49 | 35 | 18 | 10 | 6 | 1 | 100 |
| C. Has the Rural Youth Program been effective in making a contribution to Extension work in your county? | No. 3 | 2 | 25 | 4 | 34 | 18 | 45 | 9 | 5 | 112 |
| | % 3 | 6 | 22 | 11 | 30 | 51 | 40 | 26 | 5 | 100 |

*Rural Youth **Extension Personnel

all important, 18 per cent indicated moderate importance, 6 per cent considerable importance and no one checked the "extensively" column.

Rural Youth respondents were in strong agreement with the county Extension personnel. Of the 112 Rural Youth respondents, 38 per cent checked the "very little" column, 16 per cent "not at all," 15 per cent "moderately," 10 per cent "considerably" and only 1 per cent "extensively."

When the county Extension personnel have a job to do, Rural Youth Clubs are to stand ready to be of assistance. Statement C asks the question, "Has the Rural Youth program been effective in making a contribution to Extension work in your county?" Of the 112 Rural Youth respondents, 3 per cent felt that the Rural Youth Club members were making an extensive contribution, 40 per cent considerable, 30 per cent moderate, 22 per cent very little and only 3 per cent not at all. The county Extension personnel were not in complete agreement. Six per cent of the thirty-five respondents checked extensively, 26 per cent considerably, 51 per cent moderately, 11 per cent very little and only 6 per cent not at all.

Fifty-nine per cent of both reporting groups, Rural Youth and county Extension personnel, marked "not at all" as their reaction to statement D, (Have Rural Youth Clubs been given too much authority and freedom in your county?). Of the 114 Rural Youth respondents, 34 per cent checked very little, 12 per cent moderately, 3 per cent considerably, and 2 per cent extensively. County Extension personnel were in close agreement with the Rural Youth responding. Seventeen per cent of the county Extension personnel checked the "very little" column, 21 per cent "moderately," 3 per cent "considerably" and no one checked the "extensively" column.

TABLE V

OPINIONS OF 117 RURAL YOUTH MEMBERS AND 42 COUNTY EXTENSION PERSONNEL CONCERNING THE FACTORS AFFECTING A RURAL YOUTH CLUB'S SUCCESS

| | (1) | | (2) | | (3) | | (4) | | (5) | | Total |
|---|-------------------|-----|-------------------|----|----------------|----|--------------------|----|-------------------|-----|-------|
| | Not at all EXT | EXT | Very little RY | RY | Modestly RY | RY | Considerably RY | RY | Extensively RY | RY | |
| D. Have Rural Youth Club members been given too much authority and freedom in your county? | No. 67 | 17 | 27 | 5 | 14 | 6 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 114 | 29 |
| | % | 59 | 24 | 17 | 12 | 21 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 100 | 100 |
| E. Does the number of times a club meets each month make a difference in the effectiveness of the club program? | No. 16 | 2 | 23 | 2 | 21 | 3 | 34 | 21 | 20 | 3 | 114 |
| | % | 14 | 6 | 20 | 7 | 18 | 30 | 7 | 18 | 10 | 100 |
| F. Rural Youth members from small towns, farms and from different communities in the county. Do you feel that: | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1. The combination of farm and small town members has an effect on the success of the Rural Youth program. | No. 17 | 9 | 20 | 7 | 12 | 6 | 36 | 9 | 28 | 2 | 113 |
| | % | 15 | 27 | 18 | 21 | 10 | 32 | 28 | 25 | 6 | 100 |

*Rural Youth **Extension Personnel

Sixty-seven per cent of the thirty-two county Extension personnel felt that statement B, (Does the number of times a club meets each month make a difference in the effectiveness of the 1st program?), was true to a considerable extent, 10 per cent extensively, 10 per cent moderately, 7 per cent very little and only 6 per cent not at all. The Rural Youth were in general agreement with the county Extension personnel. Only 30 per cent of the 114 Rural Youth respondents checked the "considerably" column, 18 per cent "extensively," 18 per cent "moderately," 30 per cent "very little" and 14 per cent "not at all."

Statement F is "Rural Youth members come from small towns, farms and from different communities in the county. Do you feel that: 1) The combination of farm and small town members has an effect on the success of the Rural Youth program? 2) Does the fact that members are involved in many different occupations affect their interest in the club program or the formation of a club? 3) Does the name 'Rural Youth' have an effect on getting new members from small towns or in the formation of new groups?" An examination of part 1 will show that Rural Youth members and county Extension personnel were in close agreement. No evaluation was stressed heavily, as the percentages were evenly divided.

Part 2 is "Does the fact that members are involved in many different occupations affect their interest in the club program or the formation of a club?" Of the 115 Rural Youth respondents, 5 per cent felt that occupations affect interest to an extensive degree, 37 per cent considerably, 20 per cent moderately, 27 per cent very little and 21 per cent not at all. The county Extension personnel were in general agreement with

the Rural Youth respondents. Three per cent of the county Extension personnel marked extensively, 25 per cent considerably, 15 per cent moderately, 38 per cent very little and 19 per cent not at all.

Part 3 is "Does the name 'Rural Youth' have an effect on getting new members from small towns or in the formation of new groups?" A majority of both groups felt that the name was of "very little" or "moderate" importance.

Of the 116 Rural Youth respondents, 11 per cent felt that the name was of extensive importance, 16 per cent considerably, 33 per cent moderately, 31 per cent very little and only 9 per cent felt it was of no importance at all. The county Extension personnel were in close agreement with 6 per cent marking extensively, 23 per cent considerably, 29 per cent moderately, 32 per cent very little and 10 per cent not at all.

The majority of respondents from both groups, county Extension personnel and Rural Youth, felt that statement 6, (Do you feel that participation in state, regional or national conferences has an effect in inspiring or holding members?), was true to a considerable or extensive degree. Of the 115 Rural Youth respondents 38 per cent felt that statement 6 was of extensive importance, 46 per cent considerably, 11 per cent moderately, 5 per cent very little and no one checked the "not at all" column. The county Extension personnel were in close agreement with 24 per cent checking the extensively column, 39 per cent considerably, 23 per cent moderately, 7 per cent very little and 7 per cent not at all.

SECTION IV

~~Summary~~

This study was made to secure information which might be helpful to Extension personnel particularly those charged with the responsibility of supervising the Rural Youth program in the state of South Dakota. The study shows that by and large the work of the Rural Youth program is successful and extends to the needs and interests of the young people for which it is designed and is a valuable adjunct to the Extension program in South Dakota.

That there are weaknesses in certain areas of the program is to be expected and the study brought to light a few areas in which improvement can be recommended. Generally the points of greatest weakness are those which are not difficult to remedy or are essentially perplexing and do not lend themselves to a ready solution.

It is hoped that this study will not only be of interest and value to those engaged in Rural Youth work but that it will also be of interest to those concerned with farm living and the education of rural people.

Conclusions

1. The Rural Youth program is highly successful in the realization of the first five of its stated objectives:
 - a. To provide activities which lead to the improvement and enrichment of rural life.
 - b. To teach youth how to plan and carry out programs and develop desirable disciplines which will meet their needs and interests.

- c. To provide an opportunity for youth to work together for fuller personal development through sharing responsibility, cooperation and service.
- d. To help provide broader and more wholesome recreation for Rural Youth.
- e. To train for citizenship by ~~emphasizing~~ the importance of participation ~~and sharing~~ responsibility for the home and ~~community improvement~~.

2. The Rural Youth program has failed in the realization of the sixth objective: To provide helpful information on improved farm and home practices.

3. The Rural Youth program has not been satisfactory on phase 1, Special Interest development.

4. The Rural Youth program has been satisfactory on phase 2, Social Interests; phase 3, Study; and phase 4, Service.

5. The outstanding reasons why Rural Youth groups fail are:

- a. Other activities fulfill the need for a Rural Youth program.
- b. Few persons are aware of the Rural Youth program.

6. While Rural Youth organizations have been a help to statewide Extension Services, they have had little influence in keeping young people in the local communities.

7. Rural Youth Club activities appear to be worthwhile training in democratic procedures.

8. The number of meetings a club has seems to be important in the success of the club.

9. Members of Rural Youth Clubs are engaged in a variety of vocational pursuits which has no apparent influence on club interest.

10. There was no clear-cut sentiment as to the effect of club membership coming from both towns and from farms.

11. The name by which the work with Rural Youth is known does not appear to affect its success.

12. Participation in state, regional and national activities is an important stimulus to club activity and success.

Recommendations

1. Before a Rural Youth Club is established in any community, a thorough investigation should be carried out to see if there is a real need for its program and intended activities.

2. Since the success of a club may be dependent upon public knowledge of its existence and its program, a carefully planned series of public relations and publicity activities should be conducted.

3. Those who plan the program should make sure that club members receive more and better information and education on improved farm and home practices.

4. There is room in the program for a greater emphasis on demonstrations, projects, hobbies and study activities.

5. It is suggested that the club program stress the desirability of young people remaining on the farm and stress farming as a way of living as well as making a living.

6. A successful club should plan on a minimum of twelve to fifteen meetings per year scheduled at regular intervals so far as desirable and practicable.

7. Although the name by which a Rural Youth organization is known has no relationship to its success, it is recommended that for the sake of uniformity a standard name should be chosen to designate all clubs throughout the United States. Although the term "Rural Youth" is not generally used, it is felt that this is the most desirable title and the one that should be adopted.

8. Club officers and members should participate as frequently as feasible in the state, regional and national activities of the Rural Youth movement.

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APPENDIX A

RURAL YOUTH OPINIONNAIRE

To Whom It May Concern:

In order to make a study of the success of the Rural Youth program in South Dakota, certain opinions are needed from County Extension personnel, former Rural Youth members and active Rural Youth members. Will you please provide these opinions in the blanks given in the opinionnaire. Please do this as promptly as possible and return the blank in the enclosed stamped and self-addressed envelope.

Sincerely,

John D. Orr

I. The Rural Youth Program in Relation To Its Objectives

A. Below are listed several accepted objectives of the Rural Youth program. By checking the proper blank indicate the extent you believe these objectives are being realized.

| | (1) Not at all | (2) Very little | (3) Moder- ately | (4) Consid- erably | (5) Exten- sively |
|---|----------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Provides activities which lead to the improvement, and enrichment of rural life.----- | | | | | |
| 2. Teaches youth to plan and carry out their own worthwhile programs and develops democratic procedures in the conduct of youth organizations.----- | | | | | |
| 3. Provides opportunities for youth to work together for fuller personal, group and civic development through sharing responsibilities.----- | | | | | |
| 4. Trains for citizenship by the development of leadership abilities.----- | | | | | |
| 5. Helps provide wholesome recreation for young men and women.----- | | | | | |
| 6. Provides helpful information on improved farm and home practices.----- | | | | | |

Page Two - RURAL YOUTH OPINIONNAIRE

B. Below are listed the four phases of the Rural Youth program. Indicate the extent to which these phases are being developed into a balanced program.

| (1) | (2) | (3) | (4) | (5) |
|------------|-------------|------------|--------------|-------------|
| Not at all | Very little | Moderately | Considerably | Extensively |

| | | | | |
|---|--|--|--|--|
| 1. Special Interests (Projects, demonstrations on special individual interests)----- | | | | |
| 2. Social Interests (Recreation and social activity)----- | | | | |
| 3. Study (The educational phase including, speeches, tours, and state events)----- | | | | |
| 4. Serve (Community service projects)----- | | | | |

II. GENERAL INFORMATION

A. Below are listed some reasons given for not having a Rural Youth club in a certain area. Check the degree of effect which you think each has in determining the reason why a club does not exist.

| | | | | |
|---|--|--|--|--|
| 1. Distance to the meeting place.----- | | | | |
| 2. Number of young people in the age group 18-30 in this area.----- | | | | |
| 3. County Extension personnel too busy with existing programs.----- | | | | |
| 4. Other activities fulfill the need for a Rural Youth program.----- | | | | |
| 5. Few persons are aware of the Rural Youth program.----- | | | | |
| 6. The program has been tried in this area and has failed.----- | | | | |
| 7. The program does not fulfill the needs and interests of the persons in this area.----- | | | | |
| 8. The size of the meeting hall affects the success of a Rural Youth club.----- | | | | |
| 9. The cost of the meeting hall affects the success of a Rural Youth group.----- | | | | |

(1) (2) (3) (4) (5)
 Not at Very Moder- Consid- Exten-
 all little ately erably sively

- . Have Rural Youth activities been an influence upon young adults remaining in a community instead of migrating to larger cities?-----
- . Has the Rural Youth program been effective in making a contribution to Extension work in your county?-----
- . Have Rural Youth club members been given too much authority and freedom in your county?-----
- . Does the number of times a club meets each month make a difference in the effectiveness of the club program?-----
- . Rural Youth members come from small towns, farms and from different communities in the county. Do you feel that:
 1. The combination of farm and small town members has an effect on the success of the Rural Youth program.-----
 2. Does the fact that members are involved in many different occupations affect their interest in the club program or the formation of a club?-----
 3. Does the name "Rural Youth" have an effect on getting new members from small towns or in the formation of new groups?-----
- . Do you feel that participation in state regional or national conferences has an effect in inspiring or holding members?-----

| (1) Not at all | (2) Very little | (3) Moder- ately | (4) Consid- erably | (5) Exten- sively |
|----------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| | | | | |
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| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |

Name of person filling out opinionnaire: _____

Address: _____

Occupation: _____

Number of years you have been in Rural Youth club work: _____