Iowa’s Agricultural Education Story

Agricultural Education / FFA

opening doors

* Class / Lab Instruction in Agriculture
* Career Experience in Agriculture
* FFA – Leadership Development
Agricultural Education / FFA

Our Mission: Student Success

- Agricultural Education started in 1917
- Iowa has 17,000 high school students in agricultural education
- FFA was established in 1928
- Iowa has 12,000 FFA members
- Iowa agriculture students earned $15 million net income in ‘04
Agricultural Education / FFA

Our Mission: Student Success

- FFA members participate in hands-on experience
- Agricultural Education students are preparing for more than 300 agricultural careers
- Excellence in academics is the goal of agricultural education students
- FFA is an integral part of the agricultural education program
FFA Mission Statement

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.
Agricultural Education / FFA
Our Mission: Student Success

Seven Career Pathways and Curriculum Focus Areas
- Food Production & Processing
- Agri-Business Systems
- Plant Systems
- Animal Systems
- Natural Resource Systems
- Power, Structure, & Technical Systems
- Environmental Systems
Agricultural Education / FFA
Our Mission: Student Success

Career Experience in Agriculture *

- Iowa Students Owning a Business = 900
- Iowa Students Owning a Production Enterprise = 3,668
- Iowa Students Employed in Agri-business = 3,548
- Iowa Students Employed on a Farm = 2,421
- Iowa Students Conducting an Agri-science Experiment = 2,243

* 2005
What is Agricultural Education / FFA?
Correcting Common Misconceptions

1. Agricultural education is for urban, suburban, & rural students.

2. FFA is more than a club, it is an integrated curriculum activity.

3. Agricultural students / FFA members are more than just production farmers.

4. Agricultural students / FFA members set high academic standards.

5. The study of agriculture focuses on 300 careers.
FFA is:

• Integral part of a school’s agricultural education program
• Chartered by the U.S. Congress
• Housed in the U.S. Department of Education
• A way for students to apply classroom / laboratory knowledge to real life situations
• An intra-curricular part of the program
• A connecting activity
Agricultural Education / FFA = Diversity

- Members live in urban, suburban and rural areas
  - 34% urban and suburban areas
  - 39% rural, non-farm areas
  - 27% rural, farm areas
- FFA Chapters are in 10 of the 15 largest U.S. cities
- Agricultural education students are prepared for diverse careers
  - Not just production agriculture
  - FFA members participate in a wide range of activities
Agricultural education students excel in academics

- Math, science and other academic areas
- Enthusiastic about learning
- Believe courses are challenging
- Believe courses are interesting
- 86% of FFA members go on to colleges and universities
- National, state and local scholarship recipients
Agricultural Education / FFA

Our Mission: Student Success

FFA – An Integral Component Essential to the Success of the Total Agricultural Education Program.
The three components that make up a successful agriculture education program.

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Our Mission: Student Success

Total Agricultural Education Program

Classroom

CEA

FFA
Agricultural Education / FFA

Our Mission: Student Success

Component #1

Class / Laboratory Instruction
Agricultural Education / FFA
Our Mission: Student Success

Component #2

Career Experience in Agriculture
Agricultural Education / FFA

Our Mission: Student Success

Component #3

FFA

• Premier Leadership
• Personal Growth
• Career Success
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Our Mission: Student Success

• Agricultural education supports academic instruction.
• Agriculture students apply learned competencies in math and science through their agricultural studies.
• These competencies are applied through the classroom / laboratory, CEAs and FFA activities.
From the Classroom to the Community

- Good students
- Good citizens
- Involved students
- Recognition and awards
- Community service activities
Agricultural Education / FFA students contribute to the community

- Better people
- Future community leaders
- Entrepreneurs
Agricultural Education / FFA

Our Mission: Student Success

Agricultural Education / FFA Improves Student Performance

• “Important to do their best”
• Personal effort=personal success
• Interpersonal skills
• Leadership skills
• Award system
What does Agricultural Education / FFA do for our educational system?

- Produces leaders that are positive role models
- Provides opportunities
- Helps students excel in academics, relationships and in life!
- Agricultural education / FFA members are:
  - Well rounded and respected
  - Committed, loyal, hardworking
  - Motivated, lifelong learners
  - Moral, ethical, value driven and community oriented
  - Prepared and proven...professional
Agricultural Education

The place to be!!