

# Leadership Context and Role of Rural FFA Members in the Southern Region

## A Critique

Brian E Myers, Assistant Professor  
University of Florida

This well-written manuscript contributes to the knowledge base in this area by addressing the role that young people play in society. This is an interesting next step that builds upon the foundation of previous studies that reported the level of leadership skill attainment and participation. The author provides a solid theoretical foundation for the study and should be commended for reviewing leadership literature beyond the bounds of agricultural education, leadership, and communication.

The author provides adequate justification and reasoning behind the selection of the multi-stage cluster sampling techniques utilized in this study. I do however question the decision to have state FFA advisors “randomly” select schools from their state. I also applaud the author for including a description of the process by which the research instrument was created. This provides the reader with much needed information to assess the quality of the research. Too often this critical information is absent from publications, most often due to page limitations.

The objectives of this study were very descriptive in nature. Descriptive research is very much needed and is important. This paper engages the reader in a mental exercise to contemplate the reasons behind some of these findings. I was intrigued to note that neither the role of the agricultural education teacher nor the parent/guardian were mentioned as possible factors influencing perception the young person has on the role they play in leadership activities. Additionally, this study focused on rural students in the Southern Region. How do these students compare to rural students in other parts of the country? Why would we expect southern region students to differ? How do rural students compare to their urban and suburban counterparts? The author presents some of these future research questions at the end of the manuscript. These are all excellent questions for further study.

I encourage the author and others in the profession to work systematically and cooperatively to address these items. The topic of study in this paper is one that should continue to be investigated as major leadership curriculum projects are being introduced. The effect these projects will have on agriscience education and leadership education should be well documented.