

South Dakota State University

Open PRAIRIE: Open Public Research Access Institutional Repository and Information Exchange

Electronic Theses and Dissertations

1958

A Study of the Aspects of Vocational Agriculture Teacher Travel in South Dakota

Sylvan D. Vigness

Follow this and additional works at: <https://openprairie.sdstate.edu/etd>

Recommended Citation

Vigness, Sylvan D., "A Study of the Aspects of Vocational Agriculture Teacher Travel in South Dakota" (1958). *Electronic Theses and Dissertations*. 2543.
<https://openprairie.sdstate.edu/etd/2543>

This Thesis - Open Access is brought to you for free and open access by Open PRAIRIE: Open Public Research Access Institutional Repository and Information Exchange. It has been accepted for inclusion in Electronic Theses and Dissertations by an authorized administrator of Open PRAIRIE: Open Public Research Access Institutional Repository and Information Exchange. For more information, please contact michael.biondo@sdstate.edu.

**A STUDY OF THE ASPECTS OF VOCATIONAL
AGRICULTURE TEACHER TRAVEL
IN SOUTH DAKOTA**

By
Sylvan D. Vigness

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

August 1958

SOUTH DAKOTA STATE COLLEGE LIBRARY

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The writer wishes to express his sincere appreciation to H. W. Jadda, Assistant Professor of Agricultural Education, South Dakota State College, Brookings, South Dakota, for his valuable advice, help and cooperation in writing this problem.

Gratitude is also expressed for the cooperation of the 54 vocational agriculture teachers who completed the questionnaire that aided in formulating this study.

S. D. V.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Section	Page
I. Introduction	1
II. Purposes	3
III. Procedure	4
IV. Review of Literature	5
V. Mileage of Flandreau Agriculture Department	9
VI. Results of the Study	12
VII. Summary	24
VIII. Literature Cited	27
IX. Appendices	28

LIST OF TABLES

Table	Page
I. A Comparison of 7 Selected States Regarding Average Total Mileage Per Instructor Per Year, and the Proportion Used for Farm Visitation	8
II. A Summary of the Writer's Vocational Agriculture Travel by Months for the Year 1957	9
III. Recapitulation of Table II Showing Proportions of the Writer's Travel for Various Purposes in Vocational Agriculture, 1956-1957	11
IV. Total Miles Traveled By Vocational Agriculture Teachers in South Dakota, 1956-1957	13
V. The Percentage of Total Miles Traveled By Vocational Agriculture Teachers in South Dakota Inside the School Service Area, Outside the School Service Area, and for Supervised Farming Visitations, 1956-1957	14
VI. Proportions of Those 36 Reporting Vocational Agriculture Departments in South Dakota Which Reimburse Instructors for Travel According to Various Per Mile Rates	16
VII. Proportions of Reporting Schools Reimbursing Vocational Agriculture Instructors for Travel Costs According to Each of Three Methods	17
VIII. Proportions of the 17 Reporting Vocational Agriculture Departments in South Dakota Reimbursing Instructors for Travel According to Various Lump Sum Amounts	18
IX. Limits on Travel Reimbursement in Departments With Details of Limits, 1956-57	18
X. The Purposes for Which the 33 Vocational Agriculture Departments Reporting Use of School Furnished Transportation Used Such Transportation	19

LIST OF TABLES. Continued

- XI. A Comparison of East and West River Departments
With Respect to Students' Average Distance From
School, Enrollments, and Number of Instructor
Visits, 1956-57 21
- XII. Extent of Adult and/or Young Farmer Work in
Vocational Agriculture in South Dakota, and
Details of Instructor Travel for that Purpose,
1956-57 22

INTRODUCTION

Teachers of vocational agriculture find it necessary to travel to a considerable extent in connection with their work. For the typical teacher of vocational agriculture, most such travel takes place within the local community visiting supervised farming programs of those boys enrolled in the vocational agriculture department.

The importance of travel in vocational agriculture is evidenced by the fact that the Smith Hughes Act provides for reimbursement of vocational agriculture travel costs at the rate of 50 per cent. Instructors' salaries, on the other hand, are reimbursed on a prorated basis according to the number of departments in the state, and at a much lower percentage rate.

It is interesting to note that much of the travel required by teachers of agriculture is outside the school service area. Mileage for purposes such as district meetings, certain Future Farmers of America activities, and state and national conventions is all outside the service area, whereas mileage necessary for field trips, judging schools, and procurement of supplies takes place either outside or inside the school service area. All travel in connection with supervised farming visitation would be inside the school service area.

Travel outside the area is vital to the success of vocational agriculture programs. It enables the instructor to improve professionally through his attendance at conferences, conventions, and other meetings held for purposes of in-service improvement. Special schools connected with the FFA provide leadership training for many agriculture students. Judging schools, public speaking contests and other events often held outside the service area contribute to the enrichment of the total program of vocational agriculture for those enrolled.

Since an integral portion of the vocational agriculture teacher's responsibility entails visiting students and their parents on their home farms, he is in a position to do much toward stimulating and guiding them in their agricultural endeavors. The research on supervised farming visitation reveals that such outcomes as improvement in attitudes, scholarship, conduct, relationships, FFA participation, and general interest are materially influenced through such visitations.

Students in vocational agriculture classes "learn by doing". Without travel some of the effectiveness of the vocational agriculture programs could be lost, since the home farm, as well as industries related to agriculture, serve as the laboratory. The writer believes the results of this study will prove to be of great value to teachers of vocational agriculture, school administrators, and local school board members.

PURPOSES

The purpose of this research problem is to determine the average number of miles traveled by vocational agriculture teachers in South Dakota; the methods by which they are reimbursed for the cost of such travel each year; the extent of travel in terms of purposes for which the travel is used; and whether any relationship exists between travel allowances and the possibilities teachers have in carrying out sound programs of instruction. In delimiting the purposes of such travel this study also purposes to ascertain (1) the number of miles traveled in supervised farming instruction (2) the number of schools providing the instructor with means of transportation other than the use of his own vehicle, and (3) the proportion of vocational agriculture instructors who receive reimbursement for expenses incurred when away from home on vocational agriculture work.

The writer has a sincere interest in this study since, according to available information, no research of this nature has been conducted in South Dakota, and very little has been done in other states. That interest has contributed to bringing about an evaluation of the writer's own travel data and information in comparison with those of other instructors in South Dakota.

PROCEDURE

In order to determine the necessary facts and data pertaining to vocational agriculture travel, a questionnaire, a letter of explanation, and a self addressed envelope were mailed to instructors in the 70 South Dakota vocational agriculture departments which were approved for the school year 1956-1957. The year 1956-1957 was selected because the reports for the most recent year, 1957-58, would not have been completed in time for this study. For much of the information needed, the respondents referred to a state report form A-1 (appendix E) which each instructor is required to submit to the State Supervisor of Agricultural Education at regular intervals three times annually.

Of the 70 departments receiving the questionnaire, 45 instructors, or 64.3 per cent responded as a result of the first mailing. A second mailing brought the total up to 54 questionnaires, or 77.1 per cent of those mailed. Three instructors, for various personal reasons, returned uncompleted questionnaires.

Because of the dispersed population in the western part of the state the data and information were classified in terms of geographic areas as well as for the entire state. Mileage figures are classified as to whether they pertain to within the school service area or outside the service area. The proportion of travel within the service area which deals only with supervised farming visitation was also determined, since that purpose requires the major portion of the instructor's

travel within the school service area.

Information gathered from other related studies and from professional literature also served as a partial basis for this research problem. In addition, the travel record of the writer for the same year supplements the basis for the conclusions presented in this study.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

The writer made a diligent search for data and research related to this study, but only a limited amount of information dealing with this topic could be found. The scarcity of such information has served to increase the interest of the writer in the problems dealing with vocational agriculture teacher travel.

In West Virginia¹ a study was made in 1961 in which travel of vocational agriculture teachers was analyzed. The total yearly travel ranged from 676 to 9,223 miles with an average of 4,122 miles per teacher. The largest proportion, 41 per cent, was for supervised farming visitations, 23 per cent for FFA activities, twelve per cent for fairs and shows, five per cent for procuring supplies, two per cent for field trips, and the remainder for professional meetings and activities.

Travel information secured from Minnesota² revealed the average number of miles per instructor per year to be 8,674, with 45 per cent of that total within the school service area. The average student enrollment was 44 per department. Each student received an average of 3.2 supervised farming visitations.

1. Heno Lyman Taubert, Travel and its Use in Conducting the Vocational Agriculture Program in West Virginia. 47pp.

2. _____, "Travel and Mileage Statistics," Minnesota Department of Vocational Agriculture Education.

A study was made in Arizona³ in 1938 to determine budgeting procedures for travel. The average number of miles of teacher travel was 8,374, with an average of 250 student supervised farming visits. Although most of the teachers regarded their total budgets as adequate, about one-fourth found two items deficient, namely, funds for travel and visual aids.

A study related to travel by agriculture teachers in Ohio⁴ was made in 1933. This study revealed the average travel per department to be 4,771.6 miles. The distribution of the miles of travel according to purposes was reported as follows:

FPA activities	1,341
Supervised farming	1,325
Professional meetings	1,188
Supplies	541
Field trips	301
Adult and Young Farmer work	173

There was an average of 190 supervised farming visitations per department for the year. The experienced teacher traveled 1,470 miles more per year than did the beginning teacher.

A Kentucky study⁵ was made in 1936 regarding vocational agriculture teacher travel. Results indicated the average teacher's travel per department was 5,443 miles. Of this amount, 66 per cent was for on the farm supervision. Each student was visited on the average of four times yearly.

3. Byron Collins Forsyth, Budgeting Procedures and Methods of Handling Finances for Operating and Travel Costs in Arizona Departments of Vocational Agriculture.

4. D. N. Palmer, An Analysis of Paid Travel Used by Teachers of Vocational Agriculture in Ohio.

5. Edward E. Bell, A Study of Travel of Teachers of Vocational Agriculture in Kentucky.

A study was made in Missouri⁶ in 1955 regarding agriculture teachers' travel. This study reveals that the typical instructor of vocational agriculture in that state traveled 5,193 miles per year. Sixty nine per cent of such travel took place within the school service area, and 31 per cent outside the service area. Supervised farming visits accounted for 3,147 of the total travel, or 51 per cent. Approximately 75 per cent of the mileage contracts provided for payment of travel at \$.07 per mile up to a maximum of \$400.00.

Data analyzed regarding total mileage per instructor per year in seven selected states, and the proportion of such mileage used for supervised farming visitations are revealed in Table I.

Table I. A Comparison of 7 Selected States Regarding Average Total Mileage Per Instructor Per Year, and the Proportion Used for Farm Visitation

State	Average Miles Per Year	Per Cent for Supervised Farming
Arizona	5,374	65
Kentucky	5,443	66
Minnesota	5,674	65
Missouri	5,193	51
Ohio	4,771	29
South Dakota	3,536	55
West Virginia	4,122	44

⁶E. Cecil A. Boram and Charles L. Johnson, Travel of Missouri Teachers of Vocational Agriculture.

Table II. A Summary of the Writer's Vocational Agriculture Travel by Months for the Year 1957

Month	Purpose	Miles	Total
January	Supplies	22	130
	District teachers' meeting	62	
	Supervised farming visits	15	
	FFA travel	31	
February	Radio broadcast	62	296
	Judging contest	50	
	Supervised farming visits	64	
	Madison FFA Mixer	64	
	Field trip	56	
March	Supervised farming visits	162	681
	Meats School	86	
	Speech contest (district)	41	
	Sioux City contest	264	
	Poultry School	64	
	Field trips	64	
April	District Dairy School	84	509
	Morrel Meat Livestock School	82	
	Colman FFA Mixer	31	
	State contests and convention	128	
	District instructors' meeting	64	
	Supervised farming visits	119	
May	Supplies	14	323
	Supervised farming visits	261	
	Electricity Meeting	31	
	Field trip	17	
June	Supervised farming visits	221	342
	Dairy Days	61	
	Procuring supplies	60	
July	Supervised farming visits	928	978
	New student visits	103	
	District teachers' meeting	47	

Table II. Continued

August	Agriculture Conference	168	
	Supervised farming visits	379	
	FFA Trip to State Fair	234	
	Procuring supplies		253
September	District FFA Meeting	16	
	Supervised farming visits	102	
	Field trips	71	229
October	Field trips	96	
	Supervised farming visits	149	
	Hot bus from National FFA convention	86	
			320
November	Supervised farming visits	58	
	Supplies	64	
	Field trips	61	183
December	Field trips	69	
	Supplies	39	
Grand Total		106	7951

Table III. Recapitulation of Table II Showing Proportions of the Writer's Travel for Various Purposes in Vocational Agriculture, 1956-1957

Purpose	Miles	
	Number of Miles	Per Cent of Total
Supervised farming visits	2460	49.7
FFA Activities	733	14.7
Judging schools and Contest	630	12.7
Professional meetings	433	8.7
Field trips	424	8.5
Supplies	271	5.7
Total	4951	100.0

An analysis of the writer's travel in connection with vocational agriculture reveals that 2984 miles were traveled within the school service area in 1957. Supervised farming visitations accounted for 49.7 per cent of the total mileage. The writer was reimbursed at a set rate of \$.67 per mile with no limit on total mileage permitted. The purposes for which such mileage was used are indicated in descending order, according to amounts, in Table III.

RESULTS OF THE STUDY

The Smith-Hughes Act requires that a school shall provide directed or supervised practice in agriculture, either on a farm provided by the school or other farm. Obviously, that provision was made in the belief that vocational education in agriculture cannot be taught effectively without the use of a laboratory. The farm is, in effect the most desirable laboratory available for accomplishing the objectives which contribute to establishment in farming. All approved vocational agriculture departments in the public secondary schools of South Dakota conduct supervised farming programs in connection with the agriculture courses taught.

In order for the supervised farming portion of the instruction in vocational agriculture to be effective, adequate supervision by the instructor is essential. Provisions for travel, therefore, are necessary.

The total number of miles traveled per vocational agriculture department in South Dakota ranges from 1,045 to 8,000. The highest total mileage figure reported for any department east of the Missouri is 6,540. No agriculture department west of the River reported less than 3,244 miles.

There is a definite relationship in a vocational agriculture department between the number of miles the farthest student lives from school and the total number of miles traveled by the agriculture teacher. The farther

students live from schools which they attend the greater the number of miles traveled by the instructors of vocational agriculture. There is also a definite relationship between the number of students enrolled in agriculture and the number of miles traveled by the instructor. The larger the student enrollment per department the greater the number of miles traveled by the instructor.

The total mileage per department is greater in the West river area than that East of the River, as revealed in Table IV. The figures represent 50 departments, 42 of which are located east of the River and eight of which are west of the River.

Table IV. Total Miles Traveled By Vocational Agriculture Teachers in South Dakota, 1956-1957

Items	XII	East River	West River
	Departments	Departments	Departments
Total miles traveled	166,023	130,253	36,570
Average miles traveled per department	3,336.5	3,101	4,571

It is interesting to note that departments located west of the Missouri river traveled 1470 miles further in a year on the average than did those east of the River. Those west of the River averaged 101.6 miles per student as compared with 72.1 for those east of the River.

Fifty-five per cent of the total mileage of vocational agriculture instructors in South Dakota was designated for supervised farming purposes. Facts regarding the percentage

of miles traveled in supervised farming, inside the school service area and outside the service area are revealed in Table V.

Table V. The Percentage of Total Miles Traveled By Vocational Agriculture Teachers in South Dakota Inside the School Service Area, Outside the School Service Area, and for Supervised Farming Visitations, 1956-1957

Item	All Departments	East River Departments	West River Departments
Per cent of total miles traveled for supervised farming visits	33.4	33.3	45.0
Per cent of total miles traveled inside service area	33.7	61.7	47.9
Per cent of total miles traveled outside service area	41.3	33.3	52.1

The 42 instructors east of the Missouri river traveled a total of 73,940 miles supervising students' farming programs, or an average of 33.4 miles per student. The reporting instructors west of the River traveled 16,455 miles for that purpose, or 45.7 miles per student. The average mileage per instructor in South Dakota for project supervision was 1848 miles. East River instructors averaged 1,303 miles each for that purpose, while those west of the River averaged 2,057 miles.

For 50 instructors reporting miles traveled inside their service area there was a total of 57,830 miles reported. The 42 east River departments reported an average of 1912.3 miles each, whereas the eight west River departments reported an average of 2139.1 miles. The average figure for travel within

the school service area in South Dakota is 1,956.6 miles per instructor, with those departments east of the River averaging 1,912.3 miles and the west River departments averaging 2,189 miles. Travel inside the service area refers to those miles traveled within the area from which students come who are enrolled in the vocational agriculture department of the school. Such travel would include mileage for purposes of supervised farming visitations, new prospective agriculture student visits, certain supplies, and field trips. Travel outside the service area refers to travel for purposes of some field trips, district meetings, state and national conventions and contests, Future Farmers of America activities and all other trips requiring the agriculture instructor to travel outside the area in which his students live.

Less than half the total miles traveled by all instructors were outside the service area. This figure varied between east and west River departments with west River instructors' travel outside the service area representing 52.5 per cent of their total travel, whereas that for east River departments represented 39.3 per cent. The average outside travel for all departments in the state was 1,406.6 miles, while East River departments averaged 1,217.7 miles and West River departments 2,398.4. Undoubtedly the reasons for West River departments averaging more travel are the population sparsity and the distances required for attendance at various contests, conventions, and meetings.

The 54 departments cooperating in this study varied considerable in the methods and amounts of reimbursement received for mileage and expenses. Exactly half of the instructors were being reimbursed at the rate of seven cents per mile. Receiving eight cents per mile were four instructors, or 7.4 per cent, and a like proportion of them received six cents. The methods by which mileage costs at the per mile rates were reimbursed are indicated in Table VI.

Table VI. Proportions of Those 35 Reporting Vocational Agriculture Departments in South Dakota Which Reimburse Instructors for Travel According to Various Per Mile Rates

Item	All Departments Per cent	East River Departments Per cent	West River Departments Per cent
\$.06 per mile	11.43	13.33	16.73
\$.07 per mile	77.10	83.33	33.23
\$.08 per mile	11.43	3.33	50.00
Total	100.00	100.00	100.00

Of the 54 schools included in this study, 35 reimbursed instructors at a set rate per mile and 24 reimbursed on a lump-sum basis. The reason for the two foregoing figures totaling more than 54 is that two departments reimbursed for mileage using both the lump sum and per mile methods. These two departments each reimbursed on a lump sum basis of \$400 for travel inside the service area and at the per mile rate of seven cents for all additional travel. The foregoing is very popular in a portion of our neighboring state of Minnesota. Data regarding the methods used in

paying mileage expenses to agriculture teachers are revealed in Table VII.

Table VII. Proportions of Reporting Schools Reimbursing Vocational Agriculture Instructors for Travel Costs According to Each of Three Methods

Methods of Reimbursing	All Departments Per cent	East River Departments Per cent	West River Departments Per cent
Per mile rate	64.8	66.7	12.5
Lump sum	31.6	33.3	62.5
Combination	3.7	none	25.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

The amounts of reimbursement by the lump sum method ranged from \$200 to \$500. Seventeen instructors reported being paid by this method, five of whom were in the \$200 - \$299 range; five in the \$300 - \$399 range; and seven in the \$400 - \$499 range. Five of the eight West River instructors were reimbursed by this procedure with one in the \$300 - \$399 range and four in the \$400 - \$499 range. East River instructors were paid correspondingly smaller lump sums for mileage. A comparison of the East and West River schools with respect to lump sum mileage payments is found in Table VIII.

Table VIII. Proportions of the 17 Reporting Vocational Agriculture Departments in South Dakota Reimbursing Instructors for Travel According to Various Lump Sum Amounts

Range	All Departments Per cent	East River Departments Per cent	West River Departments Per cent
\$200.00 - \$299.00	29.35	41.67	none
\$300.00 - \$399.00	29.35	41.67	20.0
\$400.00 - \$499.00	41.30	16.66	80.0
	<u>100.00</u>	<u>100.00</u>	<u>100.0</u>

Many variations exist in the mileage contracts of instructors with respect to limits on the amounts of reimbursement. Fourteen of the schools, or 26 per cent, place a limit on cost of mileage for which teachers can be reimbursed. Such limits range from \$150 to \$500 and are revealed in Table IX.

Table IX. Limits on Travel Reimbursement in Departments With Details of Limits, 1936-37

Number of Instructors Limited	Limit	Other Details
1	\$150 at \$.06	Additional mileage paid by FFA
1	\$150 (lump sum)	No reimbursement for travel within school service area
1	\$200 at \$.06	
1	\$200 at \$.07	
2	\$250 at \$.07	
3	\$300 at \$.07	
1	\$300 at \$.06	
2	\$400 at \$.07	
1	\$400 at \$.07	Supervised farming mileage reimbursed at \$.06 per mile
1	\$500 at \$.06	

One department in the state reports using the school bus for all transportation except supervised farming visits, and another reports using a station wagon whenever it is available, and it is usually available. All of the instructors reported that they are required to furnish their own transportation for some phase of vocational agriculture work.

A vast majority of the schools reported using a school furnished vehicle for various types of trips connected with teaching vocational agriculture. Of the 33 schools reporting use of school vehicles, all except three departments used school buses. The reported uses of this type of transportation are illustrated in Table X.

Table X. The Purposes for Which the 33 Vocational Agriculture Departments Reporting Use of School Furnished Transportation Used Such Transportation

Purpose	Frequency
1. Field trips	27
2. State Contests	16
3. Summer FFA trips	12
4. Local Contests and District Meetings	7
5. Conferences	4
6. Project Visits (group)	4
7. Supplies	3

Of the 33 instructors using school furnished transportation, 61.7 per cent used such means for field trips; 48.5 per cent for state contests; 36.4 per cent for summer FFA trips; 31.2 per cent for local contests and district meetings; 18.1 per cent for conferences; 12.1 per cent for project tours; and 9.0 per cent for procuring supplies.

The distance which the farthest student lives from the school he attends ranges from nine to 40 miles in schools located east of the Missouri river, and from 32 to 100 miles in departments west of the Missouri. Enrollments in vocational agriculture classes vary considerable among the various departments. While East River departments range from 20 to 66 boys enrolled, there is much less variation in those west of the River, which range from 36 to 67.

The number of supervised farming visits made by the instructors enrolled in Vocational Agriculture in South Dakota averaged 2.14. Again there was a variation between the East and West River departments with the East River departments averaging 2.26 visits and the West River students each averaging slightly over 2 visits. The average number of miles traveled by instructors per student in the state for supervised farming visits is 39.3 miles with a range of 33.4 miles in the East River area to 46.7 miles in the West River area.

Data regarding the average miles a student lives from school, the average enrollment, and the number of supervised farming visits per department are illustrated in Table XI. It is interesting to note that in the West River departments the average student lives more than three times the distance from school than does his East River counterpart. Also, the enrollments are larger per department and supervised farming visits are less frequent than those in East River departments.

Table XI. A Comparison of East and West River Departments With Respect to Students' Average Distance From School, Enrollments, and Number of Instructor Visits, 1955-57

Items	All Departments	East River Departments	West River Departments
Average miles of distance from school for all agriculture students	25.0	12.5	57.0
Enrollment per agriculture department, number of boys	43.3	43.0	45.0
Number of supervised farming visits per department	97.2	98.1	92.0

Adult and Young Farmer classes are lacking in popularity in South Dakota. Their values to the community and to the Vocational Agriculture teacher have not been fully realized. Of the 84 Departments cooperating in this study only 10 are conducting such classes. Of those departments having adult and/or young farmer classes

ten per cent reported mileage separately from that used for all day vocational agriculture students. Sixty per cent reported reimbursement for mileage connected with their adult classes but reported such mileage as being used in connection with all work in vocational agriculture. The remaining 30 per cent of the departments reported that there was no mileage connected with their adult and/or young farmer classes. Total mileage reported for purposes of adult and young farmer work by the 10 instructors was 124.6. Data concerning adult and young farmer evening classes are revealed in Table XII.

Table XII. Extent of Adult and/or Young Farmer Work in Vocational Agriculture in South Dakota, and Details of Instructor Travel for that Purpose, 1936-37

Items	Frequency
1. Number of schools conducting classes	10
2. Number reporting separate mileage	1
3. Number with no mileage for such classes	3
4. Number reporting mileage as part of all-day vocational agriculture program	6
5. Average enrollment per class	24.5
6. Average miles traveled per class	124.6

All 54 cooperating schools responded as to whether reimbursement is received for expenses incurred when away on trips involving vocational agriculture work. Approximately 67 per cent, or 36 of the instructors are reimbursed for such expenses. Two of the 36 receive expenses only for agriculture teacher conferences and one receives reimbursement for expenses other than the conference. In slightly over 33 per cent, or 17 of the schools, the instructor must pay his own expenses when away from his community in connection with his vocational agriculture work.

SUMMARY

In this study the writer was interested in determining the number of miles traveled yearly by the average vocational agriculture teacher. The data gathered revealed an average of 3536.5 miles traveled by the average vocational agriculture teacher in South Dakota for the year 1956-57. Those instructors whose departments are located west of the Missouri River travel a greater average distance than the average for the entire state. The responses also revealed that 25 instructors have more than 45 students per agriculture department. Of that number, fifteen are above the average and ten are below the average of total miles traveled by vocational agriculture instructors in South Dakota. In other words, the greater the student enrollment the more miles traveled by the instructor. By the same token, there are 39 departments with enrollments of 45 or less, 29 of which are below the state average and ten are above the average.

The largest portion of travel was used for supervised farming visits. Those departments east of the River exceed the West River departments by 13.3 per cent in travel used for supervised farming. Travel inside the school service area represented the greater proportion of total travel in East River departments, while travel outside the service area was greater in West River departments.

Sixty five per cent of the vocational agriculture instructors were reimbursed for travel costs using the set rate per mile method. The \$6.07 per mile rate was reported in 27 of the 54 cooperating departments. Seventeen instructors were reimbursed using lump sum procedure, with the \$200 - \$400 range being the most common. The West River instructors received proportionately higher mileage reimbursement than did East River instructors.

About one fourth of the vocational agriculture instructors reported limits on the amounts for which they can be reimbursed for travel. Such limits varied from \$100 to \$500.

Instructors using a school vehicle find the school bus by far the most popular method. The main purpose for which such transportation was used was field trips.

The average number of students enrolled in vocational agriculture classes varied but slightly in East and West river departments. Students in the West River area live nearly three times the distance from the schools they attend than do their counterparts in the East River area.

Less than one fifth of the reporting departments conduct classes for adult farmers in their area. Sixty per cent reported mileage connected with such classes. The average enrollment for those 10 departments was 34.5 members per class.

Among the 64 cooperating instructors, 56 receive reimbursement for expenses involved when outside their service area in connection with vocational agriculture work. Thirty-three instructors receive reimbursement for all expenses incurred, while two instructors are reimbursed for expenses at the vocational agriculture teachers' conference only, and one instructor for expenses involved excluding the agriculture teachers' conference.

Many of the foregoing items were put into measurable form for the purposes on which this study was based. The findings indicate that vocational agriculture instructors in South Dakota on the average, travel fewer miles per year than do those in the other states reviewed. However, the proportion of such travel used for supervised farming is on a par with that of instructors in other states. The writer believes the criteria on which this study is based are true and accurate.

LITERATURE CITED

- Ball, Edward E. "A Study of Travel of Teachers of Vocational Agriculture in Kentucky," Research Problem, University of Kentucky, 62 pp. 1935.
- Born, Cecil A., and Johnson, Charles L. "Travel of Missouri Teachers of Vocational Agriculture," University of Missouri, 1935.
- Forsyth, Byron Collins. "Budgeting procedures and methods of handling finances for operating and travel costs in Arizona Departments of Vocational Agriculture," Special Study Submitted to Faculty University of Arizona. 1935.
- Palmer, D. V. "An Analysis of Paid Travel Used by Teachers of Vocational Agriculture in Ohio," Thesis M. S. Ohio State University. 1933.
- Taubert, Reno Lyman. "Travel and its Use in Conducting the Vocational Program in West Virginia," Thesis Submitted to Faculty of West Virginia University. 1932.
- _____. "Travel and Mileage Statistics," Minnesota Department of Agricultural Education. St. Paul. 1933.

APPENDICES

Appendix A. Total Travel by Each Reporting Vocational Agriculture Instructor in South Dakota Classified According to Supervisory Travel and Mileage Inside and Outside the School Service Area; Enrollments and Visitations, 1956-57

Department	Total Miles	Super- visory Miles	Inside Service Area	Outside Service Area	Enroll- ment	No. Student Visits
*1	8000	2700	2700	5300	50	195
2	6550	2800	4509	2041	38	38
*3	5602	2150	2927	2775	36	123
4	5289	1800	2000	3289	40	175
5	5141	4141	4141	1000	54	85
6	4951	2460	2884	2067	63	141
*7	4831	2500	1831	3000	39	77
*8	4825	1865	2365	2460	48	52
9	4230	4050	3950	3300	42	81
10	4230	1650	2230	2000	44	95
11	4100	2000	3000	1000	24	84
12	4091	1900	2250	1841	54	126
13	4066	2600	2600	1466	48	130
14	3914	2150	2150	1764	55	110
15	3800	3100	2900	900	61	127
16	3729	2580	2329	1099	35	141
17	3629	3261	3261	568	66	66
18	3538	2322	2418	1622	63	140
19	3441	1100	1000	2344	36	65
20	3415	820	1200	2215	50	167
*21	3402	1500	1900	1502	40	93
*22	3327	2057	2057	1300	50	87
*23	3289	1989	1989	1300	57	54
24	3279	1597	1597	1682	40	126
*25	3244	1694	1694	1550	40	56
26	3200	2000	2000	1200	40	118
27	3050	2050	1089	2000	46	47
28	3046	2126	2126	850	48	48
29	2964	2208	2548	416	36	108
30	2900	650	650	2250	43	89
31	2845	2200	2500	345	41	162
32	2800	1400	2200	600	22	38
33	2632	1078	1078	1554	45	100
34	2584	1900	2000	584	50	91
35	2575	2000	2000	575	53	101
36	2549	1374	1374	1155	47	90
37	2425	1500	1750	675	41	140
38	2387	674	1274	439	53	82
39	2330	1430	1100	1230	45	45
40	2317	1350	1350	467	50	47
41	2136	2136	2136	2136	42	80

Appendix A. Continued

42	3130	1000	1300	900	45	42
43	8091	1163	1220	846	30	83
44	2030	960	900	1100	31	31
45	1210	1310	200	600	28	64
46	1074	1120	420	1454	54	62
47	1250	350	300	1050	23	30
48	1633	1230	1230	400	41	160
49	1627	791	676	752	36	28
50	1045	340	340	405	33	70
51	-----	-----	-----	-----	43	99
52	-----	-----	-----	-----	38	86
53	-----	-----	-----	-----	44	240
54	-----	-----	-----	-----	42	96
Total 126,823 92,395 97,830 70,333 2338 8049						
West River						
Total	36,570	16,466	17,813	19,137	360	757
East River						
Total	180,253	75,940	90,317	51,146	1978	4812

* Indicates departments west of the Missouri River.

Appendix D

Plandreau, So. Dak.
May 20, 1938

Dear Fellow Ag Teacher:

Enclosed please find a questionnaire on "Travel Allowance for Agriculture Teachers," which is the title of my research problem for the Master's Degree, and which I hope to complete this summer. All questions deal with information regarding travel during the 1936-37 year.

I will appreciate your cooperation in completing the form as soon as possible and returning it to me in the enclosed envelope.

I feel the results of this research will prove to be interesting and of value to all persons in Agricultural Education.

Your help is vital and all information individually presented will be confidentially treated.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

Sylvan D. Vigness
Vo-Ag Teacher
Plandreau, So. Dak.

TRAVEL FOR VOCATIONAL AGRICULTURE TEACHERS IN SOUTH DAKOTA

Please refer to your 1956-1957 A-1 reports for June, September, and January in answering the following questions.

1. How many miles did you travel in your 1956-1957 Vocational Agriculture work? (refer to 1956-57 A-1's) _____
2. How many of these miles were used for supervised farming visits? _____
3. How many miles were traveled for Vocational Agriculture inside your school service area? _____
4. How many miles were traveled for Vocational Agriculture outside your school service area? _____
5. Does your mileage contract call for a lump sum? yes _____ no _____

If your Vocational Agriculture Mileage is designated as a lump sum, check the appropriate blank for total mileage for 1956-57:

\$100.00 - \$199.00
 \$200.00 - \$299.00
 \$300.00 - \$399.00
 \$400.00 - \$499.00
 \$500.00 - and over

6. Does your mileage contract call for a set rate per mile? Yes _____ No _____

If your Vocational Agriculture mileage is designated as a set rate per mile check the appropriate blank for 1956-57:

\$.05
 \$.05½
 \$.06
 \$.06½
 \$.07
 \$.07½
 \$.08
 Over \$.08

7. If your Vocational Agriculture Mileage reimbursement is designated as a combination of items 5 and 6 above or by some other arrangement, please indicate the exact agreement.

8. If your Vocational Agriculture mileage contract is a certain rate per mile is there a limit on the number of miles or amount you can draw for re-imbursement? yes ___ no ___
9. Are you required to furnish your own transportation? yes ___ no ___
10. Is a vehicle furnished for all or any part of your Vocational Agriculture travel by your school? yes ___ no ___
11. Is your transportation a combination of questions 9 and 10 above? yes ___ no ___
12. If school bus, carry all, or other form of school vehicle is used, for what purpose, is it most commonly used in your Vocational Agriculture work?
(please check most common purpose)
- | | |
|-----------------|-------|
| Field trips | _____ |
| Conferences | _____ |
| State contest | _____ |
| Project visits | _____ |
| Supplies | _____ |
| Other (specify) | _____ |
13. What is the number of miles your farthest Ag student lives from high school? _____
14. What was the enrollment in your day classes in 1956-1957? _____
15. What was the total number of Supervised Farming project visits you made during the 1956-1957 school year?
(refer to the three A-1 reports for 1956-57) _____
16. Is mileage for Young Farmer and/or Adult Farmer work reported separately for purposes of mileage payment? yes ___ no ___
- What is the total number of miles traveled for Adult and/or Young Farmer work in 1956-57? _____
- What was the average enrollment in your Adult and/or Young Farmer classes in 1956-57? _____
17. Was your mileage contract adequate to meet the expenses involved for Vocational Agriculture travel required? yes ___ no ___
18. What was the approximate number of Business miles traveled in addition to your Vocational Agriculture mileage in 1956-57? _____
19. Do you receive re-imbursement for all or any part of your expenses when away on trips involving Vocational Agriculture work? yes ___ no ___

Appendix D

Flandreau, S. Dak.
June 3, 1968

Dear

I am enclosing another questionnaire with the assumption that the previous one sent was lost or misplaced. I would appreciate your consideration and an early reply. The results of this study will be used in my study for graduate work at South Dakota State College.

You will find enclosed a self-addressed envelope for your convenience in returning the questionnaire. Your cooperation will be greatly appreciated.

May I take this opportunity to thank you in advance for supplying the information requested.

Sincerely,

S. D. Vigness
Vocational Agriculture Instructor

Appendix E

Form A-1
1957-1958DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION
Division of Vocational Education
Pierre, South DakotaDue Sept. 1
Jan. 1
June 1

ACTIVITIES REPORT

Report for period _____ to _____, Agriculture Department _____

Days Spent

Supervision

Number of Project Visits _____
 Number of Prospective Student Visits _____
 Number of Projects now in Progress _____
 Number of Miles Traveled on Vocational Agric. Work _____
 Number of Miles Traveled on Other Agriculture _____
 Work (Explain) _____

P.F.A. - Number Meetings - Regular _____ Special _____
Activities:

a. _____
 b. _____
 c. _____
 d. _____
 e. _____

Activities in Cooperation with Other Agencies and
Community Work

a. _____
 b. _____
 c. _____
 d. _____
 e. _____
 f. _____
 g. _____

Total

Adult and Young Farmer Classes

(Give brief description such as enrollment, number of
meetings, topics, etc.)

Professional Improvement

a. _____
 b. _____
 c. _____

Publicity

a. _____
 b. _____
 c. _____

Report any new material, books, or equipment secured. _____

Inst for

Superintendent