

Contributions and Significance of Research:

This paper met its primary purpose, which was to determine the source of many of the unique aspects of the FFA, including what role various agricultural groups and societies played. The author has provided an excellent overview that documents a number of unique FFA characteristics in addition to several foundational underpinnings of the organization. The paper provides a strong basis for understanding several historical developments related to FFA. It is important for those involved in FFA (and particularly ag educators) to understand how the organization was formed to appreciate where we came from and how we got to where we are now.

Procedural Considerations:

The author utilized a “historical research methodology” for this study. Both primary and secondary sources were used. Information came from various sites and the author utilized internal and external validity checks. The procedures were appropriate for this type of study.

Questions for Consideration:

The author has raised a number of questions regarding interpretation of historical data that are intriguing. How should one address these questions for this type of paper? What becomes the criteria for important? - Is it the largest, the most politically potent, or the long-term survivor with adequate records?

Most all of the groups and societies mentioned showed a very direct correlation with the study’s purpose. It was not clear as to the relationship of the Farmers’ Union with the FFA from what was written.

There are a number of issues and factors that are discussed in the findings portion of the paper that have significance from a national perspective. The discussion section seems to focus on Virginia. What occurred in Virginia that had national significance for the FFA organization? What implications were uncovered that have broader significance? What role did those in Virginia play nationally?

What role did other youth organizations (such as 4-H) play in regards to the history and formation of the FFA?