



# Homeschooled Students' Access to Participate in School-based Agricultural Education Programs

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# Introduction

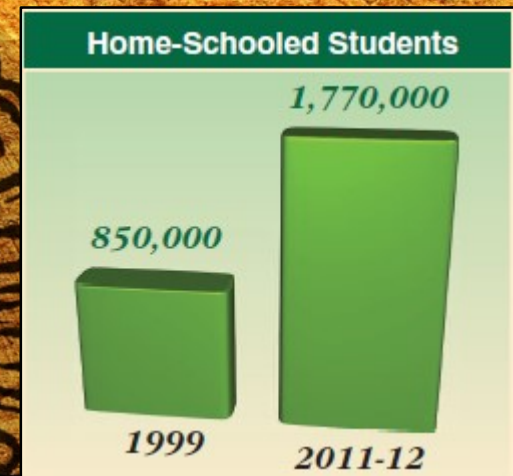
- Need to address grand challenges of agriculture (e.g. feed and clothe ~9 billion people by 2050) (Godfray et al., 2010)
- Demand for graduates with degrees in agricultural fields will continue to increase (Foster et al., 2015)
- One strategy is to expand secondary Agricultural Education (Doerfert, 2011)
- FFA realizes the need to expand (Crutchfield, 2013) and increase program accessibility





# Homeschooling in the U.S.

- Recognized as potential growth market by Agricultural Education (Frick & Brennan, 1998; Weik, 2015)
- Continuing to grow (~8% per year, now over 2 million children) (Ray, 2011)
- High quality students with involved parents (Ice & Hoover-Dempsey, 2011)



Source: Clemmitt, 2014



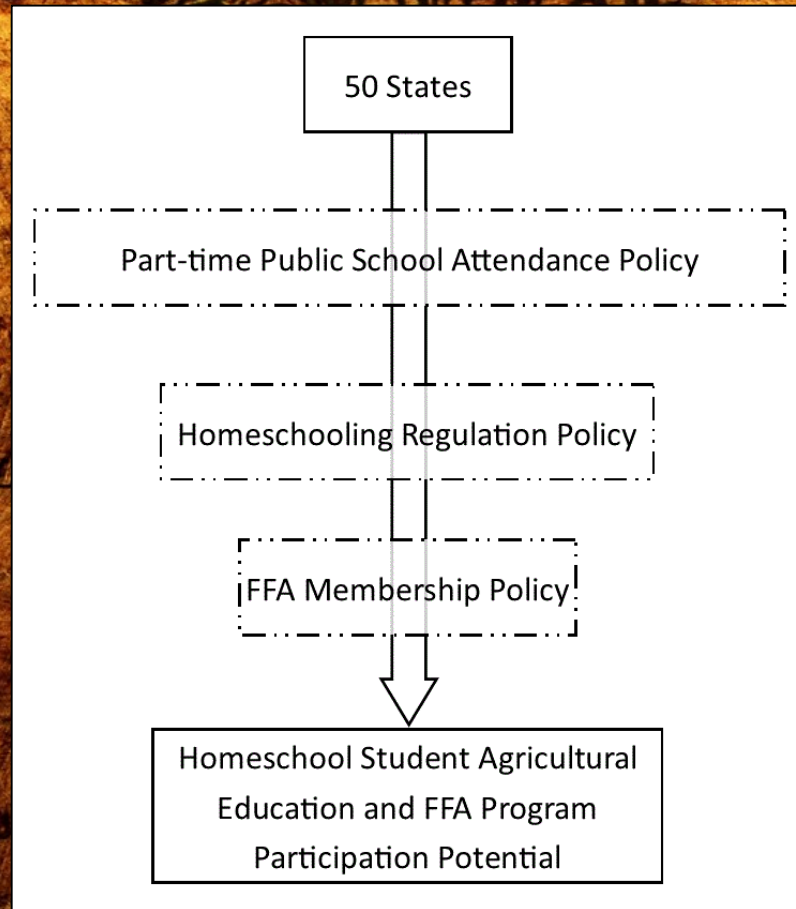
# Homeschoolers, Agricultural Education, and FFA

- Some SBAE programs have expanded to include the homeschooling community, but how?
- Observed program participation pathways (Johnson, 2012; Massey, 2015)
  - Homeschool Agricultural Education programs and FFA chapters
  - Part-time public school enrollment
- Limited research on the homeschooling community and Agricultural Education (i.e., Walls et al., 2001)



# Current Program Accessibility

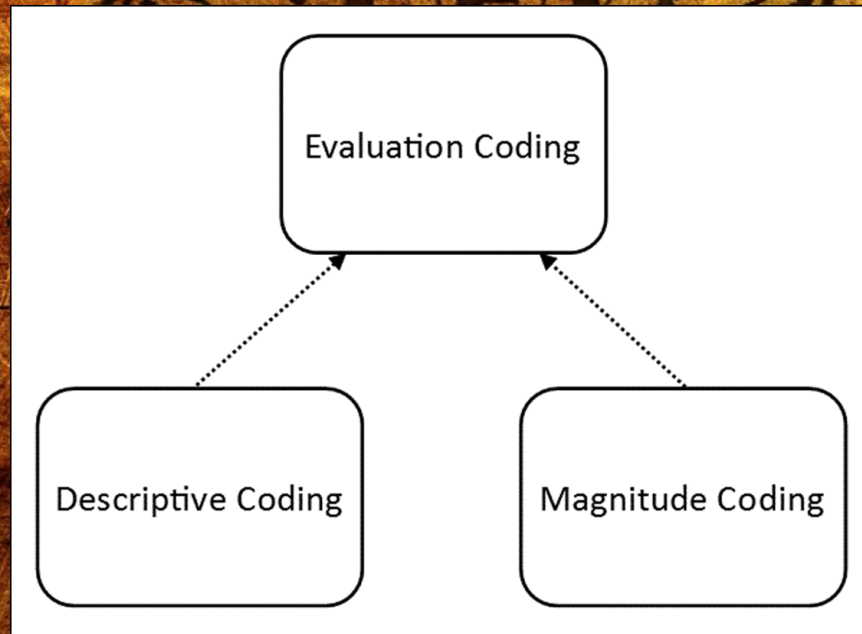
- Conceptually framed around three state-level policies





# Current Program Accessibility

- Qualitative policy analysis using evaluation coding (Saldaña, 2013)





# Current Program Accessibility





# Current Program Accessibility

- Five states (AK, ID, IL, MI, NC) have high potential (green) (AK and NC have homeschool FFA chapters)
- Twenty-two states (AL, AZ, AR, CA, DE, IN, IA, KS, LA, ME, MS, MO, MT, NE, NV, NH, NJ, NM, TX, UT, WI, WY) have moderate potential (yellow)
- Nineteen states (CO, CT, FL, GA, KY, MA, MN, ND, OH, OR, PA, RI, SC, SD, TN, VT, VA, WA, WV) have low potential (orange)
- Four states (HI, MD, NY, OK) have no potential (red)



# Current Program Accessibility





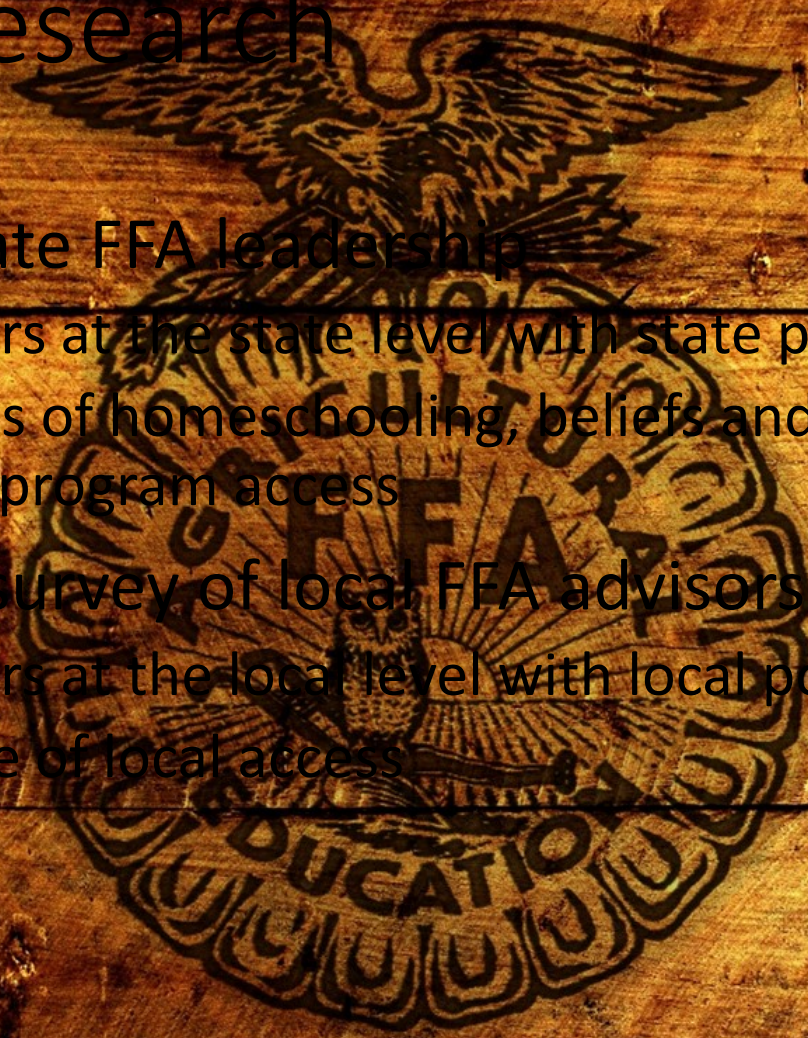
# Connection to Higher Education

- Relationship between FFA participation and undergraduate leadership at land grant colleges of agriculture (Park & Dyer, 2005)
- Former FFA members more engaged on campus (Balschweid & Talbert, 2000, Allen et al., 2007)
- Another way of actively recruiting homeschoolers (Romanowski, 2006)
- Potentially increase enrollment in colleges of agriculture



# Future Research

- Survey of state FFA leadership
  - Gatekeepers at the state level with state policy
  - Perceptions of homeschooling, beliefs and values of increasing program access
- Three state survey of local FFA advisors
  - Gatekeepers at the local level with local policy
  - Importance of local access





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