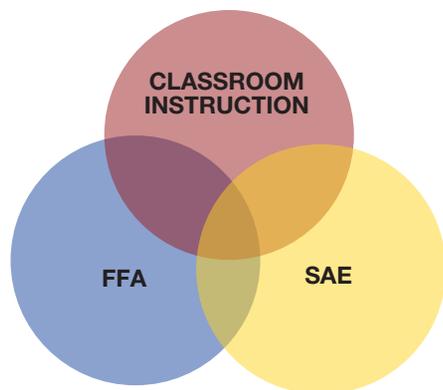


What is an SAE?

Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE) is the career-oriented and experience-based learning component of agricultural education. Since the establishment of vocational agricultural education in 1917, instruction has required three integral components:

- 1) Classroom and laboratory instruction;
- 2) Leadership development through the FFA;
- 3) Hands-on application/learning through SAEs.



Every student enrolled in an agriculture class is required to have an SAE project or program. The value of SAE extends beyond the classroom, preparing students for future careers and developing life skills that lead to personal success. SAE enables students to:

- Explore career options in agriculture;
- Apply classroom and laboratory instruction in practical, hands-on applications;
- Learn business skills such as budgeting, record keeping and time management;
- Improve written and oral communication;
- Learn the value of entrepreneurship, teamwork, discipline and self-responsibility;
- Develop a knowledge base for a future career;
- Earn money while gaining experience;
- Pursue individualized learning opportunities;
- Build self-esteem while developing a resume;
- Achieve recognition for accomplishments through various FFA awards on the local, regional, state and national levels;
- Actively participate in the community.

SAE is Personal and Career Growth!

What qualifies as an SAE?

An SAE can be a short-term project or an ongoing program with no specific end date. It can also vary in size and scope. Some SAEs are entrepreneurial, requiring students to plan and operate a business. Others are placement, whereby students work for someone else for pay and/or experience. Research SAE projects and programs involve agriscience experimentation and information analysis. Ag service-learning programs focus on home or community improvement and/or development. For younger students, an SAE is often exploratory to increase agricultural literacy and career awareness through job shadowing and other interactive learning activities.

One of the primary advantages of an SAE is that students can develop a project or program according to their interests and abilities. As long as the SAE is relevant to agriculture, it counts. There are unlimited options to accommodate both urban and rural students. Following are a few examples.

- Work at a flower shop, nursery or greenhouse.
- Operate a small engine business.
- Raise and manage production livestock.
- Run a pet sitting or dog walking business.
- Work as a fishing or hunting guide.
- Serve as a summer camp counselor.
- Observe and/or assist a veterinarian.
- Maintain the FFA chapter website.
- Intern for an ag-related news publication.
- Grow a test plot for crop experimentation.
- Plant trees or flowers for the community.
- Mow lawns or operate a landscaping business.
- Research plant resistance to common diseases.
- Plan and conduct an agriculture career tour.
- Work at a grocery store or small market.
- Develop and implement a farm safety class.
- Work in ag-related construction/improvement.
- Shadow an agriscience teacher.
- Work on a farm or ranch.
- Provide a soil or forage testing service.
- Work for a government agency such as USDA.



SAE is Learning by Doing!

How can you be involved?

As a parent/guardian, business or community leader, school administrator or guidance counselor, and/or volunteer, your involvement in the SAE is the backbone of the program's success. Young people rely on you for direction, support and expertise. Here are some things you can do to ensure a positive learning experience.

PARENTS/GUARDIANS

- Assist in selecting SAE projects/programs based on the student's abilities and interests.
- Offer support in planning and executing the SAE.
- Ensure a safe environment for a home-based SAE and assist with providing resources.
- Support the agriculture teacher in providing a well-balanced agriculture program.
- Assist the student in keeping complete and accurate record books.
- Allow the student to assume some risk to learn money management and decision making.

BUSINESS AND COMMUNITY LEADERS

- Provide a safe work environment for the student and abide by all legal requirements.
- Provide opportunities to learn valuable skills.
- Allow student to assume more responsibility as competency levels increase.
- Maintain open communication with the agriculture teacher regarding performance, evaluation, project/program issues, etc.
- Provide adequate supervision and serve as a role model/mentor for the student.
- Encourage community support of SAE; assist in providing SAE opportunities and resources.

SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS, COUNSELORS

- Understand and support the SAE concept and its educational benefits and requirements.
- Provide agriculture teachers with adequate resources for supervision and programs.
- Provide adequate facilities and resources for school-based SAE projects/programs.
- Allow for flexibility in student schedules to accommodate SAE-related activities.
- Participate in SAE visits or advisory meetings.
- Offer assistance with finding SAE resources.

SAE is Community Involvement!

What students are saying:

"My favorite part of my SAE is working while learning. I've learned how to talk to others without shying away. I am also prepared to work with others as a team."

- Rosa Blalock

Tift County FFA, Georgia

"My SAE has taught me the value of hard work and keeping good financial records. One of my projects involves making and selling air fresheners as well as hard and liquid soaps scented with the mint oil produced on our family farm. Because of my business success, I plan to study business administration in college."

- Tony Crescio

Randolph Cambria-Friesland FFA, Wisconsin

**National FFA Agri-Entrepreneurship Winner

"Right now I plan on being a veterinarian, so raising and showing pigs for my SAE has helped me realize how much I enjoy being around animals. I've learned responsibility and how to take pride in doing a job well. I've also enjoyed competing and meeting new people."

- Brandon Crow

Comanche FFA, Oklahoma

"Working on my family farm has taught me life lessons in tolerance, persistence and satisfaction in a job well done. I understand our operation from the farmer's point of view as well as from the perspective of companies that support it. I plan on applying all I have learned to my college education and then future career."

- Tyler Francis

Norborne FFA, Missouri

**National Proficiency Winner, Grain Placement

"I've had the opportunity to explore a variety of traditional and non-traditional plant propagation methods that have broadened my interest in plant genetics. I plan to continue in agriculture as a plant geneticist, agriscience teacher or landscape architect."

- Melissa Hanna

Coral Reef FFA, Florida

"As part of my SAE, I operate and maintain equipment for my family's custom farming business. I know the inner workings of every piece of equipment and how to avoid expensive and time-consuming repairs. I've also learned a lot about decision making and using all available resources to address a potential problem."

- George Pomeroy

Churchill County FFA, Nevada

10 Reasons Why You Should Support SAEs:

1. SAEs build self-confidence in young people.
2. SAEs promote scholastic achievement.
3. SAEs connect the classroom to careers.
4. SAEs foster community service & support.
5. SAEs provide individualized student learning.
6. SAEs support new ag technology & practices.
7. SAEs develop self-responsibility & work ethic.
8. SAEs encourage citizenship & volunteerism.
9. SAEs apply practical life skills & knowledge.
10. SAEs create opportunities for personal success.



The FFA Mission

FFA makes a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education.

The Agricultural Education Mission

Agricultural Education prepares students for successful careers and a lifetime of informed choices in the global agriculture, food, fiber and natural resource systems.

For more information about SAE programs, contact your local agriculture instructor or contact the National FFA Organization.

National FFA Organization

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Supervised Agricultural Experience!



**An Applied Adventure in...
Learning...
Knowledge...
Growth...
Success!**

