

## **School-based Agricultural Education**

Agricultural Education is an important component of public school instruction in every state of the United States and in five United States Territories. There are approximately 1,000,000 Agricultural Education students in the nation who are taught by about 12,000 secondary and 2-year postsecondary teachers. It is estimated that the contact hours of in-school instruction in and about agriculture exceed 10 million annually.

Agricultural Education is a part of our nation's career and technical education system. Federal funding for career and technical education, including Agriculture Education, is authorized under the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006.

School-based Agricultural Education in the United States consists of three closely related components. These three activities are: 1) classroom/laboratory instruction; 2) supervised agricultural experience (SAE); and 3) leadership and career development (FFA). The interaction effects of these three components help to ensure students' career successor continuation with higher education related to agriscience and/or agribusiness following high school graduation.

### **Classroom and Laboratory Instruction**

Organized instruction is the classroom and laboratory component of Agricultural Education. The instruction may be carried out in the classroom, laboratory, greenhouse, or field trip setting. Classroom and laboratory instruction includes units based on natural and social sciences such as environmental science, agribusiness, natural resources, aquaculture, animal and plant sciences, entrepreneurship, food science and many other areas. Emphasis is placed on contextual teaching/learning science and mathematics principals in the context of the applied food and agricultural sciences.

### **Experiential Learning (Supervised Agricultural Experience)**

Experiential learning provided through supervised agricultural experience (SAE) is the individual student application of experiential learning, outside the classroom, of knowledge and skills acquired through the instructional component. SAE is under the supervision of the agriculture teacher, and an employer or parent/guardian. There are various categories of SAE from which students may choose. A student with an ownership SAE activity owns and manages his/her own business. A student participating in a placement SAE activity is involved in an employment situation. Research SAE activities allow students opportunities to engage in independent, yet supervised, research projects. The interaction of the student, teacher, business site, and parents helps to ensure instruction is relevant to each individual students in his/her own learning environment. This model may sound a little like "School to Career" – one of the prominent educational trends in the United States. The fact is, Agricultural Education is "The Original School to Career" model!

### **Leadership Development, Personal Growth, Career Success (FFA)**

Leadership development, the third component of the overall Agricultural Education program, is provided via student organizations such as FFA, PAS (Postsecondary Agricultural Student Organizations) and NYFEA (national Young Farmer Education association). Student organization activities are designed to enrich the classroom/laboratory and SAE instruction components. Student organization activities provide students opportunities for leadership, personal growth, and career success.

**INSERT LOCAL AGED PROGRAM INFORMATION AND LOCAL CONTACT INFORMATION**