A Comparison of Members of the National FFA Organization to the Overall Youth Population as Typified in the Horatio Alger Report: The State of our Nation’s Youth

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PURPOSE
The purpose of this study was to compare secondary agricultural education students who are members of the National FFA Organization to those youth studied and quantified in the Horatio Alger report The State of Our Nation's Youth.

ABSTRACT
The Horatio Alger Association conducts an annual survey to determine the attitudes of American teenagers regarding school, family, and work. The purpose of this study was to compare secondary agricultural education students who are members of the National FFA Organization to those youth studied and quantified in the Horatio Alger report The State of Our Nation's Youth. This descriptive study used self-administered mailed questionnaires.

Agricultural education students as compared with the typical American youth were similar in their attitudes on the importance of core academic courses and had similar aspirations for higher education. Agricultural education students were more engaged in school and community activities than the typical American youth. They were also more likely to have a positive attitude regarding the relationship between their hard work and opportunities available to them.

Compared to the typical American youth, these agricultural education students were more likely to identify a career goal in agriculture and were more likely to be employed while in high school. Finally, agricultural education students like their agricultural education courses, believe the courses are preparing them for the future, and are at the appropriate degree of difficulty.