

South Dakota State University
**Open PRAIRIE: Open Public Research Access Institutional
Repository and Information Exchange**

Electronic Theses and Dissertations

1943

History of Vocational Agriculture in South Dakota High Schools, 1917-1940

Harold E. Urton

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

Recommended Citation

Urton, Harold E., "History of Vocational Agriculture in South Dakota High Schools, 1917-1940" (1943). *Electronic Theses and Dissertations*. 2321.

<https://openprairie.sdstate.edu/etd/2321>

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.

HISTORY OF VOCATIONAL AGRICULTURE

IN SOUTH DAKOTA HIGH SCHOOLS

1917-1940

by

THIS BOOK DOES
NOT CIRCULATE

H. E. Urton

A Thesis Submitted to the Faculty of South Dakota State College
of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts in Partial Fulfillment of the
Requirements for the Degree of Master of Science.

July 1943

SOUTH DAKOTA STATE COLLEGE LIBRARY

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The history of vocational agricultural education in South Dakota could not be written without giving special recognition to the services of Dr. C. R. Wiseman who is now Head of the Education Department of South Dakota State College, Brookings, South Dakota. Although at the present time he devotes only a small amount of his time to agricultural education work, he still is vitally interested in the program and is always generous with his advice and counsel. The time that he has devoted to vocational education and the influence that he has had in shaping the program is deeply appreciated by the workers in vocational education in South Dakota. Dr. Wiseman has shown a great interest in this thesis and has been very helpful in its preparation through his suggestions and constructive criticisms and the writer deeply appreciates his assistance.

The writer is also greatly indebted to Mr. J. F. Hines, State Superintendent of Public Instruction, who made all of the reports and records on file in the State Department available for use in this study.

OUTLINE

HISTORY OF VOCATIONAL AGRICULTURE IN SOUTH DAKOTA HIGH SCHOOLS

1917-1940

	Page
Section I. Introduction	1
Section II. Establishment of the program of vocational agricultural education in South Dakota	2
A. Acceptance of benefits of Smith-Hughes Act by legislature - 1917	2
1. Provides for promotion of vocational education	
2. Provides for cooperation with state in promotion of such education in agriculture and the trades and industries	
3. Provides for cooperation with states in preparation of teachers of vocational subjects	
4. Appropriates money	
5. Creates State Board of Education	
(a) Membership	
B. Adoption of plan by State Board for the administration of program	3
C. Approval of plan by Federal Board - 1917	4
D. Formulation of course of study, standards for approved schools, program for teacher training	4
Section III. Development of the program from 1919 to 1940	5
A. Appointment of Prof. C. H. Brady - 1919	5
1. First schools approved	

	Page
B. Appointment of Fred E. Smith - 1920	5
C. Appointment of C. R. Wiseman - 1920	5
D. Appointment of M. A. Sharp as full-time supervisor - 1921	6
1. Increase in departments and enrollment - 1922	
2. Two-weeks summer course in shop for instructors held - 1923	
3. Reduction of funds for program - 1923	
4. Part-time work established - 1923-24	
5. Project program developed - 1924-25	
6. Evening schools and part-time classes stressed	
(a) Participation in bovine tuberculosis campaign	
E. Appointment of P. W. Danielson - 1925	10
1. Emphasis placed on community activities of instructor - 1925-26	
2. State Fair exhibits organized - 1925-26	
3. Winning livestock and dairy cattle judging teams sent to national contest 1926-27	
4. State-wide conferences for vocational agriculture instructors - 1926-27	
5. Plans formulated for state organization of students - 1928	
6. Emphasis placed on supplementary supervised practices - 1928	
F. Appointment of C. R. Wiseman - 1928	12
G. Appointment of W. P. Beard - 1929	12
1. Appropriation increased by legislature - 1929	

2. Organization of South Dakota Association of Future Farmers
 3. First F.F.A. public speaking contest - 1930
 4. Plans formulated for revision of course of study - 1929
 5. Newsletter established - 1929
 6. Appropriation decreased by legislature - 1931
 7. Permanent record cards furnished - 1931
 8. Mimeographed units of course of study furnished - 1931-32
 9. Changes in standards for approved departments - 1932
 - (a) Shop work made optional
 - (b) Equipment requirements reduced
 10. Appropriation further decreased - 1933
 11. Upward trend of salaries - 1934-35
 12. Course of study completed - 1936
- H. Appointment of H. E. Urton - 1937 19
1. State divided into districts - 1937
 - (a) Conferences held by instructors
 - (b) F.F.A. Leadership conferences
 2. Adult and part-time classes stressed - 1937
 3. Upward trend of salaries again noted - 1938
 4. Emphasis placed on improvement of supervised practice program
 5. Trend to improve teacher tenure - 1938
 6. District eliminations for F.F.A. public speaking contest established - 1939

	Page
Section IV. Tables and graphs showing development of vocational agriculture	22
A. Installation of vocational agriculture departments	23
B. Number and enrollment of vocational agriculture departments	30
C. Number of vocational agriculture departments in South Dakota	31
D. Enrollment in vocational agriculture in S.Dak.	32
Section V. Future Farmers of America	33
A. Plans formulated for organization	33
B. Charter granted - 1929	34
C. Scope of activities	34
D. State Farmers	34
E. American Farmers	34
F. Table - number of chapters and membership of F.F.A.	36
G. Graph - number of F.F.A. chapters	37
H. Graph - F.F.A. membership	38
I. Graph - distribution of vocational agriculture departments	40
Section VI. Bibliography	

LIST OF TABLES

Table		Page
I.	Installation of Vocational Agriculture Departments	23
II.	Number and Enrollment of Vocational Agriculture Departments in South Dakota	30
III.	Number of Chapters and Membership of South Dakota Association of Future Farmers of America	36

LIST OF GRAPHS

Graph		Page
1.	Number of Vocational Agriculture Departments in South Dakota	31
2.	Enrollment in Vocational Agriculture in South Dakota	32
3.	Number of F.F.A. Chapters in South Dakota	37
4.	F.F.A. Membership in South Dakota	38
5.	Distribution of vocational agriculture departments	40

LIST OF TABLES

Table		Page
I.	Installation of Vocational Agriculture Departments	23
II.	Number and Enrollment of Vocational Agriculture Departments in South Dakota	30
III.	Number of Chapters and Membership of South Dakota Association of Future Farmers of America	36

LIST OF GRAPHS

Graph		Page
1.	Number of Vocational Agriculture Departments in South Dakota	31
2.	Enrollment in Vocational Agriculture in South Dakota	32
3.	Number of F.F.A. Chapters in South Dakota	37
4.	F.F.A. Membership in South Dakota	38
5.	Distribution of vocational agriculture departments	40

SECTION I.

INTRODUCTION

The Vocational Agriculture Program in South Dakota has been in operation for twenty-one years. There have been many interesting developments during this period of years and the writer has attempted to trace the development of the program through this period.

All data and factual material have been taken from the minutes of the meetings of the State Board for Vocational Education, the Annual Reports of the State Supervisor to the State Board and the Descriptive and Statistical Reports made to the Federal Board for Vocational Education.

No attempt has been made to trace in detail the development of the agriculture teacher training as the writer felt that this was a topic suitable for a special study. Also the Future Farmers of America was only touched upon briefly as it is hoped that in the near future someone will make a special study of the history and development of this organization.

SECTION II.

ESTABLISHMENT OF THE PROGRAM OF VOCATIONAL AGRICULTURAL
EDUCATION IN SOUTH DAKOTA

The program of Vocational Education in the United States has developed in conformity with the provisions of the Smith-Hughes Act, 64th Congress, approved February 23, 1917, as a cooperative enterprise between the States and the Federal Government.¹

The 15th Session of the South Dakota Legislature, in session January 2, 1917 to March 2, 1917, passed the following act accepting the congressional act relative to Vocational Education:

"That the State of South Dakota does hereby accept the benefits of an act passed by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled entitled 'An Act to provide for the promotion of Vocational Education; to provide for cooperation with the States in the promotion of such education in Agriculture and the trades and industries; to provide for cooperation with the states in the preparation of teachers of vocational subjects; and to appropriate money to regulate its expenditure,' and will observe and comply with all the requirements of said Act."² and as a part of the acceptance

¹U. S. Office of Education. Vocational Education Bulletin No. 1, Statement of Policies for the Administration of Vocational Education. Revised February - 1937

²Session Laws of South Dakota 1916-1917

3.

act created a State Board of Education to administer the provisions of the Act in South Dakota and made provisions for the handling of the money paid to the state from the Federal appropriation for the promotion of Vocational Education.

The first State Board of Education in South Dakota (1917-1918)³ consisted of the following members:

C. H. Lugg, State Superintendent

Robert L. Slagle, President, South Dakota University

Elwood C. Perisho, President, South Dakota State College

J. W. Heston, President, Madison State Normal

Willis E. Johnson, President, Northern Normal

Mrs. Grace Reed Porter, Principal of Ft. Pierre High School

Nellie G. Warren, County Superintendent, Lawrence County

This newly created board held its first meeting in the office of the State Superintendent on December 1, 1917. This meeting was extended over a two-day period for the purpose of adopting plans for the administration of the program of Vocational Education in South Dakota. Mr. L. H. Garris, representing the Federal Board, was present at all meetings of the board and presented a preliminary plan for the consideration of the Board. Mr. J. C. Wright and Mr. W. I. Cramer of the Federal Board were present at the second day of the meeting and

³Minutes of Proceedings of State Board for Vocational Education December 1, 1917.

took part in the discussions. The plans were completed and adopted by the Board on December 3, 1917 and on December 4 were sent to C. A. Prosser, Director, Federal Board for Vocational Education, for consideration by the Federal Board. On December 18, 1917, the State Superintendent was notified that the Federal Board had approved the plans as drawn, thus the first formal step was taken in the establishment of the program for Vocational Education in South Dakota. This action assured the Board that they would have the full cooperation of the Federal Board in putting the program into operation.

At the regular State Board meeting on January 29, 1918 there was considerable discussion concerning courses of study to be followed in schools participating in the program, how schools were to be selected, and how teacher training funds were to be distributed. It was decided that all teacher training work in preparing teachers of Vocational Agriculture should be done at South Dakota State College, Brookings. Prof. E. D. Stivers of Brookings was appointed as Director of Agricultural Education and was instructed to formulate a course of study for Vocational Agriculture to be presented to the Board. He was also authorized to investigate schools desiring approval for Smith-Hughes aid and make his recommendations to the Board.

SECTION III.

DEVELOPMENT OF THE PROGRAM FROM 1919 TO 1940

Apparently no school made application for approval during the school year 1917-1918, as the records show that the first department approved was at the Ravinia Consolidated School on October 7, 1918.

At the regular State Board of Education meeting held on January 28, 1919, Professor C. H. Brady of South Dakota State College, who had succeeded Mr. Stivers as State Supervisor of Agricultural Education, was asked to make a complete report of all schools that had applied for Smith-Hughes aid in Agriculture. After considering Mr. Brady's report and recommendations, the Board approved applications, including that of Ravinia, from the following schools: Viborg, Wessington Springs, Brookings, Huron, and Watertown effective February 1, 1919; Clear Lake and Madison effective March 1, 1919; and Belle Fourche effective April 1, 1919. According to the records on file in the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction, these schools were the first to establish departments of Vocational Agriculture. Woonsocket, Mt. Vernon, and Salem were approved beginning September 1919.

The appointment of Fred E. Smith as State Supervisor of Agricultural Education was approved by the State Board at a meeting held January 15, 1920. Mr. Smith performed the combined duties of High School Supervisor and Supervisor of Agricultural Education. Mr. Smith served in this dual capacity until the appointment of Professor C. R. Wiseman of South Dakota State College as Supervisor of Agricultural

Education in the fall of 1920. Mr. Wiseman was to devote one fourth of his time to the supervision of vocational agriculture and three-fourths of his time was to be spent as instructor in the Education Department of South Dakota State College.

Eleven schools received reimbursement for salaries paid instructors of vocational agriculture for the year 1919-1920. There were 185 boys enrolled in vocational agriculture classes this year, which was the first full school year in which the plan had been in operation.

The growing interest in this type of work was reflected in the rapid expansion shown in the scope of the program during its second year of operation. There were eighteen approved departments of vocational agriculture with an enrollment of 367 boys. This was a 61% increase in departments and a 100% increase in enrollment. In his report to the Federal Board, Mr. Wiseman, State Supervisor of Agricultural Education makes these comments, "The situation for Vocational Agriculture looks brighter all the time.... Practically all of the schools now maintaining such courses will continue and several others have applied for the work next year We look forward to a fine year next year."

The appointment of Mr. M. A. Sharp as State Supervisor of Agricultural Education was announced August 1, 1921. This was a great step forward, as it was the first time that a supervisor had been able to devote his full time to the program of Agricultural Education. On

the same date, Professor Wiseman began giving his full time to teacher training work at South Dakota State College. This insured a supply of South Dakota trained instructors for the vocational agriculture departments within the state.

Despite adverse crop conditions and low prices for farm products in 1921, six new departments were added and only two schools discontinued the work. As a result there were twenty-two departments in the state with 462 boys enrolled in the classes. During the year four schools also conducted part-time classes for out-of-school youths and adult farmers.

Evidently there was considerable interest in vocational agriculture among the schools this year as Mr. Sharp reports, "No effort has been made to get new schools on the list for next year as there are several schools wanting the work as soon as funds are available."⁴

Five new schools were added for the year 1922-23 bringing the total number of vocational agriculture departments to twenty-seven. Considerable emphasis was placed upon shop work during the period. A special two-weeks summer course in shop for agriculture instructors was conducted by Mr. Sharp at State College in an effort to improve the quality of shop instruction in the schools.

⁴Annual Report of State Supervisor of Agricultural Education
June 30, 1922.

The following statements taken from the State Supervisor's report for the year give briefly the status of agricultural education in the state at this time:

"The Agricultural Education situation within the state has improved somewhat during the past year. The superintendents and school boards are becoming more familiar with the requirements of the Smith-Hughes laws and the state plans. The patrons of the schools are beginning to appreciate what the work is doing for the boys and the teachers as a whole are doing better work. On the other hand the state legislature reduced the general fund for the entire education department and for the next two years there will be practically no state funds to match federal funds as has been done in the past."

There were thirty-two approved vocational agriculture departments in 1923-1924. More schools were desirous of establishing the work but this was not possible due to the curtailment of the appropriation made by the legislature for the Education Department bringing about a reduction in funds available for vocational work. The State Supervisor in his annual report to the State Board of Education mentions several points in which improvement has been made during the past year. He points out that a great improvement in classroom methods, a higher grade of home projects, and improvement of quality of equipment has been made. A new method of doing part-time work was tried out this year. Under this plan the work for the regular class is divided into

definite complete units and the out-of-school boys come in to a regular class for as many of these units as they have time to take. Five schools tried out this plan of part-time work and report it was very successful.

In his report for the year 1924-1925 Mr. Sharp calls this the best year vocational agriculture has ever had in South Dakota. Much improvement over previous years was shown in projects. Plans for a long time project program were developed this year. The boys were encouraged to have more than one project in operation and to enlarge the scope of their project program each year they were in the work. He states, "We are really attempting to prepare these boys for farming."

Twelve schools offered classes to out-of-school youth and adult farmers this year. Three teachers conducted evening schools and nine conducted part-time classes. The plan of the previous year for part-time classes was followed and proved to be very successful. Many of the agriculture departments took an active part in the bovine tuberculosis campaign that was in progress. The previous year the agriculture teachers had as one of their goals the eradication of tuberculosis in cattle in their district by 1926. Considerable progress has been reported this year.

The report for 1924-25 shows that there were fewer departments this year than last year but the supervisor states this was due to the discontinuance of several weak departments.⁵

⁵Federal Board for Vocational Education for 1925 - Descriptive Report by State Supervisor of Agricultural Education.

Mr. P. W. Danielson was appointed State Supervisor of Vocational Agricultural Education on July 1, 1925. Twenty-seven departments were in operation this year and although unfavorable weather conditions prevailed, a very successful year in vocational agriculture was indicated. More emphasis was placed on community activities of the instructor than ever before.

The State Fair Board offered prizes for vocational agriculture exhibits in crops and shop work and also free admission ribbons to the Fair for the instructors and the boys. There was much favorable comment regarding the entries of the vocational agriculture departments in their division. Twenty part-time and evening schools for out-of-school groups were conducted during the year.

Despite a continued lack of rainfall during 1926, resulting in poor crops and a low farm income, considerable progress was made in the vocational education program. There was a nine per cent increase in enrollment although only one new department was added this year, making a total of twenty-eight departments with an enrollment of 476. Several other schools made inquiries concerning departments but were not approved because of the lack of sufficient funds for reimbursement. The Vocational Agriculture departments had much larger and better exhibits at the State Fair which encouraged the State Fair Board to make arrangements to include several more entries the following year. Twenty-eight local schools and community fairs were promoted

by the agriculture instructors through the cooperation of bankers, merchants, and farm organizations. There were nine part-time and twenty-one evening schools held during the year. There was no special reimbursement for this work. Arrangements were made to send the winning teams in livestock and dairy cattle judging at the State Contests to the National Vocational Agriculture Judging Contests held in Kansas City at the time of the American Royal Livestock Show. Two state-wide conferences for vocational agriculture instructors were held this year.

Twenty-nine high schools offered courses in vocational agriculture during the year 1927-1928 and a continued increase in enrollment was shown. The departments had an exhibit at the State Fair and a large number of instructors brought their classes to the Fair for at least one day. Many schools also promoted school and community fairs during the year. Twenty-six of the twenty-nine departments entered the state judging contests conducted by South Dakota State College. South Dakota was also represented at the National Livestock and Judging Contests for Vocational Agriculture students held at Kansas City and Memphis. Plans were made at the time of the state judging contests for a state organization of vocational agriculture students. It was reported that all of the departments had local organizations and plans were made to perfect a state organization by the end of the next year. Considerable emphasis was placed on the program of supplementary supervised practices to be carried on

by the boys in addition to their regular productive projects. Two state-wide conferences and one district conference was held during the year. Part-time and evening school classes were conducted at eleven departments with a total of 371 in attendance. The reports indicated a very successful year. Crop conditions were somewhat better resulting in improvement of productive projects carried on by the boys; contests were participated in by more of the schools; the part-time and evening school program was fairly successful; and plans for a state organization of students of vocational agriculture departments were made, all of which causes the writer to believe that a very successful program was carried out during the year.

Mr. P. W. Danielson resigned the position as State Supervisor of Agricultural Education on September 1, 1928 to take up supervisory work in agricultural education in the Indian Service. He had served as state supervisor for the past three years. C. R. Wiseman, who was in charge of agricultural teacher training in South Dakota State College, was appointed to serve as both state supervisor and teacher trainer until January 1. On January 1, 1929, Mr. W. P. Beard, Agriculture Instructor at Brookings High School, was appointed State Supervisor of Agricultural Education and immediately assumed his new duties. There were only twenty-five schools approved for federal aid this year with an enrollment of 535 boys. Of these twenty-five departments, eighteen were full time departments and seven were half-time

departments. More interest in the program was indicated by an increased appropriation by the legislature. One of the most important developments of the year was the organization of the South Dakota Association of the Future Farmers of America. The development of this organization will be given in another section of this history.

Twenty-four of the twenty-five schools had teams entered in the annual judging contests at South Dakota State College. Two state-wide conferences for instructors and five district conferences were held. The proper method of teaching was demonstrated and discussed at these meetings. A longtime program for vocational agriculture in South Dakota was worked out by the State Supervisor and presented to the instructors at the annual conference.

Twenty-seven departments were approved in 1929-30 for aid with an enrollment of 613 boys. Indicative of the increasing interest and recognition of the value of the work, no schools are dropping it this year. The first F.F.A. public speaking contest was held in connection with the State Vocational Judging Contests at Brookings. A charter was granted to the State Association by the National Association in October of 1929. Plans were made this year for working out a course of study for vocational agriculture. A committee from three farm organizations, the Farm Bureau, the Farmers' Union, and the Grange, worked with the State Supervisor in laying plans for the development of this course of study. Previous

to this time a vocational agriculture newsletter had been issued by the Teacher Training Department of South Dakota State College since the inception of vocational agricultural education in 1918. Beginning in September, 1929, a mimeographed monthly newsletter was sent to the teachers, superintendents, and others interested in Vocational Agriculture from the State Supervisor's Office. Special efforts were made to improve the records kept by the boys on their projects by encouraging greater accuracy and more complete records. Efforts were also made to increase the scope of the supplementary supervised practices, carried on by the boys in addition to their productive projects.

The year 1930-1931 was a difficult year for vocational agricultural education in South Dakota. The crop and economic conditions in the state were worse than at any time since vocational education had started. These conditions caused many boards to begin thinking seriously of a retrenchment program in the operation of their local schools. To add to the uncertainty, the 1931 legislature eliminated the state appropriation provided for state aid to schools with vocational departments. Despite these unfortunate conditions, there were thirty vocational agriculture departments this year, an increase of three departments over the previous year and an enrollment of 812 boys in agriculture classes compared to 613 enrolled in 1929-1930.

This increase in enrollment was due to increases in eighteen of the old departments and the addition of three new departments. There were nineteen departments operating on a full time basis and the remaining eleven departments were on a half-time basis. Seventeen departments had exhibits at the State Fair filling all but five of the forty-five lots listed. There was a marked decrease in the number of departments offering part-time classes and in the enrollment in these classes but an increase was noted in the evening schools. There was a reported enrollment of 567 in the evening school classes conducted by twelve instructors. Work was continued on the course of study for vocational agriculture and permanent record cards were furnished the departments to keep records of students after they had left school.

Despite adverse agricultural conditions in the summer of 1931 which resulted in poor crops and a lowered farm income, only three departments were discontinued and to offset this loss, two new departments were established leaving a total of twenty-nine departments for the year 1931-1932 as compared to the previous year's total of thirty departments. There was a slight increase in enrollment even though there was one less department. As evidence of the continued interest of adult farmers in the vocational agriculture program, sixteen evening schools were held with a reported attendance of 659 farmers. Five mimeographed units of the agriculture course of study

were distributed to the teachers during the year and work is continuing toward the completion of the course of study. A number of schools shifted to the ninety-minute period for their agriculture classes. This provides an opportunity for the boys to have four years of vocational agriculture rather than two or three as was provided under the old plan.

Work was begun in three new departments in the fall of 1932 bringing the total number of departments up to a new high of thirty-two. In line with the general economic conditions, some changes in standards were approved. Shop work was made optional and equipment requirements were reduced. Another financial set back for vocational education occurred when the legislature appropriated only enough money for this program to provide for state supervision of the work. Considerable emphasis was placed on the quality of the supervised practice program. At the district conferences this problem was discussed and the supervisor demonstrated with the class the development of some phases of project work.

Although the downward trend of general agricultural conditions continued, there were more schools with agriculture departments during the year 1933-1934 than at any time previous and there was also an increase in enrollment in these departments. There were no departments discontinued this year. Mr. Beard, State Supervisor, in his annual report gives us one of the chief reasons why vocational agriculture

has not followed the general agricultural trend as follows:

"There is an increased recognition of the fact that the future of the state rests upon the future of its farm people and therefore the schools should contribute to the training of these people."

Ten departments carried on evening schools and five held part-time classes, serving a total of 522 out-of-school youth and adult farmers.

Although no new departments were added during the school year of 1934-1935, certain encouraging signs were noted. There was a decided increase in enrollment reaching a total of 1257 boys and a decided increase in the interest and development in the F.F.A. culminated in the election of a South Dakota boy, Andrew Sundstrom, as National President of the F.F.A. There was a definite upward trend in the salaries of instructors this year indicating a realization on the part of the school boards and communities of the value of the work being offered in these departments. There was a considerable turnover among the instructors this year due largely to more attractive salaries offered in various federal positions.

Inquiries were received from many schools requesting information regarding the procedure to follow in the establishment of vocational agriculture departments. That these schools were actually interested

in taking part in the program was evidenced by the progress made during the following two years.

Fifteen schools added vocational agriculture departments in the fall of 1935. This made a total of forty-nine schools maintaining approved departments with an enrollment of 1721 boys. In addition to those schools approved, a considerable number had applied for approval which could not be granted due to the lack of qualified instructors. Improved weather conditions during the summer of 1935 resulted in a much improved supervised practice program with a large share of the boys showing a profit in their productive enterprises and a corresponding increase in optimism regarding their future success. A course of study for vocational agriculture was completed, although it was not printed until the fall of 1936.

This course of study included suggested courses for each of the four years of vocational agriculture, time allotment and sequence for both general farming areas and ranch areas, a course outline with suggested activities, and also a unit on building a supervised farming program which included budget planning, record keeping and the development of a long time program. This course of study is used as a guide by all instructors when making out a course to be followed in their local department. This course of study was developed through the combined efforts of agriculture instructors, the Teacher Training Department and Mr. W. P. Beard, State Supervisor.

Although there was an almost total small grain crop failure in the summer of 1936, and a very small corn crop due to the extreme drouth, twelve schools added vocational agriculture departments in the fall of 1936. This concrete evidence of the high regard that both school men and farm people have for the vocational agriculture program was never more clearly shown than by this tremendous expansion in the face of discouraging agricultural conditions.

Sixteen agriculture instructors conducted either part-time or evening school classes this year for over 200 out-of-school youth and adult farmers.

In the summer of 1936 Mr. Beard, the State Supervisor, took over the agriculture teacher training duties in the Education Department at South Dakota State College. He served in the dual role of teacher trainer and state supervisor until January 1, 1937 when Mr. H. E. Urton, of Canton, was appointed State Supervisor and at the same time Mr. Beard accepted an appointment in the Department of Agriculture in Washington, D. C. Mr. R. R. Bentley of Mapleton, Iowa, was selected to carry on the agriculture teacher training work.

The State course of study in vocational agriculture was published and distributed in the fall of 1936 and was immediately put into use by the instructors.

The state was divided into districts and the instructors in these districts held several meetings during the year. The time at the fall meetings was devoted to F.F.A. leadership training and at the other meetings general problems were discussed.

Three new departments were established in the fall of 1937 making a total of sixty-three active departments serving forty counties in the state. The early summer drought of 1937 and the invasion by grasshoppers in some sections resulted in a discouraging productive project situation in most sections of the state. Many of these projects resulted in complete failures. There was an increased enrollment in the vocational agriculture departments due to the three new departments added although very few of the established departments showed any decrease despite the discouraging outlook. Thirteen instructors conducted evening schools for adult farmers and three part-time classes were carried on. The long period of adverse weather conditions have made it very difficult to expand this phase of the vocational agriculture program as much as is desirable but continued stress is being placed upon the importance of the development of this field of activity. Considerable emphasis was placed on the improvement of the supervised practice program, through better planning and more complete records, and a steady improvement is noted in this phase of the work.

The same number of schools were operating departments in 1938-1939 as the previous year but there was an increase of almost

200 in the enrollment indicating that the interest in this work is growing. As a further indication of the increasing realization of the importance of the work, the average salary of the instructors was approximately \$100 higher than the previous year. In contrast to previous years when a large number of men were changing to other positions, only three men moved to new positions during the year which is a great step toward the stabilization of the program.

District eliminations in the F.F.A. public speaking contest were held for the first time this year, the winner in each district being eligible to compete in the state contest held at Brookings. Five new departments were added in the fall of 1939 bringing the number of schools with vocational agriculture departments to sixty-eight and a new high enrollment of 2443 was reached.

SECTION IV.

TABLES AND GRAPHS SHOWING DEVELOPMENT OF VOCATIONAL AGRICULTURE

As shown by Tables I and II and Graphs 1 and 2 on pages 23 - 32, with one or two years' exception, there has been a steady growth in the number of departments and the enrollments in the vocational agriculture classes since the establishment of the work in 1919. This is especially significant when it is remembered that South Dakota has experienced a number of years of severe drouth and crop failures resulting in a serious agricultural situation. It will also be noted that with two exceptions the growth has been gradual which indicates that the growth has been a result of the recognition of the value of the program. Judging from the inquiries that have been received from schools interested in establishing this work, there is every reason to believe that this expansion will continue for a number of years and that an increasingly large number of farm boys will be able to avail themselves of this opportunity to become better fitted to enter the business of farming.

TABLE I. INSTALLATION OF VOCATIONAL AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENTS

SCHOOL	1918	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	
	1919	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	
Agar
Alcester
Alexandria
Arlington
Armour
Barnard
Belle Fourche	#	x	x	(2)																			
Beresford
Bonesteel
Bowdle
Bridgewater
Britton
Brookings	-	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	
School of Ag.
Bryant
Burke

SCHOOL	1918	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	
	1919	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40		
Canton	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	
Carthage	x	x	x			
Castlewood	x	x	x	x	x										
Centerville	x	x	x	x	x	x	
Chester	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	
Clark	x	x	x
Clear Lake		o	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	(5)											
Cresbard	x	x	x	(10)															
Dallas	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	
Dell Rapids	x	x	x	x
DeSmet	x	x
Dupree	x		x	x	x	
Egan	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	
Emery	x	x
Farmer	x	x	(10)															
Flandreau	x	x	x	x
Frederick	x	x	x	x	
Garretson	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	
Geddes	x	x							x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	

SCHOOL	1918	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	
	1919	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	
Gettysburg
Gregory
Groton
Hartford
Hecla
Highmore
Hill City
Hitchcock
Hudson
Humboldt
Hurley
Huron
Java
Irene
Lake Andes
Lake Preston
Lane
Lemmon
Lennox

SCHOOL	1918	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	
Leola
Letcher	.	.	.	x	x	x	x	x	.	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	
McIntosh	x	x	(3)	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
McLaughlin	x	x	x	x
Madison	.	o	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	(11)	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Madison-Eastern	
Madison-Franklin	
Madison-Orland	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	
Menno	
Milbank	
Miller	
Mission	
Monroe	
Mt. Vernon	.	.	.	"	x	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Murdo	
Newell	
Northville	
Onida	
Parkston	

SCHOOL	1918	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	
Plankinton	x		x		x															
Platte
Ravinia		'	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	(11)														
Redfield	
Roslyn	
Rutland	
St. Lawrence	
Salem	.	.	.	"	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x(7)	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	
Scotland	
Sisseton	
Spencer	
Timber Lake	
Valley Springs	
Veblen	
Viborg		-	x	x			x																	
Volga	
Wagner	
Wekonda	
Wakpala	

SCHOOL	1918	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	
	1919	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	
Wall
														x	x	x	x		x	x	x		
Watertown	-	x	x	x																			
Waverly	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Webster
																							x
Wessington
																			x	x	x	x	x
Wessington Springs	-	x	x	x	x	x																	
																							x
White River
																			x	x	x	x	x
Winner
														x	x	x	x	x	x				
Wolsey
								x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	
Woonsocket	"	x	x																				

KEY FOR TABLE I

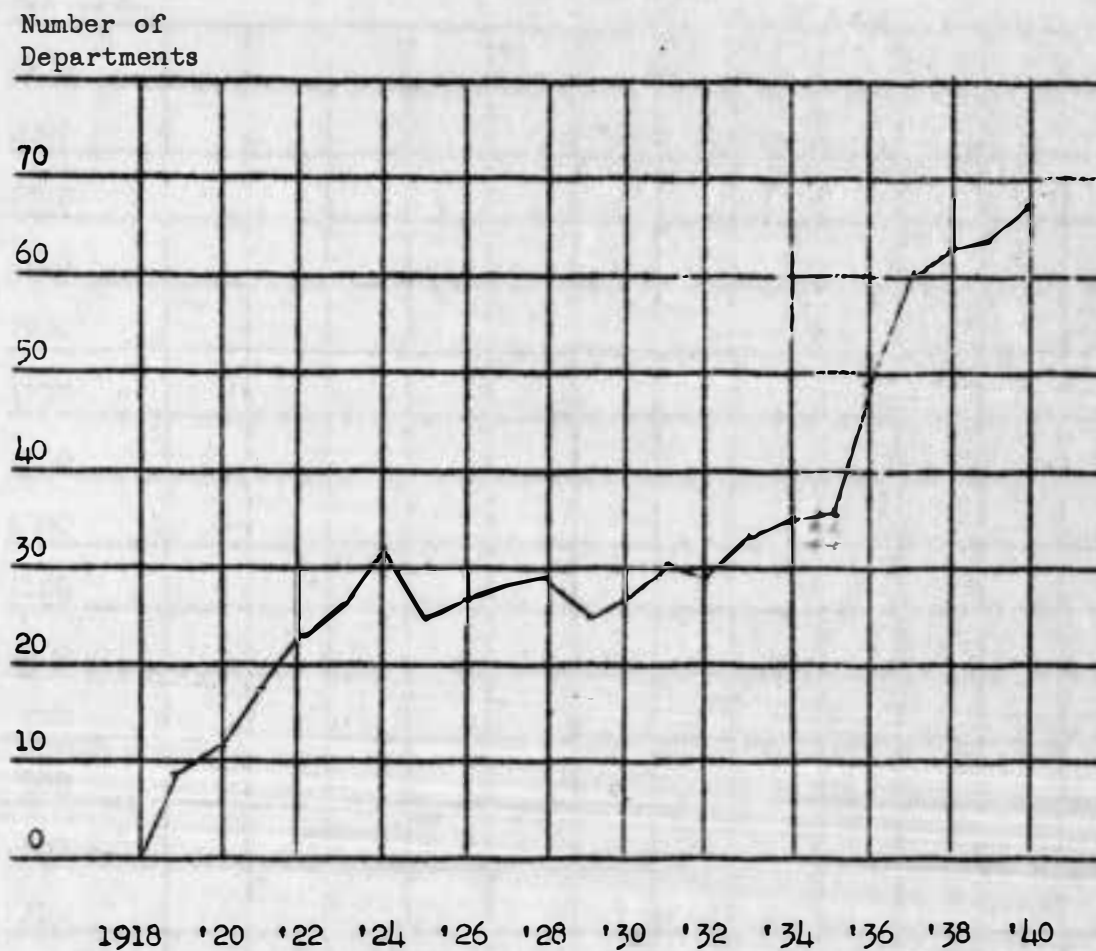
- ' Approved October 7, 1918
- Approved effective February 1, 1919
- o Approved effective March 1, 1919
- # Approved effective April 1, 1919
- " Approved September, 1919
- x Agriculture Department established

- (1) Report for year 1924-1925 states, "This department will be discontinued for several reasons mainly, lack of room in the new building."
- (2) Dropped July 1, 1921
- (3) Federal descriptive report for 1924-1925 states that department will be discontinued as there are not sufficient boys in the community to meet the minimum enrollment.
- (4) Dropped September 1, 1926, due to lack of adequate room.
- (5) 28 departments received reimbursement for year ending June 30, 1929 although there were only 25 departments during the school year. Humboldt, Franklin, and Clear Lake retained instructor after June 30, 1928 to supervise projects but dropped departments before September 1, 1928.
- (6) Bonesteel dropped August 1, 1929
- (7) Salem and Spencer not given in statistical report but listed in financial report and directory.
- (8) Descriptive report for 1924 states 8 new departments. This would make the number for 1922-1923 - 24
- (9) Report for year ending June 30, 1932 states, "Geddes had a vocational agriculture course for one year about ten years ago."
- (10) Cresbard, Farmer, Highmore, Hurley, Newell, discontinued in summer of 1924
- (11) State Report for 1925-26 states, Madison and Timber Lake were dropped due to lack of adequate room. Ravinia feels that the small attendance does not warrant keeping the department due to the high per capita cost.

TABLE II. NUMBER AND ENROLLMENT
OF
VOCATIONAL AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENTS IN SOUTH DAKOTA
1918-1940

<u>Year</u>	<u>Number of Schools</u>	<u>Enrollment</u>
1918-1919	9	*
1919-1920	11	185
1920-1921	18	367
1921-1922	22	462
1922-1923	27	458
1923-1924	32	468
1924-1925	26	484
1925-1926	27	511
1926-1927	28	476
1927-1928	29	547
1928-1929	25	535
1929-1930	27	613
1930-1931	30	812
1931-1932	29	815
1932-1933	32	962
1933-1934	34	995
1934-1935	34	1257
1935-1936	49	1721
1936-1937	60	2025
1937-1938	63	2081
1938-1939	63	2285
1939-1940	68	2456

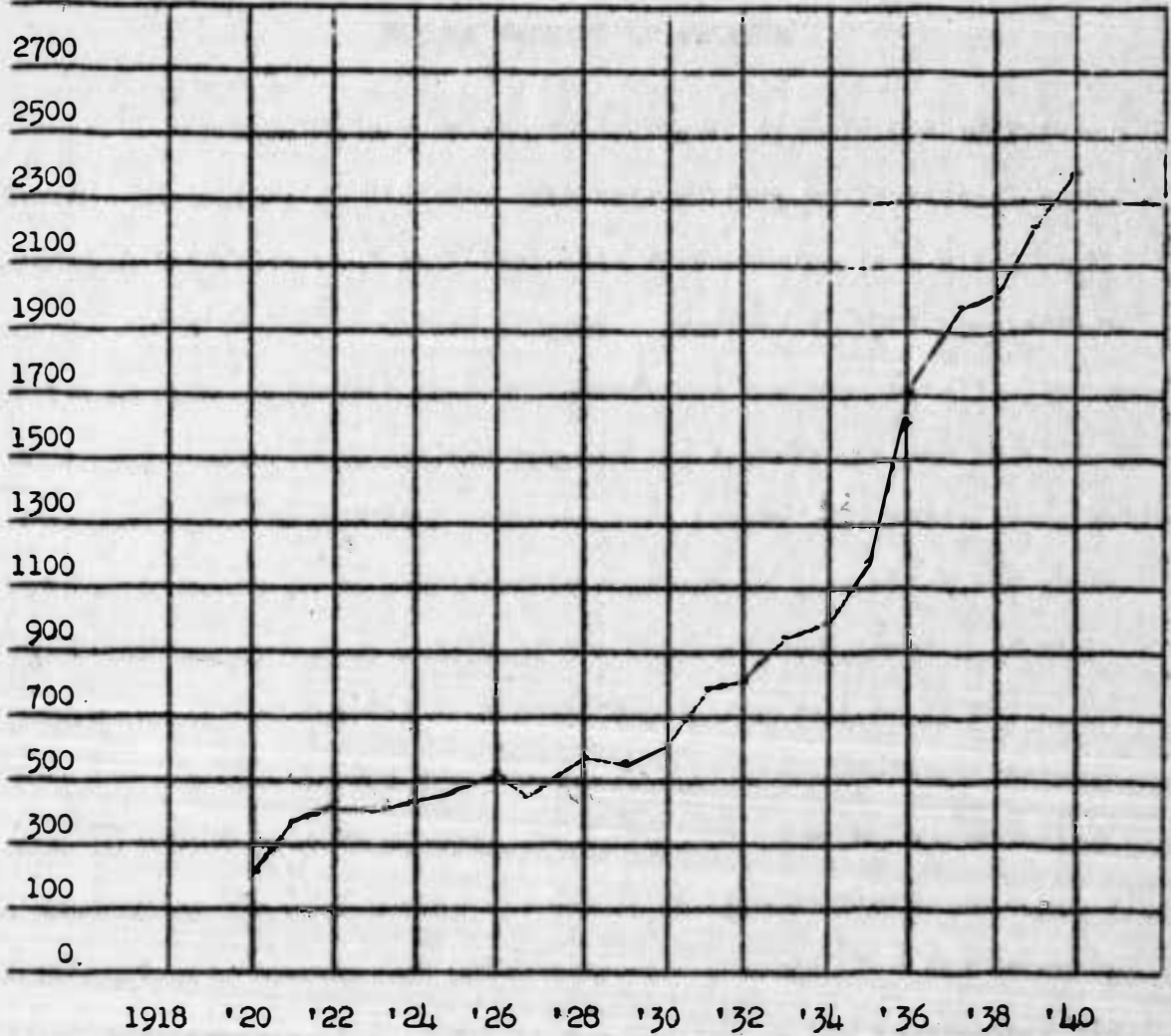
* No figures available



Graph 1. Number of Vocational Agriculture Departments in South Dakota
1918-1940*

*by school years

Numbers
Enrolled



Graph 2. Enrollment in Vocational Agriculture Departments in S. Dak.

1918-1940*

*by school years

SECTION V.

FUTURE FARMERS OF AMERICA

A brief history of the South Dakota Association of Future Farmers of America is included with this History of Vocational Agricultural Education as I feel that this organization is a vital part of the vocational agriculture program. Previous to 1929 some effort had been made to perfect an organization for the boys enrolled in vocational agriculture classes and many of the departments had local organizations. No official name had been adopted for these organizations but there seemed to be considerable interest in them which was given added impetus by the formation of the National organization of the Future Farmers of America at Kansas City in the fall of 1928.

At the time of the vocational agriculture judging contests held in Brookings in May, 1929, State Supervisor W. P. Beard called a meeting of the instructors to discuss the possibilities of organizing a South Dakota Association and a temporary constitution was drawn up. After considerable discussion, it was decided by the instructors that such action would be desirable and at a joint meeting of the boys and instructors it was decided to proceed with the organization of the South Dakota Association of Future Farmers of America and state officers were elected.

Thirteen schools had representatives at this meeting. A committee was appointed to make necessary constitutional revisions and

report at the time of the agriculture instructors' conference in August. At this time the constitution was approved and an application was made to the national organization for a state charter. This charter was granted in October 1929 and applications for local charters were immediately received for consideration. Fifteen charters had been issued at the time of the first annual meeting of the South Dakota Chapter of Future Farmers of America with 354 paid up members.

The increasing interest in the Future Farmers of America is evidenced by the ever widening scope of activities participated in by its members. Many chapters are engaging in cooperative activities such as the growing of low prussic acid cane, hybrid corn, new varieties of grains, certified seed, which provides for an opportunity for the boys to obtain practical experience in the production and sale of new and improved crops and in addition a distinct service to the community is performed by the introduction of new and improved crops and practices.

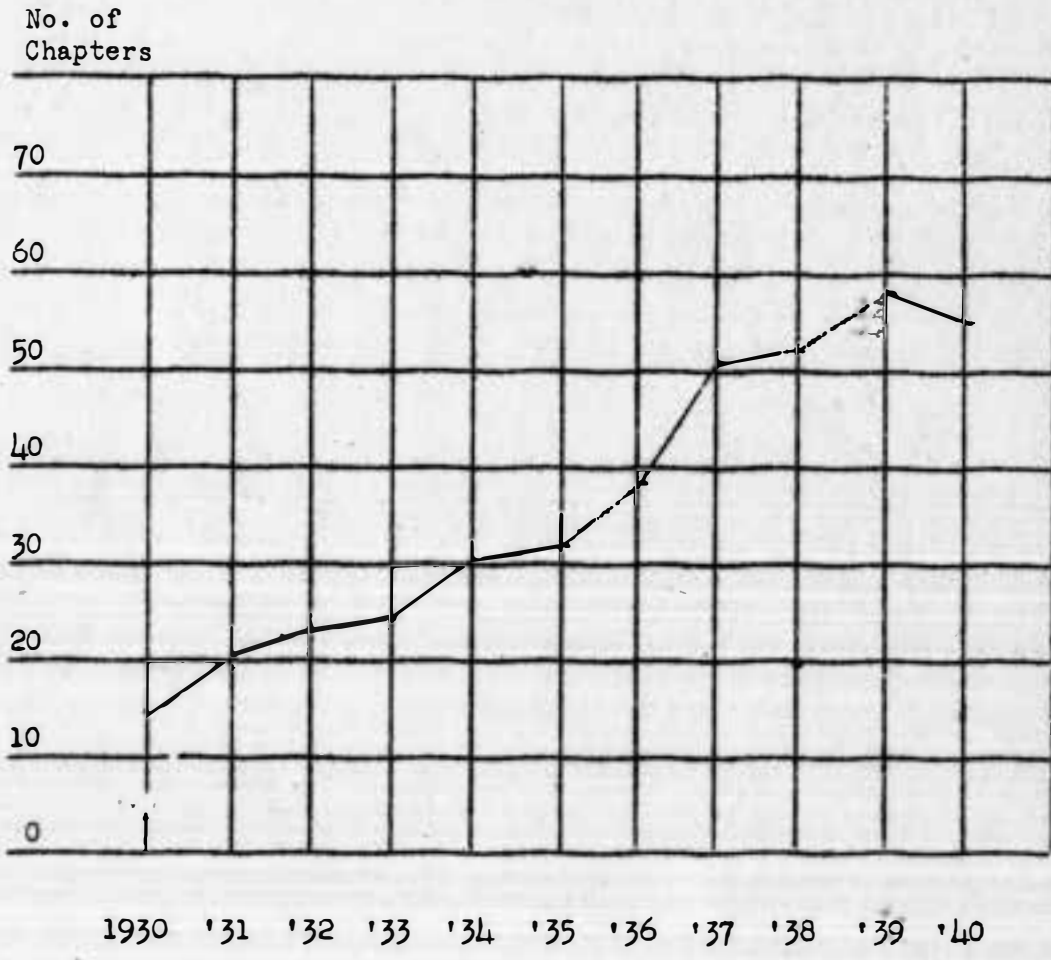
During the 10-year period since the establishment of the F.F.A. one hundred forty boys have been raised to the State Farmer Degree, the highest award which can be given by the State Association. Nine boys have received the American Farmer award and one of these nine, Andrew Sundstrom, was elected national president of the Future Farmers of America.

The organization has grown steadily and rapidly. The annual

report, dated August 1, 1939, disclosed the fact that there were fifty-nine active chapters with 1954 paid up members with indications of a continued increase in both number of chapters and membership this year.

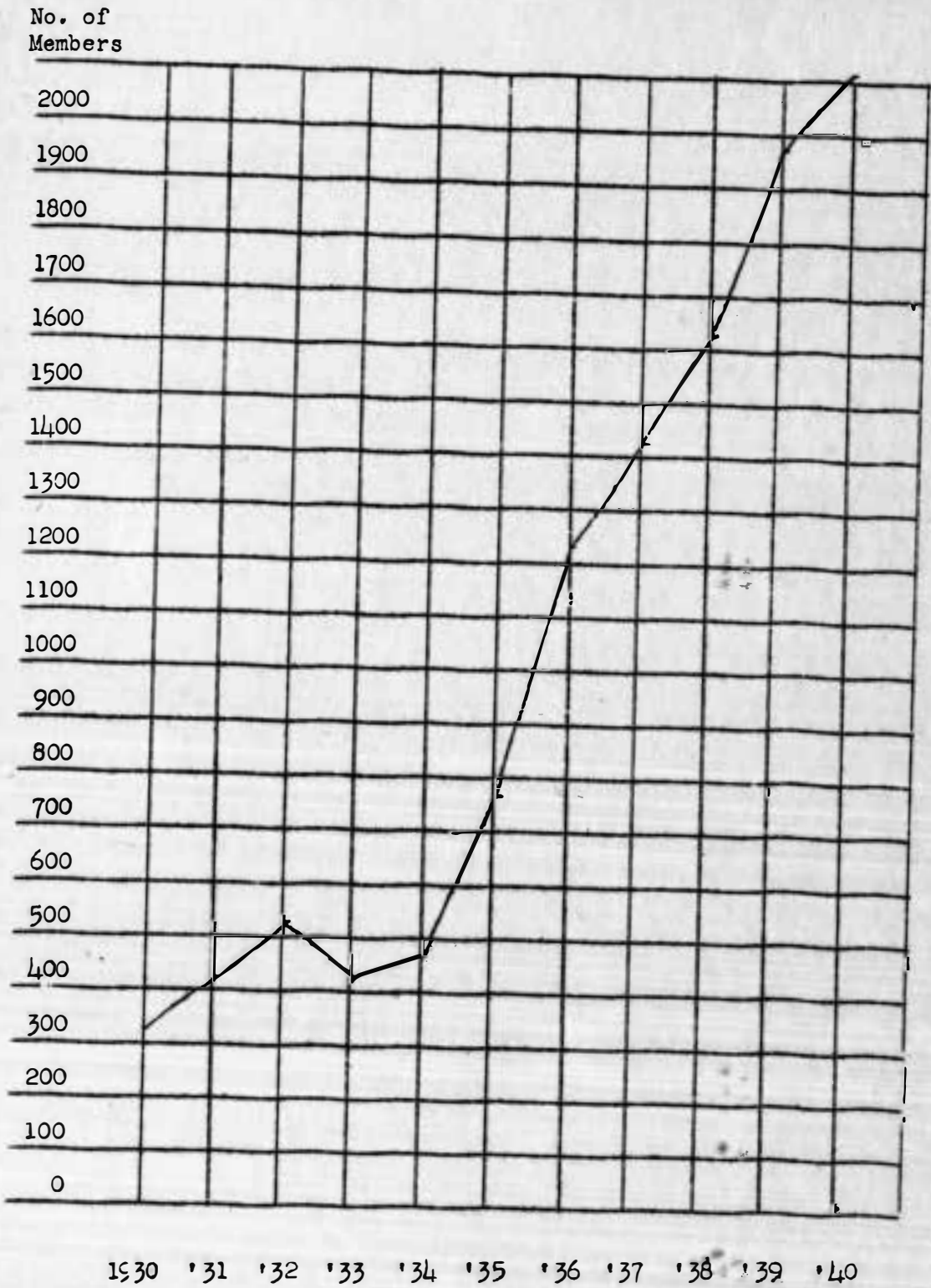
TABLE III. NUMBER OF CHAPTERS AND MEMBERSHIP OF SOUTH DAKOTA ASSOCIATION
OF
FUTURE FARMERS OF AMERICA
1929-1940

<u>Year.</u>	<u>Number of Chapters</u>	<u>Membership</u>
1929-1930	15	354
1930-1931	20	405
1931-1932	23	538
1932-1933	25	406
1933-1934	30	463
1934-1935	31	766
1935-1936	39	1216
1936-1937	50	1411
1937-1938	51	1630
1938-1939	59	1954
1939-1940	56	2182



Graph 3. Number of F.F.A. Chapters in South Dakota
1929-1940*

*by school years





Graph 4. F. F. A. Membership in South Dakota
1929-1940*


*by school years

KEY TO GRAPH 5

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Agar | 35. Lemmon |
| 2. Alcester | 36. Lennox |
| 3. Armour | 37. Leola |
| 4. Barnard | 38. Letcher |
| 5. Beresford | 39. McLaughlin |
| 6. Bowdle | 40. Madison-Eastern |
| 7. Bridgewater | 41. Madison-Orland |
| 8. Brookings | 42. Menno |
| 9. Brookings - School of Agriculture | 43. Milbank |
| 10. Bryant | 44. Miller |
| 11. Burke | 45. Monroe |
| 12. Canton | 46. Newell |
| 13. Centerville | 47. Onida |
| 14. Chester | 48. Parkston |
| 15. Clark | 49. Platte |
| 16. Dallas | 50. Redfield |
| 17. Dell Rapids | 51. Roslyn |
| 18. DeSmet | 52. St. Lawrence |
| 19. Dupree | 53. Rutland |
| 20. Egan | 54. Salem |
| 21. Emery | 55. Scotland |
| 22. Flandreau | 56. Sisseton |
| 23. Frederick | 57. Valley Springs |
| 24. Garretson | 58. Veblen |
| 25. Geddes | 59. Volga |
| 26. Gettysburg | 60. Wagner |
| 27. Gregory | 61. Wakonda |
| 28. Groton | 62. Wakpala |
| 29. Hartford | 63. Waverly |
| 30. Hill City | 64. Webster |
| 31. Hitchcock | 65. Wessington Springs |
| 32. Hudson | 66. Wessington |
| 33. Java | 67. White River |
| 34. Lake Preston | 68. Wolsey |

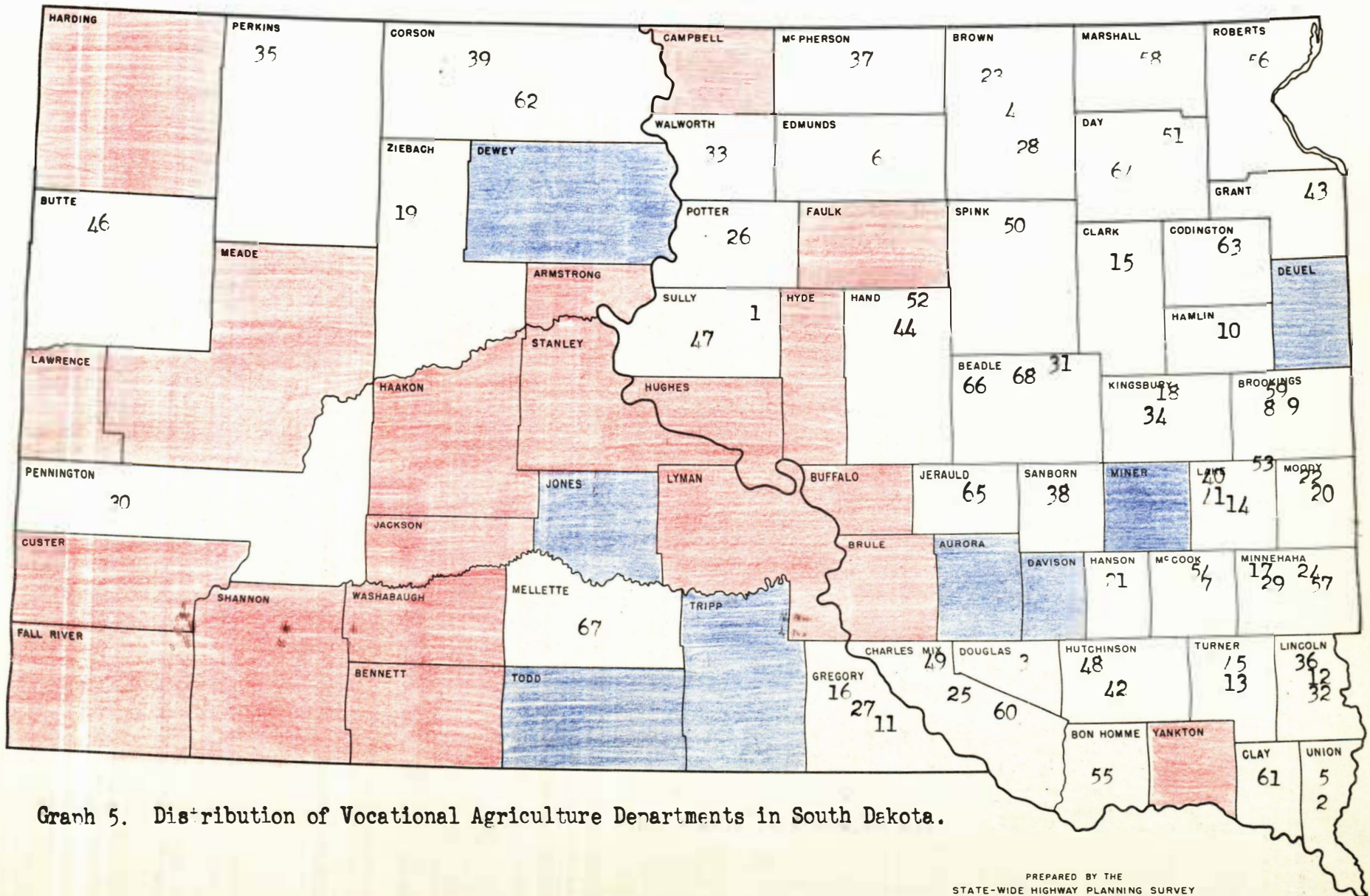
 Counties in which vocational agriculture departments have been established previously but which now have none.

 Counties in which vocational agriculture departments have not been established.

 Counties in which vocational agriculture departments are now established.

SOUTH DAKOTA

COUNTY OUTLINE MAP



Graph 5. Distribution of Vocational Agriculture Departments in South Dakota.

SECTION VI.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Newsletters, Vocational Agriculture and F.F.A.

Session Laws of the State of South Dakota - 1916-1917. Page 308
Chapter 227, S.B. 283, Section 1.

State Board for Vocational Education, Annual Statistical and Financial
Reports to the State Board for Vocational Education, 1918-1940.

State Board for Vocational Education. Minutes of Meetings, 1918-1940.

State Supervisor of Vocational Agriculture. Reports to the State Board
for Vocational Education in South Dakota, 1918-1940.

U. S. Office of Education. Vocational Education Bulletin No. 1, State-
ment of Policies for the Administration of Vocational Education, Revised
February 1937.