

I would like to commend the authors on their study of FFA program perceptions of FFA members and non-members in agricultural education programs in North Carolina. Agricultural education professionals should be aware of how students being served by FFA and those who choose not to be a part of the FFA view the program.

I would agree with the authors that there are many factors that could effect the decision to join or not join FFA. Certainly the discussion of motivation and expectancy are warranted in the review of literature presented by the authors. I was a bit disappointed at the absence of literature related to not only FFA membership choice but membership in other students organizations and membership to organizations in general. I would encourage the authors to look both in and outside of the profession for material that would solidify the conceptual base for this study.

The authors selected participating schools based on geographical region. Were the schools randomly selected within the region? How many schools were sampled? Were all regions represented?

The authors placed schools in categories based upon FFA membership in the discussion of procedures but did not use this descriptor in your analysis or discussion. Why?

The authors are to be commended for using a conceptually sound resource for developing their questions. Was there a reason for not including people from outside of North Carolina on your panel of experts?

The authors report a Cronbach's Alpha score of .88 for the instrument. This score would indicate high reliability of the instrument for measuring the perception of an FFA program. This is a function of all of the items in the instrument. Why do you choose not to report the construct scores and instead focus on individual questions for data analysis? Analyzing individual questions does not really tell us much.

What was your justification for placing all ethnicities into one category? You had over 100 people in the "ethnic" category. I think this is a serious flaw in your data analysis. Ethnic groups often have diverse points of view and should be reported as unique observations.

Both members and non-members said that the CDE's were too complicated. What recommendation would you make if this were true?

In conclusion #1 you state that, "A student's decision to join or not join the FFA is influenced by their perceptions of the effectiveness of the FFA programs and services in their school." You also cite two implications of your study are that, "Students tend to join and participate in the FFA based upon the organizations ability to meet a student's need for self-esteem," and "The social aspects of the organization were motivating factors in their (the student's) desire to be members." What findings in this study led you to this conclusion and implications?