

THE LEADERSHIP ATTITUDES OF FORMER NATIONAL FFA OFFICERS

S. L. Lasap, Jr.
Assistant Professor

Teacher Education
College of Agriculture
University of the Philippines

The FFA has, as one of its objectives, the development of competent, aggressive rural and agricultural leadership. Opportunities for leadership are provided through its various activities. While leadership has a vital position in the FFA program, the organization has, in terms of research, relatively little with which to assess its leadership training program. Specifically, no study has been done on the leadership attitudes of former national FFA officers.

A study¹ was conducted to determine the effects of certain variables on the leadership attitudes of former national FFA officers. These variables were: (a) office held as a national officer; (b) decade office was held; (c) occupational grouping; (d) educational attainment; (e) size of community where reared; (f) marital status; (g) size of FFA chapter and size of graduating class; (h) membership in organizations; (i) participation in community activities; and (j) adequacy of leadership training in the FFA.

The population consisted of former national FFA officers who served as Presidents, Secretaries and four Vice Presidents representing each region in the United States. There were 228 former national FFA officers from 1928 to 1970 whose addresses were secured from the National FFA Center. Fifty-nine percent of the population returned questionnaires. Of these, 128 returns were usable. For purposes of analysis, the 59 percent returns were considered representative of the population.

A five-page questionnaire was developed in cooperation with the National FFA Center to gather information on home background, size of community where reared, educational attainment, and other such demographic data. In addition, respondents' leadership activities in the FFA and other organizations and participation in community activities were also secured by means of this questionnaire.

The LOQ (Leadership Opinion Questionnaire) developed by Fleishman² was used to measure the leadership attitudes of respondents. The LOQ yielded two independent dimensions of supervisory leadership attitudes - Consideration and Structure. Consideration reflects the extent to which an individual is likely to have a job relationship with his subordinates characterized by mutual trust, respect for their ideas, consideration of their feelings, and a certain warmth between himself and them. Structure, on the other hand, reflects the extent to which an individual is likely to define and structure his own role and those of his subordinates toward goal attainment.

Analysis of variance was done to determine the effects of selected factors on leadership attitudes. Where the F values were found significant, the Newman-Keuls³ multiple range test was used. Acceptable level of significance was set at .05.

Of the selected factors (Tables 1 and 2), only size of graduating class made a significant difference in leadership attitudes. Those who came from relatively larger graduating classes tended to have low scores in both Consideration and Structure.

This finding suggests that former national FFA officers were relatively homogeneous in their personal characteristics and in their leadership attitudes.

In terms of leadership attitudes and certainly of leadership styles, it has been pointed out that the leaders do not tend to differ from their followers, i. e., "the leader's style of leadership tends to be influenced by the style in which he himself is led."⁴ The finding that former national FFA officers did not differ significantly in their leadership attitudes as seen in the influence of most of the variables, lends support to the above hypothesis. It is recommended that further comparative study of the leadership attitudes of FFA members and officers be done. Specifically, the following types of studies are recommended:

1. Comparison of the leadership attitudes of those in professional, and technical occupations between former FFA members and a random group of non-FFA members;

2. Comparison of leadership attitudes among local, state, and national FFA officers;
3. Pre and post evaluation of the leadership attitudes of FFA members in leadership training camps; and
4. Leadership attitudes and perceptions of leadership behavior among FFA officers.

TABLE 1

EFFECTS OF SELECTED FACTORS ON THE LEADERSHIP ATTITUDES OF FORMER NATIONAL FFA OFFICERS (SUMMARY OF F VALUES)

	F VALUES		
	Consideration	Structure	
1. Office held	1.12	0.34	F .95(5, 122)=2.29
2. Decade office was held	1.84	1.97	F .95(3, 124)=2.68
3. Occupational grouping	1.65	1.40	F .95(3, 124)=2.68
4. Schooling	1.84	1.83	F .95(5, 122)=2.29
5. Community where reared	0.74	0.12	F .95(2, 125)=3.04
6. Marital status	0.048 (t=.22)	1.56	(t=1.60)t .95(125) =1.66

TABLE 2
**LEVELS OF LEADERSHIP ATTITUDES AS
 AFFECTED BY SELECTED VARIABLES¹**

	F Values F	=2.68 .95(3, 124)
1. Size of chapter	.63	
2. Size of graduating class	8.026 ²	
3. Membership in organizations		
a. School	.54	
b. Community	2.15	
c. Farm	.58	
d. Professional honorary fraternal	1.49	
4. Extent of participation in activities		
a. Church	.94	
b. Civic/service clubs	1.18	
c. Politics	.89	
d. PTA	.27	
e. Social/community clubs	.57	
f. School boards	.31	
g. Civil defense	2.63	
5. Adequacy of leadership training in the FFA	.59	

¹Levels: High-High; High-Low; Low-High; Low-Low (First of the pair refers to Consideration; the second, to Structure)

²Significant at .01.

REFERENCES

¹Lasap, S. L., Jr. "The Leadership Attitudes of Former National FFA Officers," Ph.D. Dissertation, Agricultural and Extension Education, University of Maryland, 1971.

²Fleishman, Edwin A. Manual for Leadership Opinion Questionnaire, (Chicago, Illinois: Science Research Associates, 1969), available from Science Research Associates, Chicago, Illinois.

³Winer, B. J. Statistical Principles in Experimental Design (N. Y.: McGraw-Hill Book Co., 1962), pp. 80-85.

⁴Berelson, Bernard and Gary A. Steiner, Human Behavior, An Inventory of Scientific Findings, (N. Y.: Harcourt, Brace, and World, Inc., 1964), p. 376.

* * * * *