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Factors Influencing Retention of Senior 4-H Club Boys in Hamilton County, Tennessee

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University of Tennessee - Knoxville

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To the Graduate Council:

I am submitting herewith a thesis written by Wesley F. Rouse entitled "Factors Influencing Retention of Senior 4-H Club Boys in Hamilton County, Tennessee." I have examined the final electronic copy of this thesis for form and content and recommend that it be accepted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Master of Science, with a major in Agriculture and Extension Education.

Robert S. Dotson, Major Professor

We have read this thesis and recommend its acceptance:

Lewis H. Dickenson, Charles L. Cleland, Claire Gilbert

Accepted for the Council:

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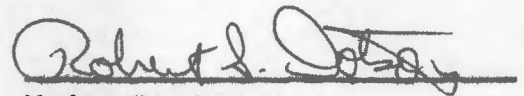
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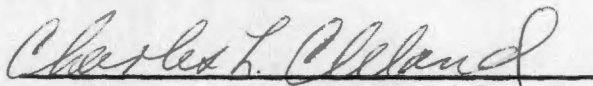
To the Graduate Council:


I am submitting herewith a thesis written by Wesley F. Rouse, Jr. entitled "Factors Influencing Retention of Senior 4-H Club Boys in Hamilton County, Tennessee." I recommend that it be accepted for nine quarter hours of credit in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Master of Science, with a major in Agricultural Extension.


Major Professor


We have read this thesis
and recommend its acceptance:







Accepted for the Council:


Dean of the Graduate School

**FACTORS INFLUENCING RETENTION OF SENIOR 4-H CLUB BOYS
IN HAMILTON COUNTY, TENNESSEE**

**A Thesis
Presented to
the Graduate Council of
The University of Tennessee**

**In Partial Fulfillment
of the Requirements for the Degree
Master of Science**

**by
Wesley F. Rouse, Jr.**

August 1964

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He also would like to express his appreciation to Dr. Charles L. Cleland for his assistance in constructing the interview schedule.

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

Cooperative Extension Service workers primarily responsible for senior boys' 4-H Club work all over the United States are faced with the continuing problem of losing Club members (6:2).*

Authorities agree that the teenage years are a searching and troubled period for many young people (24:16). These years typically comprise the age of lessening parental dependence and increasing group identity (24,275, 22:21). Recognizing these needs, 4-H Club and other youth organizations have been created and periodically revised in an effort to provide constructive guidance and learning opportunities for youth in local communities. Research conducted by Sabrosky and others indicates that a well-organized senior 4-H Club can guide youth in finding the solutions to their problems and answering many of their important questions.

4-H Club through the years has served many youth, but the majority of young people still do not have the opportunity to enjoy the benefits of 4-H Club work--particularly at the senior (approximately 14-19 years of age) level. There also are many senior youth who have dropped 4-H Club membership because they felt their needs were not being met satisfactorily through

*Numbers in parentheses refer to numbered references in the bibliography; those after the colon are page numbers.

the Club (36:46).

Generally-stated, 4-H Club purposes that apply to senior work include helping members: 1) to develop attitudes, knowledge and skills needed to make family life more satisfying and worthwhile (10:19); 2) to recognize the importance of honest work and develop the necessary abilities to work effectively, individually and cooperatively with groups (35:12, 41:17); 3) to develop leadership and other related abilities needed for effective citizenship (19:20); 4) to learn to appreciate and make application of the scientific method and research findings (51:18); 5) to understand and appreciate the economic importance of agriculture and the value of farm life as an essential part of the American system (12:16); 6) to explore and become familiar with career and educational opportunities (43:16); 7) to understand and appreciate the importance of properly using and conserving natural resources (13:12); 8) to recognize the proper relationships of physical, mental and spiritual aspects of health, and to act accordingly (27:22), and 9) to develop personal standards and life philosophy in keeping with accepted ethical character (1:22).

I. STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

It has been established that the opportunity for a boy to be a member of a well-organized senior 4-H Club provides him with experiences which tend to: 1) create opportunities for out-of-

school education; 2) answer some of the "growing up" needs of the adolescent (49:2), and 3) help to develop an effective United States citizen (19:20). Nevertheless, 4-H Clubs are not presently meeting the needs of all present and potential senior boy members (49:2).

The 4-H Club, since its start prior to World War I, has been an active youth organization in each state in the nation. Membership throughout the United States increased annually over the years, and especially from World War II until 1961 when there was a decrease of 11,143 members (18:1). The total membership in 1961 was 2,285,592.

The annual dropout percentage of 4-H members in the United States for the year 1960-61 was 35.2 percent. During that year, the dropout percentage for boys was 35.6 percent and for girls was 34.9 percent (18:6).

There were more than thirty-three million potential 4-H Club members in the United States in 1960. The 4-H program, however, reached only 49 percent of the farm youth, 7 percent of the rural non-farm youth and 2 percent of the urban youth (18:2).

Thirty-two percent of the 4-H Club members in the United States in 1961 were between the ages of 13 and 15 years, and 10 percent were between the ages of 16 and 20 years.

The state of Tennessee had a total 4-H Club enrollment of 125,354 in 1963, including a senior membership of 23,276 members (46).. This figure represents a total decrease of

5,838 from the 1962 enrollment, the senior enrollment decreasing by 206.

In Tennessee, there has been an increase in the potential 4-H Club clientele between the ages of 10 and 19 years. In 1950, the potential totaled 557,012, and by 1960 it had reached 655,752 (49:1).

Senior 4-H Clubs in Hamilton County, Tennessee, and in other counties throughout the nation are faced with the problem of losing senior boys who have much to gain from and give to 4-H Club work.

In 1963, Hamilton County had 1,449 4-H Club members, including 278 in the senior programs. Of the senior members, there were 92 boys and 186 girls. The boys represented 3.1 percent of the rural senior high school male potential of about 2,926. This potential includes only those senior males in attendance at the high schools. The senior boys' Clubs of the county are all rural in nature, leaving an additional potential of about 3,273 urban senior high school boys without the opportunity to affiliate with the 4-H Club program.

All of the five senior boys' 4-H Clubs in Hamilton County are affiliated with the high schools, with teachers serving as volunteer leaders, and the two 4-H Club Agents regularly meeting with them. The Clubs meet about once per month, and the meetings average about 30 minutes in length.

This study was designed to identify some of the factors

associated with retention and dropout of Hamilton County senior 4-H Club boys, in hopes that the boys' senior 4-H Club program could be improved.

II. PURPOSE OF THE STUDY

The purpose of this study was to try to identify some of the factors contributing to the retention and loss of senior 4-H Club boy members in Hamilton County, Tennessee.

III. THE NEED FOR THE STUDY

The state, district and county Extension Service staffs, responsible for 4-H Club administration and development, are concerned with the relative effectiveness of their senior 4-H Club efforts. If such programs are to be most effective, reliable information is needed concerning the influences that cause some senior 4-H Club members to continue in and others to leave 4-H Club work.

If some of the factors causing 4-H retention and dropout can be identified through this study, such information should help assistant county agents responsible for 4-H work and county 4-H advisory committees to become better prepared to develop successful county senior 4-H Club programs. Information concerning the interests, needs and desires of present and potential 4-H Club members also should be seen as being necessary for planning purposes.

The study was conducted in Hamilton County, Tennessee, and the findings may be seen as being specifically applicable to senior boys' 4-H Club work in that county. However, since the basic element of youth is similar throughout the United States, it might be assumed that some generalizations might apply not only to 4-H Club work in other areas, but also to school organizations, the Boy Scouts of America, the Young Mens' Christian Association and other similar organizations that are concerned with the development of senior youth into more effective citizens.

By census definition (42:1), Hamilton County is considered an urban county. It was felt that urban situations might tend to be most challenging to the 4-H Club of the future, since three-fourths of the American population will soon live in metropolitan areas.

IV. METHOD

The study was conducted in Hamilton County, Tennessee, because that county met the criteria of having a relatively large senior 4-H Club program and being an urban county. Although the county is generally considered to be an urban area, the senior boys' 4-H Clubs are located primarily in rural sections.

The Population and Sample

As indicated in Table I, the population and sample consisted of 165 Hamilton County pupils in 5 high schools having 4-H Club work

TABLE I
NUMBERS AND PERCENTS OF ALL INTERVIEWEES, MEMBERS
AND NONMEMBERS INCLUDED IN THE STUDY

Group	Number	Percent
4-H Members	73	44.2
Nonmembers	92	55.8
Total Interviewees	165	100.0

(73 members who attended the April senior 4-H Club meetings and 92 former members in attendance at school at the time of the April meetings). The 5 senior boys' Clubs in Hamilton County are located in the Birchwood, Hixon, Ooltewah, Sale Creek and Soddy-Daisy high schools.

The Collection of Data

A group interview schedule was constructed to be administered within a time period of 25 minutes. The schedule was designed to draw information from the interviewees that would help to identify some of the factors causing retention and/or dropout of senior male 4-H Club members. Questions concerning 7 major areas of study interest were included in the schedule, namely:

- 1) personal data;
- 2) 4-H Club involvement;
- 3) advantages of 4-H Club membership;
- 4) disadvantages of 4-H Club membership;
- 5) participation in other organizations and activities;
- 6) suggested additional projects and activities, and
- 7) future plans of members and nonmembers.

A copy of the interview schedule appears in Appendix A.

The group interviews were completed from April 8 to April 23, 1964, in a series of 5 sessions conducted in the Birchwood, Hixon, Ooltewah, Sale Creek and Soddy-Daisy high schools.

The information received from the completed interview schedules was transferred to International Business Machine (IBM) cards and sorted in the University of Tennessee Computing Center.

Analysis was done in terms of numbers and percents, and, in certain instances, in terms of a special participation scaling system developed for the study.

V. DEFINITION OF TERMS USED IN THE STUDY

Members

This term refers to boys enrolled in senior 4-H Club work in Hamilton County, Tennessee, at the time of the study.

Nonmembers (4-H Dropouts)

This term refers to boys who were 4-H Club members at one time but dropped membership just prior to or during senior 4-H Club years.

Senior 4-H Club Members

This term refers to members who were between 14 and 19 years of age at the time of the study.

Junior 4-H Club Members

This refers to members who were less than 14 years of age at the time of the study.

Participation Rating

This is an indication of an individual's degree of participation in each organization to which he belongs. An individual's rating for participation in a given organization may range from 1 to 6 as follows: 1) one point is given if he has

membership, but attends less than one-fourth of the meetings; 2) two points are given if he attends from one-fourth to one-half of the meetings; 3) three points are given if he attends from one-half to three-fourths of the meetings; 4) four points are given if he attends three-fourths to all of the meetings; 5) five points are given if he has committee membership, and 6) six points are given if he serves as an officer. Average participation ratings were figures for all interviewees, members and nonmembers.

Total Participation Score

This is the sum total of each individual's participation ratings in all organizations to which he may belong. Average total participation scores were figured for all interviewees, members and nonmembers.

CHAPTER II

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Literature pertaining to senior 4-H Club member retention and loss throughout the United States is limited in its nature and scope, even though the problem involved is a major one. However, considerable related study effort has been made to determine the needs and characteristics of senior youth.

I. PERSONAL DATA

The home environment is an established determinant in the participation of 4-H Club members. Although not all aspects of the home environment have been found to be influential in 4-H Club membership and retention, the key factors discussed below have been found to be important.

The Physical Setting of the Home

If the home is located in the open country, particularly on a farm, then the children have a greater tendency to belong to and remain in 4-H Clubs (6, 11, 37, 39).

The Socio-economic Standing of the Family

If the socio-economic status ranges from middle to lower upper class, then the interest in 4-H Club work is greater for the children. This is especially true of farm homes (37, 39).

The Occupation of the Father

If the father's occupation is agricultural in nature, although not necessarily farming, then the children are more likely to be 4-H Club members (39).

The Aspirations and Expectations of the Family

If the family expects much from the children, group activity and education outside of the school tend to be encouraged (6).

Parental Participation in Community Activities

If the parents are interested in community improvement and hold active membership in community organizations, this interest tends to be transferred to the children (23, 32).

Parental Cooperation

If the parents support, encourage and guide the child while he is active in Club work, then he tends to remain in the work for a longer period of time (32).

Parental 4-H Involvement

If the parents have been 4-H Club leaders or members, then the children are generally encouraged to become active in Club work and to remain in it for a longer period of time (37).

Enrollment of Brothers and Sisters

If the child's siblings have had a pleasant experience in 4-H Club work, then he tends to join and remain in Club work for a longer time (11, 23).

Mother At Home

If the mother does not work outside of the home, the encouragement for group membership and participation is increased (11).

Parental Receipt of Extension Materials

If the parents are receiving material from the Extension Service, or are taking part in Extension activities, then the children are more likely to be 4-H Club members (23).

The Religious and National Origin of the Family

If the family is of Scandinavian or German descent and of the Protestant faith, children in some areas have been found to have greater tendencies to join and remain in 4-H Club membership (37).

II. 4-H INVOLVEMENT

There are a number of factors associated with an individual's 4-H Club involvement that are critical in the retention of members over a period of time. The key factors discussed below have been found to be important.

Participation

If a member is actively participating in most of his 4-H Club activities, he tends to develop a close identification with the Club. If such identification can be cultivated, it can be one

of the most important single factors encouraging senior youth to retain 4-H Club membership (6, 23, 48, 50).

A basic psychological principle, group identity, is involved. Senior youth are in the period of adolescence, a stage of lessening identification with the parents and increasing group dependency (47:275). Therefore, if strong Club identification can be developed through participation, the length of membership is increased since a basic need of the adolescent is being answered in a socially acceptable manner.

Age of Original Club Membership

If a child joins a 4-H Club at an early age, he has a tendency to remain in Club work over a longer period of time (8, 11, 39, 50).

Membership of Close Friends

If, within the social structure of the senior 4-H Club, there are a number of close friendships, the retention of membership is prolonged (6:16, 11).

Project Completion

If the 4-H Club members takes on a project and successfully completes that project at the end of a year, this individual is more apt to remain for another year of 4-H Club work. If he does not complete his project, the satisfaction derived from successful project completion is lost and he is more apt to drop membership (6:18, 8, 52).

Recognition

A 4-H Club member receiving awards for his project work and activity tends to remain in Club work for a longer period of time (39). Proper recognition for 4-H Club achievement also would act as a stimulator, encouraging the individual to remain in senior 4-H Club work and to improve the quality of his work (52).

Size of the 4-H Club

The size of the 4-H Club has a bearing on the retention of members. A Club having an active membership of 12 to 20 members has been shown to be the most effective. A smaller Club may lose members because of the lack of friends participating, and a larger Club may be easily distracted and difficult to direct (4, 8, 11, 25).

Home Visits by Agents and Leaders

If the leader of the 4-H Club regularly visits the home of the member he acts as a stimulant to increased interest and performance in the Club. Although it is sometimes difficult for the county agent to visit all the Club members in his county his visits are of value in the retention of membership (23).

Ownership

If a 4-H Club member owns his project he tends to develop a deeper interest and responsibility for its successful completion. This becomes a factor in the retention of 4-H Club membership (23).

III. ADVANTAGES OF 4-H CLUB MEMBERSHIP

4-H has many advantages to offer senior Club members. Some of the advantages which have been identified as being important are discussed below.

Projects

The 4-H Club projects offered to the youth of the county are one of the main factors attracting and holding 4-H Club members over a number of years (15, 29).

Fellowship

Friendship is a basic need of youth, and the fellowship of working and playing with friends in a 4-H Club program is an important factor in retaining senior 4-H Club members (15, 29).

Meetings

Meetings provide an opportunity for the 4-H Club member to foster a sense of individual and group participation and responsibility. A well-organized, challenging meeting helps to retain membership (15).

Opportunities to Learn

4-H Club work can offer the individual member an out-of-school learning situation. If a member thinks that he is not learning anything from his membership he will generally discontinue his Club work (15).

Activities

4-H offers numerous activities in which senior members may take part. Studies have shown that the most popular activities offered are the camping programs and the 4-H fairs and that the Club member participating in them has a tendency to remain in Club work for a longer period of time (15, 48:4).

Leadership

The 4-H program enables members to assume leadership duties and to acquire the attitudes and skills necessary for successful leadership. A member who is in a leadership position tends to remain in Club work for a longer time (33, 41, 45:4).

IV. DISADVANTAGES OF 4-H CLUB MEMBERSHIP

A local 4-H Club cannot offer a great deal to its members if it is not properly planned and directed. Poor organization and weak leadership do not create a challenge to the members and they become bored and tend to drop membership. In order to retain members there must be active leadership and participation (48:3).

V. SUGGESTED ADDITIONAL PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES

A recent study of boys' 4-H Club projects in an Alabama county listed the 6 most popular projects as: 1) livestock and poultry; 2) fruits and vegetables; 3) home improvement; 4) forestry and wildlife; 5) mechanics, and 6) field crops.

The study indicated that projects in livestock and poultry, fruits and vegetables, forestry and wildlife and field crops were declining in enrollment whereas those in home improvement and mechanics were increasing (21:47). Although not stated specifically, this would tend to indicate a shift from the traditional rural club projects to newer projects more adaptable to urban areas.

A recent study of selected Tennessee counties indicated a trend away from crop production, with increased emphasis being placed on marketing and farm management. This tendency was reported in primarily rural areas (20).

VI. PARTICIPATION IN OTHER ORGANIZATIONS AND ACTIVITIES

The activity of a 4-H Club member in other organizations and activities has been debated as a factor influencing his 4-H Club participation. Some studies have found that non-4-H Club activities and high school studies do influence 4-H Club membership; while other studies have not upheld this position. The factors discussed below are of debatable influence.

Membership in Other Organizations

If a 4-H Club member belongs to other organizations there may be competition for his time and effort. If the demand of the organizations becomes too great he may be forced to drop membership in one or more of the organizations (6:21, 14:3).

School Work and School Activities

When a 4-H Club member enters high school, he may be faced with an increased academic responsibility. He may drop his membership to better cope with his studies. Many new clubs and activities associated with his school work also are made available to him at this time. Membership in these conflicting activities may demand extra time and effort, causing 4-H membership to be dropped or participation reduced (6:20, 48:3).

Social and Recreational Activities

Social life and recreation constitute an important aspect of the adolescent's life. Often his social life and recreation take up a major portion of the individual's time. If 4-H supplies part of the needed social life and recreation, the individual is more apt to continue active in his 4-H Club work (48:3).

VII. FUTURE PLANS OF MEMBERS AND NONMEMBERS

If the future plans of a member are related to a project which the 4-H Club is offering, he will tend to become interested and motivated and will tend to remain in 4-H Club work for a longer period of time (6:21).

CHAPTER III

RESULTS OF THE STUDY AND DISCUSSION

The data for the study was obtained from one interview each in the Birchwood, Hixon, Ooltewah, Sale Creek and Soddy-Daisy high schools. A total of 73 senior male 4-H Club members' interview schedules and 92 senior male nonmembers' interview schedules were analyzed. The data received from the interview schedules were classified into 7 categories: personal data; 4-H involvement; advantages of 4-H Club membership; disadvantages of 4-H Club membership; suggested additional projects; participation in other organizations and activities, and plans for the future. A brief discussion of the results ends the chapter.

I. PERSONAL DATA

Age at Time of Interview

As shown in Table II, the ages of the interviewees ranged from 14 through 19 years. The average age for all interviewees was 15.8 years, for the members 15.7 years, and for the nonmembers 15.9 years.

Participation Ratings of Interviewees

As disclosed in Table III, 37 (22.4 percent) of all interviewees (all of them nonmembers) did not belong to any clubs.

TABLE II
 NUMBERS AND PERCENTS OF ALL INTERVIEWEES, MEMBERS AND
 NONMEMBERS BY AGE AT TIME OF INTERVIEW

Age at Time of Interview	All Interviewees		Members		Nonmembers	
	Number	Per- cent	Number	Per- cent	Number	Per- cent
14 years	30	18.2	21	28.7	9	9.8
15 years	24	14.5	8	11.0	16	17.4
16 years	55	33.3	24	32.9	31	33.7
17 years	44	26.7	15	20.5	29	31.5
18 years	10	6.1	4	5.5	6	6.5
19 years	2	1.2	1	1.4	1	1.1
Total	165	100.0	73	100.0	92	100.0
Average		15.8		15.7		15.9

TABLE III

NUMBERS AND PERCENTS OF ALL INTERVIEWEES, MEMBERS AND
NONMEMBERS BY INDIVIDUAL PARTICIPATION RATINGS,
AVERAGE PARTICIPATION RATINGS AND AVERAGE
TOTAL PARTICIPATION SCORES

Participation Rating	All Interviewees		Members		Nonmembers	
	Number	Per- cent	Number	Per- cent	Number	Per- cent
0	37	22.4	0	---	37	40.2
1	2	1.2	1	1.4	1	1.1
2	1	.6	0	---	1	1.1
3	18	10.9	10	13.7	8	8.7
4	68	41.2	37	50.7	31	33.7
5	27	16.4	20	27.4	7	7.6
6	12	7.3	5	6.8	7	7.6
Total	165	100.0	73	100.0	92	100.0
Average Participation Rating		3.5		4.4		2.7
Average Total Participation Score		6.2		8.2		4.7

The 4-H Club members all belonged to at least one club because of their enrollment in 4-H. The 37 nonmembers who did not belong to any clubs constituted 40.2 percent of the nonmembers interviewed.

The average participation rating (potential study maximum was 6.0) and average total participation score (potential study maximum was 24.0) for all interviewees were 3.5 and 6.2 respectively. For members the average participation rating and average total participation score were 4.4 and 8.2 respectively. These were decidedly higher than the corresponding figures, 2.7 and 4.7, for the nonmembers.

Occupation of the Father

As indicated in Table IV, 37.5 percent of the interviewees' fathers were laborers, 18.8 percent were skilled laborers, 10.9 percent were associated with agriculture, 6.7 percent were professionals, 5.5 percent were unemployed, 1.8 percent were retired and 3.0 percent of the interviewees did not have fathers.

Ten percent more nonmembers than members had fathers who were associated with agriculture, and about 5 percent more of the nonmembers than members had fathers who were unemployed.

In all categories of fathers' occupations, the members had greater average participation ratings and average total participation scores than did the nonmembers.

The members' highest average participation rating, 5.2, was for those whose fathers were associated with agriculture; while

TABLE IV
 NUMBERS, PERCENTS, AVERAGE PARTICIPATION RATINGS AND AVERAGE TOTAL PARTICIPATION
 SCORES FOR ALL INTERVIEWEES, MEMBERS AND NONMEMBERS BY FATHERS' OCCUPATIONS

Father's Occupation	All Interviewees				Members				Nonmembers			
	No.	Per- cent	Average Partici- pation- Rating	Average Total Partici- pation Score	No.	Per- cent	Average Partici- pation- Rating	Average Total Partici- pation Score	No.	Per- cent	Average Partici- pation Rating	Average Total Partici- pation Score
Laborer	62	37.5	3.5	6.1	26	35.7	4.2	7.8	36	39.1	2.9	5.0
Skilled labor	31	18.8	3.3	6.7	12	16.4	4.7	9.8	19	20.7	2.4	5.0
Agriculture	18	10.9	2.8	7.5	4	5.5	5.2	10.5	14	15.2	2.2	4.5
Professional	11	6.7	4.4	12.1	4	5.5	4.6	16.0	7	7.6	4.3	10.0
Unemployed	9	5.5	2.6	3.3	2	2.7	3.0	3.0	7	7.6	2.5	3.5
No father	5	3.0	3.4	5.9	3	4.1	4.3	8.6	2	2.2	2.0	2.0
Retired	3	1.8	4.3	4.3	3	4.1	4.3	4.3	0	---	---	---
Information not available	26	15.8	3.2	4.4	19	26.0	4.1	5.9	7	7.6	1.0	1.0
Total	165	100.0	3.5	6.2	73	100.0	4.4	8.2	92	100.0	2.7	4.7

for the nonmembers the highest average participation rating, 4.3, was for those whose fathers held professional positions.

The members and nonmembers whose fathers were professionals had the greatest average total participation scores, 16.0 and 10.0 respectively. The lowest average total participation score, 3.0, for the members was for those whose father was unemployed; while, for the nonmembers for whom information was available, it was for those who did not have fathers, 2.0.

Occupation of the Mother

Although the importance of the support and participation of the father has been established, the encouragement and help of the mother have been found in some studies to have even a greater effect on the individual's participation (6:16).

As noted in Table V, 43 (26 percent) of all interviewees indicated that their mothers were employed outside the home. Only 20.5 percent of the members' mothers worked; while 30.4 percent of the nonmembers' mothers worked.

This difference might suggest the possibility that mothers who did not work were more readily available to encourage and help their sons in 4-H work than was true of the others (15).

When average participation ratings and average total participation scores of all interviewees whose mothers worked, 3.6 and 6.4 respectively, were compared with those whose mothers did not work, 3.4 and 6.2 respectively, little difference was to be noted.

TABLE V

NUMBERS, PERCENTS, AVERAGE PARTICIPATION RATINGS AND AVERAGE TOTAL PARTICIPATION SCORES OF ALL INTERVIEWEES, MEMBERS AND NONMEMBERS BY WHETHER OR NOT THEIR MOTHERS WORKED OUTSIDE THE HOME

Mother Worked Outside Home	All Interviewees				Members				Nonmembers			
	No.	Per-cent	Average Partici-pation Rating	Average Total Partici-pation Score	No.	Per-cent	Average Partici-pation Rating	Average Total Partici-pation Score	No.	Per-cent	Average Partici-pation Rating	Average Total Partici-pation Score
Yes	43	26.0	3.6	6.4	15	20.5	4.3	8.0	28	30.4	3.0	5.5
No	122	74.0	3.4	6.2	58	79.5	4.4	8.2	64	70.6	2.5	4.3
Total	165	100.0	3.5	6.2	73	100.0	4.4	8.2	92	100.0	2.7	4.7

When average participation ratings and average total participation scores of 4-H Club members whose mothers worked, 4.3 and 8.0 respectively, are compared with those whose mothers did not work, 4.4 and 8.2 respectively, it may be seen that the latter group seemed to be participating at a slightly higher level; the reverse being true for nonmembers, 3.0 and 5.5 respectively versus 2.5 and 4.3 respectively.

In comparing ratings and scores of members and nonmembers, it is to be noted that differences were greater between members whose mothers did not work outside the home and nonmembers whose mothers did work outside the home.

As seen in Table VI, the greatest percentage of working mothers were factory employees. They comprised 33.3 percent of the members' mothers who worked and 42.9 percent of the nonmembers' mothers who worked. The remaining job categories included were secretary, laundress, waitress, nurse, teacher and clerk.

Professional positions (here referring to nurses and teachers) held by the mothers totaled 26.6 percent for the members and only 10.7 percent for the nonmembers. Numbers, however, were exceedingly small (4 and 3 respectively).

Number of Clubs to Which Mother Belonged

The average membership by the members' mothers was one club per mother, while for nonmembers' mothers it was eight-tenths of a club per mother. However, there were 3.2 percent more members

TABLE VI
 NUMBERS AND PERCENTS OF ALL INTERVIEWEES, MEMBERS AND
 NONMEMBERS WHOSE MOTHERS WORKED OUTSIDE
 THE HOME BY TYPE OF OCCUPATION

Type of Position	All Interviewees (N = 43)		Members (N = 15)		Nonmembers (N = 28)	
	Number	Per- cent	Number	Per- cent	Number	Per- cent
Factory worker	17	39.5	5	33.3	12	42.9
Secretary	6	14.0	2	13.3	4	14.3
Laundress	5	11.6	3	20.1	2	7.1
Waitress	5	11.6	1	6.7	4	14.3
Teacher	4	9.3	2	13.3	2	7.1
Nurse	3	7.0	2	13.3	1	3.6
Clerk	3	7.0	0	---	3	10.7

than nonmembers whose mothers did not belong to any club. Also, there were 9.9 percent more members than nonmembers whose mothers belonged to 3 or 4 clubs (see Table VII).

The findings in Table VIII indicate a direct positive relationship between the number of clubs to which the mother belonged and the average participation ratings and average total participation scores of the interviewees. This is most evident when the average participation ratings and average total participation scores for all interviewees and members were compared with the number of clubs to which the mother belonged.

However, the average participation rating for nonmembers whose mothers belonged to 3 or 4 clubs was less than the average participation rating of those whose mothers belonged to only 1 or 2 clubs; though the average total participation scores still showed an increase in the degree of participation as the mothers' organizational membership increased.

Studies have shown that there is a relationship between the mother's participation in organizations and the retention of 4-H Club members (23:27).

4-H Membership of Parents

Table IX indicates that only 23.6 percent of the interviewees' parents had been 4-H Club members. This included 13.7 percent of the 4-H Club members and 31.5 percent of the nonmembers. This finding was contrary to earlier literature

TABLE VII
 NUMBERS AND PERCENTS OF ALL INTERVIEWEES, MEMBERS AND
 NONMEMBERS BY NUMBERS OF CLUBS TO WHICH
 THEIR MOTHERS BELONGED

Number of Clubs	All Interviewees		Members		Nonmembers	
	Number	Per- cent	Number	Per- cent	Number	Per- cent
None	83	50.3	38	52.0	45	48.9
1	40	24.1	12	16.4	28	30.4
2	24	14.4	11	15.1	13	14.1
3	12	7.6	8	11.0	4	4.4
4	6	3.6	4	5.5	2	2.2
Total	165	100.0	73	100.0	92	100.0
Average Number of Clubs		.9		1.0		.8

TABLE VIII

NUMBERS, PERCENTS, AVERAGE PARTICIPATION RATINGS AND AVERAGE TOTAL PARTICIPATION SCORES OF ALL INTERVIEWEES, MEMBERS AND NONMEMBERS BY NUMBERS OF CLUBS TO WHICH THEIR MOTHERS BELONGED

Number of Clubs	All Interviewees				Members				Nonmembers							
	No.	Per- cent	Average Partici- pation Rating	Average Total Partici- pation Score	No.	Per- cent	Average Partici- pation Rating	Average Total Partici- pation Score	No.	Per- cent	Average Partici- pation Rating	Average Total Partici- pation Score				
None	83	50.3	3.0	4.5	38	52.0	4.2	6.3	45	48.9	2.0	3.0				
1 - 2	64	38.8	3.7	7.8	23	31.5	4.5	9.5	41	44.5	3.3	6.0				
3 - 4	18	10.9	4.1	10.6	12	16.5	4.7	11.9	6	6.6	2.9	8.0				
Total	165	100.0	3.5	6.2	73	100.0	4.4	8.2	92	100.0	2.7	4.7				
Average Number of Clubs					.9				1.0				.8			

TABLE IX
NUMBERS AND PERCENTS OF ALL INTERVIEWEES, MEMBERS AND
NONMEMBERS WHOSE PARENTS HAD BEEN FORMER
4-H CLUB MEMBERS

Parents Were Former 4-H Club Members	All Interviewees		Members		Nonmembers	
	Number	Per- cent	Number	Per- cent	Number	Per- cent
Yes	39	23.6	10	13.7	29	31.5
No	126	76.4	63	86.3	63	68.5
Total	165	100.0	73	100.0	92	100.0

since most studies indicate that there is a positive relationship between the previous 4-H Club membership of the parents and the membership and retention of their children. Some difficulty on the parts of interviewees in answering this question was noted. Some seemed to lack knowledge concerning this point. To make the question complete, an "uncertain" category should have been included in the response choices.

4-H Leadership by Parents

As disclosed in Table X, there were only 12 parents who had been leaders, 4 of the members' parents and 8 of the nonmembers' parents.

Literature also indicates that there should be a relationship between the retention of members and whether or not the parents had been 4-H Club leaders. However, in Hamilton County the 4-H Clubs meet in the confines of the school, so a limited number of parents act as leaders. Volunteer classroom teachers and the assistant county agent usually serve as the 4-H Club leaders.

There was some uncertainty among the interviewees as to knowledge concerning this point. An "uncertain" category in the response choices would have made the question more complete.

4-H Membership of Brothers and Sisters

Table XI indicates that 41.2 percent of all the interviewees had brothers or sisters enrolled in 4-H Club at the

TABLE X
NUMBERS AND PERCENTS OF ALL INTERVIEWEES, MEMBERS AND
NONMEMBERS WHOSE PARENTS HAD EVER BEEN
4-H CLUB LEADERS

Parents Had Been Club Leaders	All Interviewees		Members		Nonmembers	
	Number	Per- cent	Number	Per- cent	Number	Per- cent
Yes	12	7.3	4	5.5	8	8.7
No	153	92.7	69	94.5	84	91.3
Total	165	100.0	73	100.0	92	100.0

TABLE XI

NUMBERS AND PERCENTS OF ALL INTERVIEWEES, MEMBERS AND
NONMEMBERS HAVING ONE OR MORE BROTHERS AND/OR
SISTERS PRESENTLY ENROLLED IN 4-H CLUB

Had Brothers and/or Sisters Enrolled	All Interviewees		Members		Nonmembers	
	Number	Per- cent	Number	Per- cent	Number	Per- cent
Yes	68	41.2	25	34.2	43	46.7
No	97	58.8	48	65.8	49	53.3
Total	165	100.0	73	100.0	92	100.0

time of the study. Only 34.2 percent of the members indicated that they had sisters or brothers who were enrolled; while 46.9 percent of the nonmembers indicated such affiliation.

This is contrary to what would be expected since previous literature suggests that sibling membership is a positive enrollment and retention factor (11:49).

Table XII indicates that 44.8 percent of the interviewees had sisters and brothers who had, at one time, been enrolled in a 4-H Club. Forty-two and one-half percent of the members and 46.7 percent of the nonmembers had sisters or brothers who were former members of a 4-H Club.

This result is also contrary to previous studies which have indicated that 4-H Club members usually have had sisters and brothers previously enrolled (11:49).

Here again there was some uncertainty on the part of interviewees as to knowledge concerning this point. To make the question more complete, an "uncertain" category should have been included in the response choices.

Church Affiliation

Table XIII indicates that all interviewees indicating a church affiliation were members of a Protestant sect. The percentages indicated for each denomination were, in rank order: Baptist (55.2 percent); Church of God (12.1 percent); the Church of Christ (8.5 percent); Methodist (8.5 percent); Presbyterian (3.6 percent); Congregational (.6 percent), and no church

TABLE XII
 NUMBERS AND PERCENTS OF ALL INTERVIEWEES, MEMBERS AND
 NONMEMBERS WHO HAD ONE OR MORE BROTHERS
 AND/OR SISTERS FORMERLY ENROLLED
 IN 4-H CLUB

Had Brothers And/or Sisters Formerly Enrolled	All Interviewees		Members		Nonmembers	
	Number	Per- cent	Number	Per- cent	Number	Per- cent
Yes	74	44.8	31	42.5	43	46.7
No	91	55.2	42	57.5	49	53.3
Total	165	100.0	73	100.0	92	100.0

TABLE XIII
 NUMBERS AND PERCENTS OF ALL INTERVIEWEES, MEMBERS AND
 NONMEMBERS BY CHURCH AFFILIATION

Church Affiliation	All Interviewees		Members		Nonmembers	
	Number	Per- cent	Number	Per- cent	Number	Per- cent
Baptist	92	55.8	41	56.2	51	55.3
Church of God	20	12.1	8	10.9	12	13.0
Church of Christ	14	8.5	6	8.2	8	8.7
Methodist	14	8.5	4	5.5	10	10.9
Presbyterian	6	3.6	0	---	6	6.6
Congregational	1	.6	0	---	1	1.1
None	18	10.9	14	19.2	4	4.4
Total	165	100.0	73	100.0	92	100.0

affiliation (10.9 percent).

It should be noted that about one-fifth of the members were not affiliated with any religious denomination. This may imply a need for a program aimed at the strengthening of moral and ethical values (1:22, 55:11).

II. 4-H INVOLVEMENT

Number of Years of 4-H Club Membership

As shown in Table XIV, the number of years of 4-H Club membership ranged from 1 to 8.

The average number of years of membership for all interviewees was 3.6, a figure considerably higher than the national average of 2.7 years (18:2). The average for the members was 3.7 years at the time of the study and for the nonmembers was 3.5 years.

Average Age at Time of Dropping Out of 4-H Club Work

Table XV presents the age distribution at the time the nonmembers dropped out of 4-H Club work. The range at the time of dropout was 11 to 17 years of age. Of the nonmembers interviewed, 53.2 percent had dropped membership between the ages of 13 and 14 years. The figure had increased to 71.7 percent when those who had dropped out at 15 years of age were added to those above.

The average age at which membership was dropped, then, was 13.9 years. It would appear, therefore, that the largest drop in enrollment occurred in the transition from elementary to secondary school levels.

TABLE XIV
 NUMBERS AND PERCENTS OF ALL INTERVIEWEES, MEMBERS AND
 NONMEMBERS BY TOTAL YEARS OF 4-H CLUB MEMBERSHIP

Total Years of Membership	All Interviewees		Members		Nonmembers	
	Number	Per- cent	Number	Per- cent	Number	Per- cent
1	23	13.9	12	16.4	11	12.0
2	26	15.8	9	12.3	17	18.4
3	28	17.0	15	20.6	13	14.1
4	42	25.4	16	21.9	26	28.3
5	21	12.7	6	8.2	15	16.3
6	9	5.5	5	6.9	4	4.4
7	10	6.1	7	9.6	3	3.3
8	6	3.6	3	4.1	3	3.3
Total	165	100.0	73	100.0	92	100.0
Average		3.6		3.7		3.5

TABLE XV
NUMBERS AND PERCENTS OF NONMEMBERS BY THE AGES AT
WHICH THEY DROPPED 4-H CLUB MEMBERSHIP

Age	Number	Percent
11 years	2	2.2
12 years	11	12.0
13 years	22	23.9
14 years	27	29.3
15 years	17	18.5
16 years	5	5.4
17 years	8	8.7
Total	92	100.0
Average age		13.9

4-H Club Participation Rating

As seen in Table XVI, 47.3 percent of all interviewees attended three-fourths to all of the meetings. It might be assumed, however, that 81.9 percent attended three-fourths to all of the meetings because the officers and committee members would be expected to be active Club participants. If the same assumption were made for the members and nonmembers, 87.7 percent of the former and 77.1 percent of the latter had attended three-fourths to all of the meetings. It also should be noted that about 10 percent more nonmembers than members only attended one-half to three-fourths of the meetings.

More nonmembers than members appear to have indicated that they had been 4-H Club officers. However, due to interview error, the nonmembers were answering on the basis of whether or not they had ever been officers during their time of Club membership, whereas the members were answering in terms of the situation at the time of the study. Figures, therefore, are actually not comparable. This is one of the reasons why the nonmembers' average participation rating, 4.3, appears to be similar to (though lower than) that of the members, 4.4.

The degree of participation in 4-H Club work has been viewed by many studies as a key factor in maintaining interest and retaining membership (6:18). Assuming that the nonmember participation rating was distorted by the factor mentioned above, it appears likely that participation of nonmembers may have been

TABLE XVI
 NUMBERS AND PERCENTS OF ALL INTERVIEWEES, MEMBERS AND
 NONMEMBERS BY DEGREES OF PARTICIPATION
 IN 4-H CLUB WORK

Degree of Participation in 4-H	All Interviewees		Members*		Nonmembers**	
	Number	Per- cent	Number	Per- cent	Number	Per- cent
Just a member (attended less than 1/4 of meetings)	2	1.2	1	1.4	1	1.1
Attended 1/4 to 1/2 of meetings	5	3.0	2	2.7	3	3.3
Attended 1/2 to 3/4 of meetings	23	13.9	6	8.2	17	18.5
Attended 3/4 to all of meetings	78	47.3	37	50.7	41	44.5
Was a committee member	17	10.4	11	15.1	6	6.5
Was an officer	40	24.2	16	21.9	24	26.1
Total	165	100.0	73	100.0	92	100.0
Average Participation Rating	4.3		4.4		4.3	

* At the time of interview

** When they belonged

at least one complete rating point lower than here shown. This is verified by previous research findings.

Numbers and Kinds of Projects

As indicated in Table XVII, 8.2 percent of the members indicated that they did not have any 4-H Club projects at the time of the study. Of the nonmembers, 22.8 percent reported not having had any projects during their membership. The average number of projects in which all interviewees were enrolled was 2.5. The average for the members was 3.6, and for the nonmembers 1.6. This would apparently indicate greater project interest on the part of the members who had been retained. The lack of a project may be one of the factors leading to discontinuation of 4-H Club work.

Table XVIII gives the numbers and percents of interviewees mentioning various projects as being among the three most interesting to them. The six most frequently listed projects in which all interviewees enrolled were, in order: 1) dairy (22.4 percent); 2) electricity (21.8 percent); 3) automotive (21.2 percent); 4) beef (18.8 percent); 5) garden and fruits (15.2 percent), and 6) poultry (12.1 percent). At the time of the study, the members most frequently listed the following projects in decreasing order: 1) dairy; 2) automotive; 3) beef; 4) garden and fruits; 5) corn, and 6) electricity. Interesting projects in which nonmembers had been enrolled when they belonged included, in decreasing order of frequency mentioned: 1) electricity;

TABLE XVII

NUMBERS AND PERCENTS OF ALL INTERVIEWEES, MEMBERS AND
NONMEMBERS BY THE NUMBERS OF PROJECTS IN WHICH
THEY HAD ENROLLED

Number of Projects	All Interviewees		Members		Nonmembers	
	Number	Per- cent	Number	Per- cent	Number	Per- cent
None	27	16.4	6	8.2	21	22.8
1	55	33.3	20	27.4	35	38.0
2	30	18.2	14	19.2	16	17.4
3	18	10.9	5	6.8	13	14.1
4	6	3.6	4	5.5	2	2.2
5	8	4.8	7	9.6	1	1.1
6	2	1.2	1	1.4	1	1.1
7	4	2.4	1	1.4	3	3.3
8	0	---	0	---	0	---
9	15	9.2	15	20.5	0	---
Total	165	100.0	73	100.0	92	100.0
Average		2.5		3.6		1.6

TABLE XVIII

NUMBERS AND PERCENTS OF ALL INTERVIEWEES, MEMBERS AND
NONMEMBERS LISTING THE THREE MOST INTERESTING
PROJECTS*

Project	All Interviewees (N = 165)		Members (N = 73)		Nonmembers (N = 92)	
	Number	Per- cent	Number	Per- cent	Number	Per- cent
Dairy	37	22.4	23	31.5	14	15.2
Electricity	36	21.8	10	13.7	26	28.3
Automotive	35	21.2	21	28.8	14	15.2
Beef	31	18.8	13	17.8	18	19.6
Garden and fruits	25	15.2	12	16.4	13	14.1
Poultry	20	12.1	6	8.2	14	15.2
Corn	15	9.3	11	15.1	4	4.3
Forestry	9	5.5	2	2.7	7	7.6
Related arts and crafts	9	5.5	2	2.7	7	7.6
Safety	8	4.8	3	4.1	5	5.4
Swine	8	4.8	4	5.5	4	4.3
Entomology	7	4.2	3	4.1	4	4.3
Special county projects	6	3.6	2	2.7	4	4.3
Home improvement	5	3.0	1	1.4	4	4.3
Soil conservation	5	3.0	4	5.5	1	1.1
Home grounds	3	1.8	2	2.7	1	1.1
Sheep	1	.6	0	---	1	1.1
No projects	27	16.4	6	8.2	21	22.8

*Numbers and percents add up to more than totals since respondents indicated the three most interesting projects.

2) beef; 3) automotive; 4) dairy; 5) poultry, and 6) garden and fruits. Notable differences between the groups are those of shifting degree of interest in electricity and dairy.

Ownership

As indicated in Table XIX, 67.8 percent of all interviewees reported owning their 4-H Club projects. The percent for the members was 65.8, and for nonmembers was 69.6, indicating little difference in project ownership between the two groups. It seems difficult from these data to say how much influence, if any, project ownership might have had on dropouts.

It should be noted, however, that through interview error, the members were reporting ownership at the time of the interview, whereas nonmembers were indicating whether or not they had owned a project at any time during their Club membership.

Previous research (23:27) has indicated that ownership is a factor contributing to the retention of 4-H Club members. Assuming that the interview error mentioned above was gross in nature, ownership may have been a factor in the present study also.

Parental Assistance

Data in Table XX show that the largest percentage of all interviewees (43.6) reported that their parents had helped care for and/or finance their 4-H projects. About one-third, or slightly more, reported parental advice and provision of transportation for 4-H Club work. About one-fourth reported having

TABLE XIX
NUMBERS AND PERCENTS OF ALL INTERVIEWEES, MEMBERS AND
NONMEMBERS WHO OWNED THEIR PROJECTS

Owned Projects	All Interviewees		Members*		Nonmembers**	
	Number	Per- cent	Number	Per- cent	Number	Per- cent
Yes	112	67.8	48	65.8	64	69.6
No	53	32.2	25	34.2	28	30.4
Total	165	100.0	73	100.0	92	100.0

*At the time of interview.

**When they belonged.

TABLE XX
 NUMBERS AND PERCENTS OF ALL INTERVIEWEES, MEMBERS AND
 NONMEMBERS BY KINDS OF 4-H ASSISTANCE
 PARENTS PROVIDED*

Kind of 4-H Assistance Provided	All Interviewees (N = 165)		Members (N = 73)		Nonmembers (N = 92)	
	Number	Per- cent	Number	Per- cent	Number	Per- cent
Helped care for project	72	43.6	33	45.2	39	42.1
Helped finance project	72	43.6	28	38.4	44	47.8
Gave advice on project	63	38.2	25	34.3	38	41.3
Supplied transportation	55	33.3	22	30.1	33	35.9
Did not help at all	42	25.5	22	30.1	20	21.7

*Numbers and percents add up to more than totals since some respondents mentioned more than one kind of assistance.

received no parental assistance related to 4-H activities.

It should be noted that the largest percentage (45.2) of members indicated parents helped care for projects; whereas the largest percentage (47.8) of nonmembers indicated they had received financial assistance. The type of assistance offered may be an indication of the quality of the parents' relationship with the interviewees. Since more of the members received active help in the care of the projects and more of the nonmembers received financial aid, which is more impersonal, the active involvement of the parents in helping care for the project might be seen as a factor in retention and help in financing projects may be of somewhat less encouragement.

4-H Club Activities

As indicated in Table XXI, the six leading activities, listed in order of frequency of mention by all interviewees were: 1) fairs (27.3 percent); 2) recreation (24.2 percent; 3) holding an office (21.2 percent); 4) demonstrations and public speaking (18.2 percent); 5) camp (16.9 percent), and 6) leadership (16.4 percent).

The members indicated the following activities, in order of their frequency of mention: 1) recreation; 2) fairs; 3) camp; 4) holding an office; 5) demonstrations, and 6) livestock and dairy judging; while the nonmembers listed: 1) fairs; 2) holding an office; 3) demonstrations and public speaking; 4) recreation; 5) citizenship, and 6) achievement.

TABLE XXI

NUMBERS AND PERCENTS OF ALL INTERVIEWEES, MEMBERS AND
NONMEMBERS WHO HAVE TAKEN PART IN 4-H
CLUB ACTIVITIES*

Activities	All Interviewees (N = 165)		Members (N = 73)		Nonmembers (N = 92)	
	Number	Per- cent	Number	Per- cent	Number	Per cent
Fairs	45	27.3	21	28.8	24	26.1
Recreation	40	24.2	25	34.2	15	16.3
Holding an office	35	21.2	17	23.3	18	18.7
Demonstration and/ or public speaking	30	18.2	15	20.5	15	16.3
Camp	28	16.9	18	24.6	10	10.9
Leadership	27	16.4	14	19.2	13	14.1
Achievement	25	15.2	12	16.4	13	14.1
Livestock and dairy judging	24	14.5	15	20.5	9	9.8
Personal development	24	14.5	13	17.8	11	13.4
Citizenship	23	13.9	9	12.3	14	15.2
Out-of-the county events	22	13.3	13	17.8	9	9.8
Crop judging	21	12.7	11	15.1	10	10.9
Poultry judging	17	10.3	9	12.3	8	8.7
Forestry judging	8	4.8	3	4.1	5	5.4
Other	8	4.8	5	6.8	3	3.3
Average		2.2		2.7		1.9

*Numbers and percents add up to more than totals since some respondents listed one or more activities.

It should be noted that the category holding an office does not give a totally clear picture, since an interviewee could have held more than one office or held continuous officer responsibilities over a long period of time.

The average number of activities participated in by members was 2.7, and for nonmembers was 1.9.

This suggests that participation in 4-H Club activities tends to create interest and identity with the Club, which have been identified as factors in the retention of members (33).

Recognition

As indicated in Table XXII, all interviewees had received 53 ribbons, 23 cash awards, 12 team awards, 9 public speaking awards, 3 trips to National 4-H Club Congress and 2 demonstration awards.

A larger percentage of members (35.6) than nonmembers (29.4) reported receiving ribbons. Where other awards were concerned, larger percentages of members than nonmembers reported in all categories. The nonmembers had not received any demonstration awards or trips to Congress during their membership.

It should be noted that 67.2 percent of the members had not received any awards or prizes. While this is 11 percent less than the corresponding figure for the nonmembers (78.2), it is still a surprisingly large percentage of the group. The average number of awards received per person reporting awards was 2.4 (2.8 for members and 1.9 for nonmembers).

TABLE XXII

NUMBERS AND PERCENTS OF ALL INTERVIEWEES, MEMBERS AND
NONMEMBERS BY KINDS OF REWARDS RECEIVED FOR
4-H WORK*

Kind of Award Received	All Interviewees		Members		Nonmembers	
	Number	Per- cent	Number	Per- cent	Number	Per- cent
Ribbons	53	32.1	26	35.6	27	29.4
Cash Awards	23	13.9	16	21.9	7	7.6
Team Awards	12	7.3	11	15.1	1	1.1
Public Speaking Awards	9	5.5	7	9.6	2	2.2
Trips to Congress	3	1.8	3	4.1	0	---
Demonstration Awards	2	1.2	2	2.7	0	---
Miscellaneous	2	1.2	1	1.4	1	1.1
<u>None</u>	121	73.3	49	67.2	72	78.2
<hr/>						
Average number of awards per person reporting	2.4 (N = 44)		2.8 (N = 24)		1.9 (N = 20)	
<hr/>						
Average number of awards per person in the study	.6 (N = 165)		.9 (N = 73)		.4 (N = 92)	

*Numbers and percents add up to more than totals since respondents might have listed more than one kind of reward.

The average number of awards received by all interviewees was six-tenths of an award per interviewee. However, the members received nine-tenths of an award per person and the nonmembers four-tenths.

This verifies a finding of previous research, that gaining recognition for 4-H projects and activities is an important stimulator to increased Club interest and retention (52).

Number of Leader Visits Received Per Year

Table XXIII indicates that the members of the Hamilton senior 4-H Clubs did not receive many home visits from leaders. Of all interviewees, there were only 22 individuals reporting a visit from their leader. Thirteen (17.8 percent) of the members and 9 (9.8 percent) of the nonmembers (while members) reported receiving visits annually.

It has been found in previous research that leaders play a key role in the retention of 4-H Club members (6:58). Findings in the present study, too, would suggest this.

Number of Agent Visits Received Per Year

Table XXIV shows that 28 individuals (17.0 percent of all interviewees) reportedly had received agent visits ranging in number from 1 to 8 per year. Nineteen members (26.0 percent) and 9 nonmembers (9.8 percent) had received such visits.

This suggests that agent visits, as well as leader visits, act as stimulators to increased 4-H performance and interest, which

TABLE XXIII
 NUMBERS AND PERCENTS OF ALL INTERVIEWEES, MEMBERS AND
 NONMEMBERS BY NUMBERS OF ANNUAL VISITS
 RECEIVED FROM THE 4-H CLUB LEADER

Number of Annual Leader Visits	All Interviewees		Members		Nonmembers	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
None received	143	86.7	60	82.1	83	90.2
Received visits:	22	13.3	13	17.8	9	9.8
1 - 2	7	4.2	4	5.5	3	3.3
3 - 5	3	1.8	1	1.4	2	2.2
6 - 7	2	1.2	1	1.4	1	1.1
8 or more	10	6.1	7	9.5	3	3.3
Total	165	100.0	73	100.0	92	100.0

TABLE XXIV
 NUMBERS AND PERCENTS OF ALL INTERVIEWEES, MEMBERS AND
 NONMEMBERS BY NUMBERS OF ANNUAL VISITS
 RECEIVED FROM THE 4-H CLUB AGENT

Number of Annual Agent Visits	All Interviewees		Members		Nonmembers	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
None received	137	83.0	54	74.0	83	90.2
Received visits:	28	17.0	19	26.0	9	9.8
1 - 2	9	5.5	5	6.9	4	4.5
3 - 5	7	4.2	6	8.2	1	1.1
6 - 7	4	2.4	2	2.7	2	2.2
8 or more	8	4.9	6	8.3	2	2.2
Total	165	100.0	73	100.0	92	100.0

in turn lead to an increased length of membership. Previous research has supported this also (6:58).

Membership of Friends

As indicated in Table XXV, 83.6 percent of all interviewees indicated that they had friends who were 4-H Club members while they too were members. Seventy of the members (95.9 percent) indicated that they had friends who were members of the same Club to which they belonged. Only 68 of the nonmembers (73.9 percent) indicated that they had friends enrolled in the same Club while they were members.

Only 3 (4.1 percent) of the 4-H Club members indicated that they did not have friends presently enrolled, while 24 (26.1 percent) of the nonmembers did not have close friends who belonged to the 4-H Club when they did.

Most studies concerned with 4-H Club dropouts stress the importance of peer affiliation. If a member has close friends who also are 4-H Club members, then that member is more apt to retain his Club affiliation (6:16).

III. ADVANTAGES OF 4-H CLUB MEMBERSHIP

Benefits

As indicated in Table XXVI, 120 (72.8 percent) of all interviewees reported that they had received at least some benefit from 4-H Club membership, while 40 (24.2 percent) did not feel that they had received any appreciable benefit from their

TABLE XXV
 NUMBERS AND PERCENTS OF ALL INTERVIEWEES, MEMBERS AND
 NONMEMBERS WHO HAD CLOSE FRIENDS WHO WERE ENROLLED
 IN 4-H CLUB

Had Close Friends Enrolled	All Interviewees		Members*		Nonmembers**	
	Number	Per- cent	Number	Per- cent	Number	Per- cent
Yes	138	83.6	70	95.9	68	73.9
No	27	16.4	3	4.1	24	26.1
Total	165	100.0	73	100.0	92	100.0

*At time of interview.

**At time of membership.

TABLE XXVI
 NUMBERS AND PERCENTS OF ALL INTERVIEWEES, MEMBERS AND
 NONMEMBERS INDICATING WHETHER OR NOT THEY
 RECEIVED BENEFITS FROM 4-H
 CLUB MEMBERSHIP

Benefits Received	All Interviewees		Members		Nonmembers	
	Number	Per- cent	Number	Per- cent	Number	Per- cent
Yes	94	57.0	48	65.8	46	50.0
Some	26	15.8	10.	13.7	16	17.4
None	40	24.2	13	17.8	27	29.3
No answer	5	3.0	2	2.7	3	3.3
Total	165	100.0	73	100.0	92	100.0

4-H Club work. Five (3.0 percent) did not respond to the question.

Of the members, 79.5 percent had received some benefits; while only 67.4 percent of the nonmembers had received some benefits. Only 17.8 percent of the members indicated that they had received no benefits, whereas 29.3 percent of the nonmembers felt that they had received no benefits.

Table XXVII indicates that the 5 most frequently mentioned benefits reported by all interviewees included in rank order: 1) learning through projects (33.9 percent); 2) learning to become a better citizen (9.3 percent); 3) enjoying fellowship (4.8 percent); 4) learning to speak in public (4.2 percent), and 5) two benefits--developing leadership ability and making worthy use of spare time (3.0 percent each). Little difference was to be noted between members and nonmembers. An exception was the benefit of "learning to become better citizens" mentioned by 13.7 percent of the members and only 5.4 percent of the nonmembers.

The majority of those not answering the question were those who indicated that they had received no benefits.

Likes

Table XXVIII indicates the most-liked aspects of 4-H Club work. As reported by all interviewees, the 5 items most frequently mentioned, in rank order, included: 1) learning through projects (25.5 percent); 2) participating in general Club activities (18.2 percent); 3) participating in meetings

TABLE XXVII
 NUMBERS AND PERCENTS OF ALL INTERVIEWEES, MEMBERS AND
 NONMEMBERS BY BENEFITS RECEIVED FROM 4-H CLUB WORK

Benefit Received	All Interviewees		Members		Nonmembers	
	Number	Per- cent	Number	Per- cent	Number	Per- cent
Learning through projects	56	33.9	25	34.2	31	33.7
Learning to become better citizens	15	9.3	10	13.7	5	5.4
Enjoying fellowship	8	4.8	4	5.5	4	4.3
Learning to speak in public	7	4.2	4	5.5	3	3.3
Developing leadership	5	3.0	1	1.4	4	4.3
Making worthy use of leisure time	5	3.0	3	4.1	2	2.2
Learning parliamentary procedures	3	1.8	0	---	3	3.3
Preparing for FFA	2	1.2	0	---	2	2.2
Participating in meetings	2	1.2	2	2.7	0	---
Miscellaneous	6	3.6	4	5.5	2	2.2
Indicated benefit, but did not specify	16	9.8	9	12.3	7	7.6
Did not answer the question	40	24.2	11	15.1	29	31.5
Total	165	100.0	73	100.0	92	100.0

TABLE XXVIII

NUMBERS AND PERCENTS OF ALL INTERVIEWEES, MEMBERS AND
NONMEMBERS BY WHAT THEY LIKED MOST
ABOUT 4-H CLUB WORK

Liked Most About 4-H	All Interviewees		Members		Nonmembers	
	Number	Per- cent	Number	Per- cent	Number	Per- cent
Learning through projects	42	25.5	18	24.7	24	26.1
Participating in general Club activities	30	18.2	13	17.9	17	18.4
Participating in meetings	16	9.7	7	9.6	9	9.8
Enjoying fellowship	12	7.3	5	6.8	7	7.6
Attending camp	10	6.1	2	2.7	8	8.7
Getting out of class	7	4.2	7	9.6	0	---
Going on Club trips	5	3.0	5	6.8	0	---
Participating in the fair	4	2.4	1	1.4	3	3.3
Learning to become better citizens	4	2.4	2	2.7	2	2.2
Developing leadership	3	1.8	2	2.7	1	1.1
Learning to speak in public	2	1.2	1	1.4	1	1.1
Learning to keep records	2	1.2	0	---	2	2.2
No likes indicated	28	17.0	10	13.7	18	19.5
Total	165	100.0	73	100.0	92	100.0

(9.7 percent); 4) enjoying fellowship (7.3 percent), and 5) attending camp (6.1 percent).

Little difference was seen between members and nonmembers when indicating what they most liked about 4-H Club work. "Learning through projects," "participating in general Club activities" and "participating in meetings" were the three likes most frequently mentioned by members and nonmembers. It should be noted that more members indicated "getting out of class" and "going on Club trips" as likes while more nonmembers indicated "attending camp" as a like.

Reasons for Retention in Senior Years

Table XXIX shows the most important single reasons why interviewees thought members might remain in 4-H Club work. "Enjoying fellowship" was the most important reason given by 31.5 percent of all interviewees; while 21.7 percent considered "learning opportunities" the most important. Members and nonmembers agreed in ranking the two reasons mentioned above, but disagreed in the ranking of others. Seven (9.6 percent) of the members selected reasons but did not specify one as being more important than the others.

Table XXX shows the frequency of mention of the reasons why all interviewees believed some people remained in Club work. The most frequently mentioned reasons were "learning opportunities" and "enjoying fellowship," and the least frequently mentioned reason

TABLE XXIX
 NUMBERS AND PERCENTS OF ALL INTERVIEWEES, MEMBERS AND
 NONMEMBERS BY THE MOST IMPORTANT SINGLE REASON
 MENTIONED FOR SENIOR YOUTH REMAINING
 IN 4-H CLUB

Reason Mentioned	All Interviewees		Members		Nonmembers	
	Number	Per- cent	Number	Per- cent	Number	Per- cent
Enjoying fellowship	52	31.5	21	28.7	31	33.7
Learning opportunities	36	21.9	18	24.7	18	19.6
Holding an office	22	13.3	7	9.6	15	16.3
Challenging projects	21	12.7	7	9.6	14	15.2
Competing	19	11.6	9	12.3	10	10.9
Showed no preference	7	4.2	7	9.6	0	---
Did not answer the question	8	4.8	4	5.5	4	4.3
Total	165	100.0	73	100.0	92	100.0

TABLE XXX
 NUMBERS AND PERCENTS OF ALL INTERVIEWEES, MEMBERS AND
 NONMEMBERS BY REASONS WHY MEMBERS
 REMAINED IN 4-H CLUB WORK*

Reason for Retention	All Interviewees		Members		Nonmembers	
	Number	Per- cent	Number	Per- cent	Number	Per- cent
Learning opportunities	97	58.8	50	68.5	47	51.1
Enjoying fellowship	97	58.8	50	68.5	47	51.1
Challenging projects	88	53.3	43	58.9	45	48.9
Competing	86	52.1	44	66.3	42	45.7
Holding an office	72	43.6	31	42.5	41	44.6
Other	3	1.8	2	2.7	1	1.1

*Numbers and percents add up to more than totals since some respondents listed more than one reason for retention.

was "holding an office." It should be noted that the percentage differences were relatively slight. Their similarity would indicate that all of the reasons were of nearly equal importance to the interviewees.

In comparing the members with the nonmembers, the order of reasons for retention remains almost the same, although the reasons appear to be more important to the members. This is indicated by the 10 percent more members than nonmembers who checked each reason. The one exception was the "holding an office" category, in which the percentages were about the same. This might tend to indicate that members had either recognized or received greater satisfaction from 4-H Club participation than had nonmembers.

IV. DISADVANTAGES OF 4-H CLUB MEMBERSHIP

Reasons Why Benefit Was Not Derived

As indicated in Table XXXI, the most frequently cited reason why all interviewees felt 4-H did not benefit them was that the Clubs had "too few activities" (9.1 percent).

In comparing members and nonmembers, it was noticed that larger percentages of the latter than the former were included in every category with the exception of the "not specified" category.

Reasons for Disliking 4-H Club Experience

As Table XXXII indicates, 13.4 percent of all interviewees felt the 4-H Club was not active enough. Other reasons also were

TABLE XXXI
 NUMBERS AND PERCENTS OF ALL INTERVIEWEES, MEMBERS AND
 NONMEMBERS BY REASONS WHY 4-H CLUB WAS
 NOT BENEFICIAL*

Reason 4-H Was Not Beneficial	All Interviewees		Members		Nonmembers	
	Number	Per- cent	Number	Per- cent	Number	Per- cent
Too few activities	15	9.1	1	1.4	14	15.2
Inadequate leadership	6	3.6	2	2.7	4	4.3
Too little work on the part of the individual	5	3.0	0	---	5	5.4
Inadequate projects	5	3.0	3	4.1	2	2.2
Too few meetings	3	1.8	0	---	3	3.3
Not specified	14	8.6	8	11.0	6	6.5

*Numbers and percents do not add up to totals since some respondents did not answer the question and others indicated more than one reason.

TABLE XXXII
 NUMBERS AND PERCENTS OF ALL INTERVIEWEES, MEMBERS AND
 NONMEMBERS BY REASONS STATED FOR DISLIKING
 4-H CLUB WORK

Reason for Disliking 4-H	All Interviewees		Members		Nonmembers	
	Number	Per- cent	Number	Per- cent	Number	Per- cent
Club not active enough	22	13.4	11	15.1	11	12.0
Unorganized meetings	12	7.3	2	2.7	10	10.9
Not enough time for meetings	11	6.7	7	9.6	4	4.3
Not enough projects	4	2.4	2	2.7	2	2.2
Too much record keeping	4	2.4	2	2.7	2	2.2
Other members "goofed off"	3	1.8	1	1.4	2	2.2
Meetings took up the activity period	3	1.8	1	1.4	2	2.2
Lack of school support	3	1.8	3	4.1	0	---
Inadequate leadership	2	1.2	0	---	2	2.2
Miscellaneous	2	1.2	2	2.7	0	---
None indicated	36	21.8	19	26.0	17	18.4
Did not dislike anything	63	38.2	23	31.6	40	43.4
Total	165	100.0	73	100.0	92	100.0

given by small numbers. However, 38.2 percent of all interviewees did not answer the question and 21.8 percent said specifically that they did not have dislikes. It might be assumed that the interviewees who did not answer the question did not have any dislikes; therefore, it might be said that 60 percent of all interviewees had no dislikes.

In a comparison of members' and nonmembers' reasons for disliking 4-H Club work, it should be noted that the percentages for both groups are similar for most of the reasons stated. The exceptions are that 5.4 percent more members than nonmembers indicated "not enough time for meetings" and 7.2 percent more nonmembers than members indicated that meetings were not properly organized.

Reasons for Dropouts

As indicated in Table XXXIII, the nonmembers gave specific reasons for their discontinuation of 4-H Club work. The reasons given, ordered by frequency of mention, were: 1) lack of interest in their 4-H Club project (45.7 percent); 2) interference of outside activities (32.6 percent); 3) 4-H Club was not active enough (22.8 percent); 4) lack of availability of a 4-H Club (13.0 percent); 5) interference of Future Farmers of America (12.0 percent); 6) friends did not belong (6.5 percent), and 7) lack of time for 4-H Club work (3.3 percent).

Table XXXIV indicates that all interviewees most frequently

TABLE XXXIII
 NUMBERS AND PERCENTS OF NONMEMBERS GIVING VARIOUS
 REASONS FOR NOT PRESENTLY BEING ENROLLED
 IN 4-H CLUB*

Reason Given	Number	Nonmembers (N = 92) Percent
No interest in 4-H Club projects	42	45.7
Outside activities interfered	30	32.6
4-H Club not active enough	21	22.8
No Clubs available	12	13.0
FFA interfered	11	12.0
Friends did not belong to the same Club	6	6.5
Did not have time to spend with 4-H Club	3	3.3

*Numbers and percents add up to more than totals since some nonmembers checked more than one reason.

TABLE XXXIV

NUMBERS AND PERCENTS OF ALL INTERVIEWEES, MEMBERS AND
NONMEMBERS BY THE MOST IMPORTANT SINGLE REASON
SUGGESTED FOR SENIOR YOUTH DROPPING 4-H
CLUB MEMBERSHIP

Most Important Suggested Reason for Dropout	All Interviewees		Members		Nonmembers	
	Number	Per cent	Number	Per- cent	Number	Per- cent
Lack of interest in projects and activities	54	32.7	22	30.1	32	34.7
Interference of outside activities	46	27.9	12	16.4	34	37.0
Teased by nonmembers	35	21.2	18	24.7	17	18.5
Lack of parental support	17	10.3	9	12.3	8	8.7
Other	1	.6	1	1.4	0	---
Most important reason was not checked	11	6.7	11	15.1	0	---
Did not answer	1	.6	0	---	1	1.1
Total	165	100.0	73	100.0	92	100.0

selected "lack of interest in projects and activities" (32.9 percent) as the single most important reason why some seniors leave 4-H. However, 27.9 percent mentioned "interference of outside activities," 21.2 percent mentioned "teased by nonmembers" and 10.2 percent mentioned "lack of parental support" as reasons for dropping 4-H Club work.

"Lack of interest in projects and activities" was selected as the single most important reason for senior 4-H dropouts by the largest percentage of members (30.1 percent); while nonmembers suggested "interference of outside activities" most frequently (37.0 percent).

The second most important reason suggested by members for dropouts of seniors was "teased by nonmembers" (24.7 percent), and for nonmembers was "lack of interest in projects and activities" (34.7 percent).

Table XXXV shows all of the reasons why all interviewees thought some boys might have dropped 4-H Club membership. The reason most frequently cited was "interference of outside activities" (59.4 percent), closely followed by "lack of interest in projects and activities" (57.0 percent).

The members most frequently mentioned "lack of interest in projects and activities" (61.6 percent) as a factor, closely followed by "interference of outside activities" (57.5 percent).

The order of these two reasons was just reversed by the nonmembers ("interference of outside activities" was indicated by

TABLE XXXV

NUMBERS AND PERCENTS OF ALL INTERVIEWEES, MEMBERS AND
NONMEMBERS GIVING ALL REASONS SUGGESTED FOR
4-H CLUB MEMBERS DROPPING OUT*

Reason for Dropping Out	All Interviewees (N = 165)		Members (N = 93)		Nonmembers (N = 92)	
	Number	Per- cent	Number	Per- cent	Number	Per- cent
Interference of outside activities	98	59.4	42	57.5	56	60.9
Lack of interest in projects and activities	94	57.0	45	61.6	49	53.3
Lack of parental support	57	34.5	36	49.3	21	22.8
Teased by nonmembers	51	30.9	31	42.5	20	21.7
Other	8	4.8	5	6.8	3	3.3

*Numbers and percents add up to more than totals since some respondents listed more than one reason for dropping out.

60.9 percent and "lack of interest in projects and activities" by 53.3 percent).

All the reasons cited were deemed important by all interviewees, as indicated by the relatively high percentages responding.

V. SUGGESTED ADDITIONAL PROJECTS, ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS

As indicated in Table XXXVI, all interviewees suggested new projects which they would most like to see incorporated into the 4-H Club program. The suggestions listed by all interviewees, in descending order of frequency mentioned, were: 1) mechanics (14.5 percent); 2) rodeos (11.5 percent); 3) physical fitness (10.9 percent), and 4) three separate items--hiking, horses, and science, each with 9.7 percent.

The order of the members' suggestions were: 1) physical fitness; 2) horses; 3) hiking; 4) rodeos, and 5) two separate items--co-educational activities and mechanics.

The nonmembers suggested: 1) mechanics; 2) science; 3) rodeos; 4) hiking, and 5) two separate items--horses and square dancing.

In comparing members with nonmembers, it is interesting to note that members stressed the need for physical fitness-type projects; while nonmembers were apparently more interested in mechanics and science type projects.

TABLE XXXVI
 NUMBERS AND PERCENTS OF ALL INTERVIEWEES, MEMBERS AND
 NONMEMBERS BY SUGGESTED ADDITIONAL PROJECTS,
 ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS FOR THE 4-H
 CLUB PROGRAM*

New Projects Suggested	All Interviewees (N = 165)		Members (N = 73)		Nonmembers (N = 92)	
	Number	Per- cent	Number	Per- cent	Number	Per- cent
Mechanics (hot-rods)	24	14.5	6	8.2	18	19.6
Rodeos	19	11.5	8	10.9	11	12.0
Physical fitness	18	10.9	15	20.5	3	3.3
Hiking	16	9.7	8	10.9	8	8.7
Horses	16	9.7	12	16.4	4	4.3
Science	16	9.7	3	4.1	13	14.1
Co-educational activities	7	4.2	6	8.2	1	1.1
Dogs	7	4.2	4	5.5	3	3.3
Square dancing	7	4.2	3	4.1	4	4.3

*Numbers and percents add up to more than totals since some respondents made more than one suggestion and others made none.

VI. PARTICIPATION IN OTHER ORGANIZATIONS
AND ACTIVITIES

Number of Clubs to Which Interviewees Belonged

Table XXXVII indicates the total number of clubs to which the interviewees belonged. Membership in only one club was indicated by 37.6 percent of all interviewees.

The members all belonged to at least one club because of their 4-H Club membership. Of the members, 36 (49.3 percent) belonged to only the 4-H Club; while 37 (50.7 percent) belonged to one or more additional clubs.

Since 49.3 percent of the members belonged to only the 4-H Club, it would appear that an active and well-directed 4-H Club could play an important role in meeting the needs of senior youth.

Thirty-seven (40.2 percent) of the nonmembers did not have any club affiliation after they had dropped 4-H membership. Twenty-six (28.3 percent) belonged to only one club and 29 (31.5 percent) belonged to 2 or more clubs.

Since 40.2 percent of the nonmembers had at one time belonged to a 4-H Club but had no club affiliation whatsoever at the time of the study, it might be assumed that some of their needs may not have been answered through membership.

Participation in Other Activities

As indicated in Table XXXVIII, 55.8 percent of all interviewees (50.7 percent of the members and 59.8 percent of the

TABLE XXXVII
 NUMBERS AND PERCENTS OF ALL INTERVIEWEES, MEMBERS AND
 NONMEMBERS BY TOTAL NUMBERS OF CLUBS TO WHICH
 THEY BELONGED

Number of Clubs to Which Belonged	All Interviewees		Members		Nonmembers	
	Number	Per- cent	Number	Per- cent	Number	Per- cent
0	37	22.4	0	---	37	40.2
1	62	37.6	36	49.3	26	28.3
2	28	17.0	16	21.9	12	13.0
3	29	17.6	14	19.2	15	16.3
4 or more	9	5.4	7	9.6	2	2.2
Total	165	100.0	73	100.0	92	100.0
Average	1.5		1.9		1.1	

TABLE XXXVIII

NUMBERS AND PERCENTS OF ALL INTERVIEWEES, MEMBERS AND
NONMEMBERS BY WHETHER OR NOT THEY WERE MEMBERS
OF ORGANIZATIONS OTHER THAN 4-H CLUB

Members of Other Organizations	All Interviewees		Members		Nonmembers	
	Number	Per- cent	Number	Per- cent	Number	Per- cent
Yes	92	55.8	37	50.7	55	59.8
No	73	44.2	36	49.3	37	40.2
Total	165	100.0	73	100.0	92	100.0

nonmembers) belonged to clubs other than 4-H. Membership in organizations other than 4-H was reported by 9.1 percent more nonmembers than members.

It should again be stressed that 36 (49.3 percent) of the members belong to 4-H Club only and that 37 (40.2 percent) of the nonmembers did not belong to any organization.

As indicated in Table XXXIX, school subject-matter clubs were the most popular clubs joined by all interviewees. The members most frequently joined: 1) school subject-matter clubs; 2) church clubs; 3) hot-rod associations; 4) service clubs, and 5) Future Farmers of America; while the nonmembers most frequently joined: 1) school subject-matter clubs; 2) service clubs; 3) Fellowship of Christian Athletes; 4) Future Farmers of America, and 5) Pep Club.

The members' average participation rating, 5.6, for church clubs was slightly higher than the nonmembers', 4.0. Likewise, the members' average participation rating, 4.5, was higher than the nonmembers', 4.0, for Pep Club.

However, the nonmembers' average participation ratings were greater than the members' for service clubs, 5.1 versus 4.2, Future Farmers of America, 4.4 versus 3.4, Boy Scouts, 6.0 versus 4.5, and Beta Club, 4.6 versus 4.0.

Interference of Outside Activities

Table XL indicates that 59.4 percent of all interviewees

TABLE XXXIX
 NUMBERS, PERCENTS AND AVERAGE PARTICIPATION RATINGS OF ALL INTERVIEWEES, MEMBERS
 AND NONMEMBERS BY ORGANIZATIONS AND ACTIVITIES*

Organization or Activity	All Interviewees (N = 165)			Members (N = 73)			Nonmembers (N = 92)		
	Number	Percent	Average Partici- pation Rating	Number	Percent	Average Partici- pation Rating	Number	Percent	Average Partici- pation Rating
School (subject- matter) clubs	35	21.2	4.2	13	17.8	4.1	22	23.7	4.3
Service clubs	20	12.1	4.6	5	6.8	4.2	15	16.3	5.1
FFA	19	11.5	3.9	5	6.8	3.4	14	15.2	4.4
Fellowship of Christian Athletes	18	10.9	3.9	4	5.5	4.0	14	15.2	3.9
Church clubs	16	9.7	4.8	8	10.9	5.6	8	8.7	4.0
Pep Club	13	7.9	4.3	4	5.5	4.5	9	9.8	4.0
Boy Scouts	10	6.1	5.3	6	8.2	4.5	4	4.3	6.0
Beta Club	10	6.1	4.3	3	4.1	4.0	7	7.6	4.6
Future Business Leaders of America	7	4.2	3.7	3	4.1	3.7	4	4.3	3.7
Hot Rod Association	6	3.6	3.7	6	8.2	3.7	0	---	---
Key Club	5	3.0	5.0	4	5.5	5.0	1	1.1	5.0
YMCA	2	1.2	4.0	2	2.7	4.0	0	---	---
Miscellaneous	7	4.2	3.9	6	8.2	3.9	1	1.1	4.0
No clubs	63	38.2	---	36	49.3	---	37	40.2	---

*Numbers and percents add up to more than totals since some respondents indicated more than one organization or activity.

TABLE XL
 NUMBERS AND PERCENTS OF ALL INTERVIEWEES, MEMBERS AND
 NONMEMBERS REPORTING WHETHER OR NOT OUTSIDE
 ACTIVITIES INTERFERED WITH 4-H CLUB WORK

Outside Activities Interfered	All Interviewees		Members		Nonmembers	
	Number	Per- cent	Number	Per- cent	Number	Per- cent
Yes	98	59.4	38	52.1	60	65.2
No	67	40.6	35	47.9	32	34.8
Total	165	100.0	73	100.0	92	100.0

(52.1 percent of members and 65.2 percent of nonmembers) said that outside activities had interfered with 4-H Club work. This tends to indicate that one of the reasons why the nonmembers might have dropped 4-H Club was that activities other than 4-H had interfered.

Table XLI lists specific outside activities that were said to interfere. The most frequently interfering activities mentioned by all interviewees were: 1) athletics (43.0 percent); 2) chores that had to be done at home (36.4 percent); 3) part-time work (26.1 percent); 4) school clubs (14.5 percent), and 5) two items--hobbies and Boy Scouts (13.3 percent each).

The members indicated interference from, in order of mention: 1) chores which had to be done at home; 2) part-time work; 3) athletics; 4) school subject-matter clubs; 5) Boy Scouts, and 6) hobbies. The nonmembers mentioned, in order: 1) athletics; 2) chores that had to be done at home; 3) part-time work; 4) Boy Scouts; 5) hobbies; 6) school subject-matter clubs, and 7) Future Farmers of America.

The nonmembers indicated much greater interference from outside activities than did the members, especially concerning athletics (40.4 percent more), chores to be done at home (8.7 percent more), part-time work (5.0 percent more), Boy Scouts (6.7 percent more) and Future Farmers of America (6.1 percent more).

Interference of School Work

As Table XLII indicates, 48 (29.1 percent) of all

TABLE XLI
 NUMBERS AND PERCENTS OF ALL INTERVIEWEES, MEMBERS AND
 NONMEMBERS REPORTING THAT OTHER ACTIVITIES
 INTERFERED WITH 4-H CLUB WORK BY TYPE
 OF INTERFERING ACTIVITY*

Type of Interfering Activity	All Interviewees (N = 165)		Members (N = 73)		Nonmembers (N = 92)	
	Number	Per- cent	Number	Per- cent	Number	Per- cent
Athletics	71	43.0	15	20.5	56	60.9
Chores that had to be done at home	60	36.4	23	31.5	37	40.2
Part-time work	43	26.1	17	23.3	26	28.3
School clubs	24	14.5	11	15.1	13	14.1
Hobbies	22	13.3	7	9.6	15	16.3
Boy Scouts	22	13.3	7	9.6	15	16.3
FFA	17	10.3	5	6.8	12	13.0
YMCA	2	1.2	0	---	2	2.2
None	67	40.6	35	47.9	32	34.8

*Numbers and percents add up to more than totals since some respondents listed more than one interfering activity.

TABLE XLII

NUMBERS AND PERCENTS OF ALL INTERVIEWEES, MEMBERS AND
NONMEMBERS REPORTING INTERFERENCE OF SCHOOL
WORK WITH 4-H CLUB ACTIVITIES

Interference of School Work	All Interviewees		Members		Nonmembers	
	Number	Per- cent	Number	Per- cent	Number	Per- cent
Yes	48	29.1	12	16.4	36	39.1
No	117	70.9	61	83.6	56	60.9
Total	165	100.0	73	100.0	92	100.0

interviewees said that school work interfered with 4-H Club activities; whereas 117 (70.9 percent) indicated that it did not interfere.

Only 16.4 percent of the members indicated that course work interfered; while 39.1 percent of the nonmembers said that it had limited their 4-H participation. Therefore, it would appear that school studies were one of the factors that might have caused the nonmembers to drop 4-H Club work.

VII. FUTURE PLANS OF MEMBERS AND NONMEMBERS

Work Plans

As indicated in Table XLIII, 35 (21.2 percent) of all interviewees said that they had plans to work upon completion of high school; while 130 (78.8 percent) indicated that they did not plan to work immediately after graduation.

There were more members (28.7 percent) than nonmembers (15.2 percent) who indicated that they would seek employment directly upon completion of high school.

Of the 35 who planned to work, 10 (6.1 percent of the total) specified factory work, 7 (4.2 percent of the total) specified farming, 3 (1.8 percent of the total) specified mechanics or construction work and 12 (7.3 percent of the total) were undecided.

Slightly larger percentages of members than nonmembers mentioned each area of vocational interest. This tends to suggest that more of the former than the latter view high school education

TABLE XLIII
 NUMBERS AND PERCENTS OF ALL INTERVIEWEES, MEMBERS AND
 NONMEMBERS WHO PLANNED TO WORK AFTER HIGH SCHOOL
 COMPLETION BY AREA OF VOCATIONAL INTEREST

Area of Vocational Interest	All Interviewees		Members		Nonmembers	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Did not plan to work	130	78.8	52	71.3	78	84.8
Planned to work:	35	21.2	21	28.7	14	15.2
Factory work	10	6.1	5	6.8	5	5.4
Farming	7	4.2	5	6.8	2	2.2
Mechanic	3	1.8	3	4.1	0	---
Construction work	3	1.8	2	2.7	1	1.1
Undecided	12	7.3	6	8.2	6	6.5
Total	165	100.0	73	100.0	92	100.0

as terminal.

If the vocational interests of such youth could be recognized early enough, then a career exploration and preparation program might be introduced to help them better prepare for the future. Studies have shown that if an individual's 4-H projects are oriented toward his vocational plans, then retention in 4-H Club work is prolonged (6:21).

Armed Service Plans

Table XLIV shows that 54 (32.7 percent) of all the interviewees planned to join some branch of the armed forces after graduation from high school.

Twenty-one (28.7 percent) of the members and 33 (35.9 percent) of the nonmembers indicated armed service plans upon high school graduation. This finding may have possible implications for 4-H guidance efforts.

Technical School Plans

Table XLV indicates that 26 (15.8 percent) of the interviewees had plans to attend a technical school after completion of high school.

Only 6 (8.2 percent) of the members indicated such plans to attend technical schools; while 20 (21.7 percent) of the nonmembers reported having such plans.

Table XLVI concerns whether or not interviewees had decided which technical school to attend. Of the 26 individuals planning

TABLE XLIV

NUMBERS AND PERCENTS OF ALL INTERVIEWEES, MEMBERS AND
NONMEMBERS WHO PLANNED TO JOIN THE ARMED SERVICES
AFTER HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION

Planned to Join Armed Service	All Interviewees		Members		Nonmembers	
	Number	Per- cent	Number	Per- cent	Number	Per- cent
Yes	54	32.7	21	28.7	33	35.9
No	111	67.3	52	71.3	59	64.1
Total	165	100.0	73	100.0	92	100.0

TABLE XLV

NUMBERS AND PERCENTS OF ALL INTERVIEWEES, MEMBERS AND
NONMEMBERS WHO PLANNED TO ATTEND TECHNICAL SCHOOLS

Planned to Attend Technical School	All Interviewees		Members		Nonmembers	
	Number	Per- cent	Number	Per- cent	Number	Per- cent
Yes	26	15.8	6	8.2	20	21.7
No	139	84.2	67	91.8	72	78.3
Total	165	100.0	73	100.0	92	100.0

TABLE XLVI

NUMBERS AND PERCENTS OF ALL INTERVIEWEES, MEMBERS AND
NONMEMBERS WHO PLANNED TO ATTEND TECHNICAL
SCHOOLS BY WHETHER OR NOT THEY HAD
SELECTED THE SCHOOL

Had Selected A Technical School	All Interviewees		Members		Nonmembers	
	Number	Per- cent	Number	Per- cent	Number	Per- cent
Yes	13	7.9	2	2.7	11	12.0
Undecided	13	7.9	4	5.5	9	9.8
Not attending	139	84.2	67	91.8	72	78.2
Total	165	100.0	73	100.0	92	100.0

to attend technical schools, one-half had definite schools in mind and one-half did not. Only 2 (2.7 percent of the total) of the 6 members planning to attend technical schools had definite plans; whereas 11 (11.9 percent of the total) of the 20 nonmembers with such plans had definite plans concerning the technical schools of their choice.

Table XLVII shows the fields of study anticipated by those interviewees who planned to attend technical schools. The areas of vocational study indicated by all interviewees included:

1) mechanics (6.7 percent); 2) drafting (3.6 percent); 3) carpentry (3.0 percent); 4) welding (.6 percent), and 5) undecided (1.8 percent).

All but two of the members planning to attend technical schools indicated that they would like to study mechanics. The other two were undecided. The nonmembers listed the following areas of study: 1) mechanics; 2) drafting; 3) carpentry, and 4) welding. One nonmember was undecided.

These findings, too, may indicate a need for planned tours, career days and vocational discussions to be included in 4-H programs for senior youth.

College Plans

Table XLVIII shows that 66 (40.1 percent) of all the interviewees planned to attend college. Almost equal percentages of members (39.7 percent) and nonmembers (40.2 percent) planned to attend college after high school graduation. This appears to be a

TABLE XLVII

NUMBERS AND PERCENTS OF ALL INTERVIEWEES, MEMBERS AND
NONMEMBERS WHO PLANNED TO ATTEND TECHNICAL
SCHOOLS BY VOCATIONAL AREA MENTIONED

Vocational Area Mentioned	All Interviewees		Members		Nonmembers	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Not attending	139	84.2	67	91.8	72	78.2
Planned to attend:	23	14.0	4	5.5	19	20.7
Mechanic	11	6.7	4	5.5	7	7.6
Draftsman	6	3.6	0	---	6	6.5
Carpenter	5	3.0	0	---	5	5.5
Welder	1	.6	0	---	1	1.1
Undecided	3	1.8	2	2.7	1	1.1
Total	165	100.0	73	100.0	92	100.0

TABLE XLVIII

NUMBERS AND PERCENTS OF ALL INTERVIEWEES, MEMBERS AND
NONMEMBERS BY WHETHER OR NOT THEY
PLANNED TO ATTEND COLLEGE

Planned to Attend College	All Interviewees		Members		Nonmembers	
	Number	Per- cent	Number	Per- cent	Number	Per- cent
Yes	66	40.1	29	39.7	37	40.2
Undecided	1	.6	0	---	1	1.1
No	98	59.3	44	60.3	54	58.7
Total	165	100.0	73	100.0	92	100.0

normal kind of distribution when compared with other studies.

Table XLIX indicates the interviewees' college choices as follows: 1) Tennessee state colleges other than the Land Grant Institution (15.8 percent); 2) private institutions (6.1 percent), and 3) The University of Tennessee (5.5 percent). Twenty-two of the interviewees were undecided as to what college they would attend.

In comparing members with nonmembers, it is seen that a slightly larger percentage of the former mentioned private institutions; while a larger percentage of the latter mentioned the Tennessee state universities. Fairly large percentages of members (12.3 percent) and nonmembers (14.1 percent) were undecided as to institution.

Table L indicates the major fields of study which the interviewees reportedly planned to pursue. The following areas were indicated: 1) science (8.5 percent); 2) business (6.1 percent); 3) liberal arts (5.5 percent); 4) agriculture (3.6 percent); 5) engineering (3.0 percent); 6) medicine (1.8 percent); 7) miscellaneous (2.4 percent), and 8) undecided (9.7 percent).

The members, in descending order of frequency of mention, indicated: 1) business; 2) science; 3) agriculture; 4) medicine; 5) engineering, and 6) liberal arts. The nonmembers mentioned, in order: 1) science; 2) liberal arts; 3) business; 4) agriculture, and 5) engineering.

It should be noted that 12.3 percent of the members and 7.6

TABLE XLIX
 NUMBERS AND PERCENTS OF ALL INTERVIEWEES, MEMBERS AND
 NONMEMBERS WHO PLANNED TO ATTEND COLLEGE BY
 KIND OF COLLEGE MENTIONED

Kind of College	All Interviewees		Members		Nonmembers	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Did not plan to attend	98	59.3	44	60.3	54	58.7
Planned to attend:	67	40.7	29	39.7	38	41.3
State University other than Land Grant	26	15.8	9	12.3	17	18.5
Private Institution	10	6.1	7	9.6	3	3.3
University of Tennessee	9	5.5	4	5.5	5	5.4
Undecided	22	13.3	9	12.3	13	14.1
Total	165	100.0	73	100.0	92	100.0

TABLE L
 NUMBERS AND PERCENTS OF ALL INTERVIEWEES, MEMBERS AND
 NONMEMBERS WHO PLANNED TO ATTEND COLLEGE
 BY MAJOR FIELDS MENTIONED

Major Field	All Interviewees		Members		Nonmembers	
	Number	Per- cent	Number	Per- cent	Number	Per cent
Science	14	8.5	5	6.8	9	9.8
Business	10	6.1	5	6.8	5	5.4
Liberal Arts	9	5.5	1	1.4	8	8.7
Agriculture	6	3.6	3	4.1	3	3.3
Engineering	5	3.0	2	2.7	3	3.3
Medicine	3	1.8	3	4.1	0	---
Miscellaneous	4	2.4	1	1.4	3	3.3
Undecided	16	9.7	9	12.3	7	7.6
Not planning to attend	98	59.4	44	60.4	54	58.6
Total	165	100.0	73	100.0	92	100.0

percent of the nonmembers were undecided in their choice of future study. The possible need for career exploration opportunities is implicit in these findings.

VIII. DISCUSSION

In light of the findings of the present study, several problems appear to emerge as important in the future development of senior boys' 4-H Club work in Hamilton County.

The interviewees had participated in an average of 2.2 4-H Club activities per person during the duration of their membership. The average length of Club membership was 3.6 years. These figures show that the interviewees had participated, on the average, in less than 1 activity per year of membership. The interviewees also suggested "not interested in 4-H Club projects" as the single most important reason causing members to drop 4-H membership. These factors suggest a need for more selected educational activities and projects, particularly at the local level. Further survey work may be in order.

The senior boys' 4-H Clubs are led by teachers who volunteer to serve as 4-H Club leaders. According to the study, few leaders had made home visits to the 4-H Club members. Only 13.3 percent of all the interviewees had received home visits. This would indicate that Hamilton County may need to have more qualified and interested leaders to work with senior boys' 4-H Clubs. Further survey work may be in order.

The senior boys' 4-H Clubs of Hamilton County meet in the high

schools one time per month for an average of about thirty minutes. There is little organized Club work outside of the monthly meeting. This would tend to suggest that the senior boys' 4-H Club meetings may be too short and infrequent. Further survey work may be in order.

One-third of the nonmembers interviewed in the study did not belong to any organization at the time of the study. This factor, when considered with the high dropout rate in Hamilton County 4-H Clubs, suggests that the senior boys' 4-H Club program as it presently exists, may not be meeting some of the principal social needs of the county's youth. Further survey work may be in order.

At the present time, there are only 5 senior boys' 4-H Clubs in Hamilton County. They are located in predominantly rural areas, leaving a large potential of urban, as well as rural senior youth without the opportunity for Club membership. Thirteen percent of the interviewees (nonmembers) indicated that they had dropped 4-H Club work because there were no Clubs available. This would tend to suggest the possible need for additional rural (and, perhaps urban) Clubs in Hamilton County. Further survey work may be in order.

A generally-stated Extension objective, designed to provide guidance for the Extension workers in helping them cope with the problems mentioned above, might be to make it possible for all eligible and interested county boys of senior 4-H Club age to

participate in appropriate phases of 4-H work and have satisfying learning experiences. More specifically, this would suggest the following objectives: 1) senior 4-H Club youth to be able to properly (using decision-making steps) consider educational and career possibilities; 2) senior 4-H Club youth to be able to participate more effectively in selected educational and recreational activities, and 3) senior 4-H Club youth to be able to participate more effectively in selected 4-H projects.

CHAPTER IV

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

Hamilton County, as well as other counties throughout Tennessee and the nation, is faced with the problem of presenting a senior 4-H Club program that will be of interest and value to the members.

Hamilton County has a total 4-H Club enrollment of 1,449 members, including 278 senior members. Of the senior membership, 92 are boys.

In order to alleviate the dropout problem and present a program which will retain members, Extension workers feel that a senior 4-H Club program should: 1) create opportunities for out-of-school education; 2) answer some of the "growing up" needs of the adolescent, and 3) help to develop more effective United States citizens.

This study was designed to try to isolate some of the factors influencing the retention of some senior 4-H Club members. Therefore, the study was made with the following purpose in mind: 1) to try to identify some of the factors contributing to the retention and loss of senior 4-H Club boy members in Hamilton County, Tennessee.

The findings of this study were obtained from 165 interview schedules completed with 73 male senior 4-H Club members

and 92 male senior youth who had dropped Club membership. The interviews were conducted in 5 high schools (Birchwood, Hixon, Sale Creek and Soddy-Daisy) in Hamilton County, Tennessee. The time allotted for administration of the interview schedules at each high school was approximately 25 minutes.

The Review of Literature and Results of the Study chapters were divided into seven categories as follows: 1) personal data; 2) 4-H involvement; 3) advantages of 4-H Club membership; 4) disadvantages of 4-H Club membership; 5) suggested additional projects and activities; 6) participation in other organizations and activities, and 7) future plans of members and nonmembers. Literature reviewed under these categories suggested many factors previously found to be influential in the retention of members and provide related information. Major findings of the present study will be presented below under the appropriate headings.

I. SUMMARY OF MAJOR FINDINGS

Personal Data

The average age of the interviewees was 15.8 years. Little difference was noted between members and nonmembers.

The study disclosed that the 4-H Club members had a relatively greater average participation rating and average total participation score than did the nonmembers. The average participation ratings and average total participation scores were compared with the fathers' occupations, with whether or not the mothers worked, and with the number of clubs to

which the mothers belonged.

It was found that interviewees whose fathers held professional positions had higher average participation ratings and average total participation scores than those with fathers in any other occupational category; those whose fathers held positions in labor (e.g. factory work), agriculture and skilled labor (e.g. carpentry) were about equal in scores and ratings, and those whose fathers were unemployed had the lowest average participation ratings and average total participation scores. The members had greater average participation ratings and average total participation scores than did the nonmembers for all categories of fathers' occupations.

The study showed that about one-tenth more nonmembers' than members' mothers worked outside the home, and that the average participation ratings and average total participation scores were greater for the members whose mothers did not work and for the nonmembers whose mothers did work. Of all the working mothers, only one-sixth held professional positions (e.g. teaching and nursing).

There was a difference between the average number of clubs to which the members' and nonmembers' mothers belonged. More members had mothers belonging to 3 or 4 clubs; while more nonmembers had mothers belonging to only 1 or 2 clubs. There was, however, a direct positive relationship between the number of clubs to which a mother belonged and the average participation

ratings and average total participation scores of the interviewees-- the greater the number of clubs, the higher the average ratings and scores.

In seeking to determine the 4-H involvement of the families of the interviewees, it was found that more of the nonmembers' parents had been 4-H Club members or leaders. However, there were few from either group whose parents had been 4-H Club leaders. More nonmembers than members also indicated that they had more sisters and/or brothers who were, or had been, enrolled in 4-H Club work.

The study also indicated that all the interviewees indicating a church affiliation adhered to the Protestant faith, with a majority being affiliated with the Baptist Church.

4-H Involvement

The average total length of 4-H Club membership for all interviewees was 3.7 years and there was little difference between the members and nonmembers. More nonmembers had dropped membership at the age of 14 than at any other age.

The participation of members (at the time of the study) and nonmembers (while in 4-H Club) was about the same, although the members had a slightly higher participation rating than did the nonmembers. The similar ratings may have resulted from the fact that a relatively large group of nonmembers reported having been officers. The nonmembers were referring to their entire membership period; whereas the members were indicating offices

held at the time of the study.

The average project enrollment of the members was 3.6 projects per person; while the enrollment for nonmembers was 1.6 projects per person. The seven most popular projects, as indicated by all interviewees, in descending order, were: dairy, electricity, automotive, beef, garden and fruits, and poultry and corn.

Slightly more nonmembers than members reported having owned their 4-H Club projects, which might be explained by the fact that they were reporting over a period of time, while the members were reporting ownership at the time of the study.

The members reported "parents helped care for projects" as the most important parental aid received; whereas the nonmembers considered financial aid the most important which they had received. The members indicated somewhat less parental support than did the nonmembers.

The members indicated that they participated in an average of 2.7 4-H activities per person; while the nonmembers participated in an average of 1.9 per person. The members also reported having received more awards than did the nonmembers.

Although few interviewees had received visits from Club leaders or agents, the members reported more visits than did the nonmembers.

More members than nonmembers reported having close friends belonging to their 4-H Club.

Advantages of 4-H Club Membership

A greater number of members than nonmembers indicated that they had received benefits from 4-H Club work, although many nonmembers did indicate that they had received some benefits. There was little difference in the types of benefit mentioned by the two groups.

Also, there was little difference between what the members and nonmembers liked most about 4-H Club work. The three most frequently mentioned likes were "learning through projects," "participating in general Club activities" and "participating in meetings."

The interviewees also were asked to mention why they thought that some 4-H Club members might remain in 4-H Club work. They indicated "learning opportunities" and "enjoying fellowship" as the most important reasons, although all the reasons given had relatively high percentages. This would indicate that all were considered important by the interviewees.

Disadvantages of 4-H Club Membership

About one-third of the interviewees felt that they had not derived benefits from 4-H Club work. More of the nonmembers indicated dissatisfaction than was true with the members. The reasons listed, in order of frequency of mention, were: "too few activities," "inadequate projects" and "too few meetings."

The reasons cited for not liking 4-H Club work also were about the same for the members and nonmembers, with the exception

that more members indicated a need for more projects and more non-members felt a need for better organized meetings.

When asked why they had dropped 4-H Club work, the nonmembers indicated, in order of frequency mentioned: "no interest in 4-H Club projects," "outside activities interfered," "4-H is not active enough," "no clubs available," "Future Farmers of America interfered," "friends did not belong," and "did not have enough time to spend with 4-H Club work."

When all the interviewees were asked why they thought that some members might drop 4-H Club work, the most frequently cited reasons were: "interference of outside activities," "lack of interest in projects," "lack of parental support" and "teased by nonmembers." However, when they were asked to indicate a single reason, they selected "lack of interest in projects" as the most important reason.

Suggested Additional Projects, Activities and Events

All interviewees were asked to give suggestions for additional projects, activities and events to be included in the 4-H Club program. The members suggested, in order: physical fitness projects, horse projects, hiking, rodeos, more co-educational activities, and mechanical projects. The nonmembers indicated mechanics, science projects, rodeos, hiking, horse projects, and square dancing.

Participation in Other Organizations and Activities

The study indicated that two-fifths of the nonmembers did not belong to any clubs, and that about one-half of the members did not have any club affiliation other than 4-H.

About one-half of the interviewees indicated that they were members of organizations other than 4-H Club. More nonmembers than members belonged to other organizations.

When asked the type of clubs to which they belonged, the interviewees listed, in order, the following: school subject-matter clubs, service clubs, FFA, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, church clubs, Pep Club, Boy Scouts, Beta Club, Future Business Leaders of America, hot-rod associations, Key Club and YMCA.

More than one-half of the interviewees indicated that outside activities had interfered with their 4-H Club work. A greater percentage of nonmembers than members indicated interfering activities. The most frequently mentioned interfering activities, in order, were: athletics, chores that had to be done at home, part-time work, school clubs, hobbies, Boy Scouts, FFA, and YMCA.

Forty-eight interviewees indicated that their high school course work interfered with 4-H Club work. Of that group, 36 were nonmembers.

Future Plans of Members and Nonmembers

About one-fifth of the interviewees indicated that they had plans to work after high school graduation. More members than nonmembers were planning to work. The types of work indicated

were: factory, farming, mechanics and construction.

About one-third of the interviewees planned to join the armed services after high school graduation. More nonmembers than members were included in this group.

Of the 26 interviewees who planned to attend technical schools after completion of high school, only 6 were members. About one-half of the technical school group had made choices as to the schools they would prefer to attend. The vocational areas mentioned, in order of frequency, were: mechanics, drafting, carpentry and welding. Three were undecided about their area of study.

About 40 percent of the interviewees planned to attend college upon high school graduation. The percentages for the members and nonmembers were about the same. They indicated plans to attend Tennessee state colleges other than the University of Tennessee, private institutions and the University of Tennessee, in that order.

Twenty-two of the interviewees were undecided about what college they would attend. The choice of study areas indicated, in order of frequency of mention, were: science, business, liberal arts, agriculture, engineering and medicine.

II. CONCLUSIONS

The study indicated that the average age at which the nonmembers had dropped 4-H Club work was about 14 years. Therefore,

it is seen that the critical time in the retention or loss of members was the transition from elementary to the secondary school level.

Based on the findings, the following major factors appear to have been influential in the retention of Hamilton County senior 4-H Club boys:

1. Participation in 4-H Club work (If a member takes an active part, participating in a number of projects and activities, he tends to remain in 4-H Club work.)
2. Recognition (When a 4-H Club member is recognized for his 4-H Club work, the rewards tend to act as an encouragement for increased activity and continued membership.)
3. Membership of friends (If a member has close friends enrolled in the same 4-H Club to which he belongs, retention is encouraged.)
4. Home visits by leaders and agents (If Club leaders and agents make an adequate number of home visits, they tend to encourage retention of 4-H Club members.)
5. Mothers who do not work outside the home (If the mother does not work outside the home, she apparently tends to have more time to encourage and support her child's participation in 4-H Club work.)

Based on the findings, the following factors appear to be influential in causing losses in 4-H Club membership:

1. Loss of interest in 4-H Club projects (If 4-H Club projects

- do not interest the members, then losses usually occur.)
2. Participation in activities other than 4-H Club (If members participate actively in other activities, they tend to drop out of 4-H.)
 3. Interference of high school work (If the academic demands made upon an individual when entering high school are so great that there is relatively little time for participation in other activities, 4-H Club work may be dropped.)
 4. Lack of activity in the 4-H Club (If 4-H Club activities are not challenging, the members' interest tends to diminish and dropout occurs.)
 5. Teasing of members by nonmembers (If a 4-H Club is regarded by others as a "farmer's" organization, the members may be chided and teased about their membership.)

It was found in the study that the following factors did not seem to be influential in leading to either senior 4-H Club boy retention or dropout: 1) previous 4-H Club membership of the parents; 2) 4-H enrollment of brothers and sisters; 3) 4-H Club leadership of the parents; 4) number of years enrolled in 4-H Club membership, and 5) ownership of 4-H Club projects.

Certain positive values tend to be associated with 4-H Club work. The interviewees listed the following values, in order of frequency of mention: 1) learning through projects; 2) participating in general 4-H Club activities; 3) enjoying fellowship; 4) learning to become better citizens; 5) participating

in the meetings; 6) attending camp; 7) learning to speak in public; 8) developing leadership qualities; 9) making worthy use of leisure time; 10) going on 4-H Club trips; 11) learning parliamentary procedure; 12) preparing for FFA, and 13) learning to keep records.

Things which tend to keep members from receiving maximum benefit from 4-H Club work, in order of frequency of mention, include: 1) lack of activity in the 4-H Club; 2) unorganized meetings; 3) lack of time for the meetings; 4) inadequate leadership; 5) not enough effort on the part of individual members; 6) inadequate projects; 7) too much record keeping; 8) too few meetings; 9) other members "goofing off;" 10) meetings taking up activity periods, and 11) lack of school support.

III. RECOMMENDATIONS

If it is desired to retain male 4-H Club members through senior years in Hamilton County and other counties faced with similar problems, the factors associated with retention and the positive values of 4-H membership should be understood and considered by those responsible for the work.

Other recommendations might include those listed below:

1. Similar studies should be conducted in counties having unusually low senior 4-H Club enrollments to see if some of the factors here identified are influencing retention and enrollment.

2. Measures such as intelligence quotients and emotional maturity levels of members and nonmembers might be compared and related to factors here identified.
3. A cross-tabulation of the data available from the present study might provide further insights into factors influencing retention.
4. Further survey work might be conducted in Hamilton County to establish the possible needs for:
 - a) A different number and variety of projects, activities and events
 - b) An increased number of active leaders for senior Clubs
 - c) More and longer meetings per Club
 - d) More 4-H Clubs for eligible and interested senior rural and/or urban youth.

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APPENDIX

INTERVIEW SCHEDULE

SENIOR URBAN 4-H BOYS' CLUB RETENTION

The purpose of this interview is to try to discover some of the factors which encourage boys of senior 4-H Club age to remain in 4-H Club work. It is hoped that an understanding of some of the causes for "drop outs" will permit county agents and advisory committees to better prepare a more adequate, interesting and stimulating program for urban senior youth.

Name _____ 4-H Club _____

1. Are you presently enrolled in a senior 4-H Club? (please check)
a. Yes _____ b. No _____
2. If at present you do not belong to 4-H, at what age did you drop active membership? _____
3. If you are not presently enrolled in a 4-H Club, why not?
 - a. Outside activities interfered _____
 - b. No longer interested in 4-H Club projects _____
 - c. The 4-H Club is not active enough _____
 - d. Most of my friends do not belong to the Club _____
 - e. Other reasons (please specify) _____

4. How many years have you been (or were you) active in the 4-H Club? _____
5. What is your present age? _____
6. What church do you attend? _____
7. Does your mother work outside of the home? a. Yes ___ b. No ___

8. If your mother does work outside of the home, what type of work does she do? _____
9. About how many clubs or organizations does your mother belong to? 1 _____ 2 _____ 3 _____ 4 or more _____
10. Please check and complete the item(s) which would most clearly indicate your plan for the future.
- a. I plan to attend college _____ If so, where? _____
I would plan to study (subject) _____
- b. I plan to attend technical school _____ If so, where? _____
I would plan to study for what kind of job? _____
- c. I plan to go to work _____ If so, where? _____
I would plan to be a (e.g. carpenter) _____
- d. I plan to join the Armed Services _____ What branch? _____
- e. Other _____ (please indicate what) _____
11. Are you a member of other organizations and activities other than 4-H? a. Yes _____ b. No _____
12. If you are a member of one or more other organizations, please list them (a, b, and c) and check the degree of your participation in each.
- a. _____
- (1) I attend about 1/4 of the meetings _____
- (2) I attend about 1/2 of the meetings _____
- (3) I attend about 3/4 of the meetings _____
- (4) I am a committee member _____
- (5) I am an officer _____ If so, what office do you hold?

b. _____

- (1) I attend about 1/4 of the meetings _____
- (2) I attend about 1/2 of the meetings _____
- (3) I attend about 3/4 of the meetings _____
- (4) I am a committee member _____
- (5) I am an officer _____ If so, what office do you hold? _____

c. _____

- (1) I attend about 1/4 of the meetings _____
- (2) I attend about 1/2 of the meetings _____
- (3) I attend about 3/4 of the meetings _____
- (4) I am a committee member _____
- (5) I am an officer _____ If so, what office do you hold? _____

13. Please list below in order the major 4-H project areas in which you are (or were) most interested.

a. _____ b. _____

c. _____ d. _____

14. Do (or did) you own the animals, crops, or materials with which you completed your 4-H projects? a. Yes _____ b. No _____

15. Do (or did) any of your outside activities interfere with your 4-H Club work? a. Yes _____ b. No _____

16. If outside activities do (or did) interfere with your 4-H Club work, please check those that do (or did).

a. Boy Scouts _____ b. YMCA _____ c. Future Farmers of _____

- America _____ d. Church youth groups _____
- e. Part-time work _____ f. Hobbies _____ g. Chores
that have to be done at home _____ h. School clubs _____
- i. Athletics _____ j. Others (please specify) _____
-

17. Has your course work in high school taken so much of your time that it prevents you from being active in 4-H Club work?
a. Yes _____ b. No _____
18. Do you have one or more sister(s) or brother(s) who are enrolled in a 4-H Club? a. Yes _____ b. No _____
19. Do you have one or more sister(s) or brother(s) who have been enrolled in a 4-H Club? a. Yes _____ b. No _____
20. Are some of your close friends members of the club to which you belong (or belonged)? a. Yes _____ b. No _____
21. Has either your father or your mother ever been a 4-H Club member? a. Yes _____ b. No _____
22. Has either your father or your mother (or both) ever been a 4-H Club Leader? a. Yes _____ b. No. _____
23. Please check the items, indicating how your parents helped you with your 4-H Club projects.
- a. They supplied transportation to activities and events _____
- b. They helped you care for your projects _____
- c. They supplied some or all of the money to buy and maintain your projects _____
- d. They discussed with you the best methods to successfully complete your project _____

- e. Other (please specify) _____
24. If you are (or were) a member of a 4-H Club, please check the degree of your participation.
- a. I attend (or attended) about 1/4 of the meetings _____
- b. I attend (or attended) about 1/2 of the meetings _____
- c. I attend (or attended) about 3/4 of the meetings _____
- d. I am (or was) a committee member _____
- e. I am (or was) an officer _____ If so, what office do (or did) you hold? _____
25. List major awards and ribbons you have received as a member of a 4-H Club.
- a. _____ b. _____ c. _____
- d. _____ e. _____ f. _____
26. About how many personal 4-H visits from your county agents do (or did) you receive per year? _____
27. About how many personal 4-H visits from your 4-H Club or project leader do (or did) you receive per year? _____
28. As you see it, has your 4-H experience been of any benefit to you?
- a. Yes _____
- (1) What benefits can you think of? _____
- _____
- b. Some _____
- (1) What were the benefits? _____
- _____

(2) What might have made it more beneficial? _____

c. No _____

(1) What would have made it of some benefit? _____

29. Directions: Please complete the following sentences:

a. The things I like (or liked) most about my 4-H experience
 is (or was) _____

b. The things I dislike (or disliked) most about my 4-H
 experience is (or was) _____

30. Directions: Check the items, in Table LI, ranking them
 according to their importance to you while active in a 4-H
 Club. Check only those items in which you have had
 experience.

31. If there are other projects, activities or events you
 think should be included for senior 4-H boys in the
 county, please list them.

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

32. Why do some 4-H Club members drop out of 4-H Club work in
 senior years?

a. Their outside activities conflict with club meetings _____

TABLE LI
IMPORTANCE OF ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS

Item	Much	Some	None
Crop judging			
Livestock and dairy judging			
Forestry judging			
Poultry judging			
Camp			
Demonstrations, and/or public speaking			
Achievement			
Citizenship			
Leadership			
Personal development			
Recreation			
Fairs			
Out-of-County activities			
Being an officer			
Other (please specify)			

b. 4-H does not have projects and activities which interest or challenge them _____

c. They are teased about 4-H Club membership by nonmembers _____

d. Their parents do not support the boys' interest in the club _____

e. Other reasons (please specify) _____

33. Why do you think some 4-H Club members remain in senior 4-H Club work?

a. The club offers them an opportunity to learn _____

b. They enjoy working with friends and completing club activities _____

c. They have interesting and challenging projects _____

d. They hold offices in the club _____

e. They like to compete for awards in the various 4-H events that are offered in the county, district and state _____

f. Other reasons (please specify) _____
