

## Supervised Agricultural Experience Unit Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resource Texas Education Agency

### LESSON:

Agricultural Careers and Opportunities in SAE

### OBJECTIVES:

1. Identify as a class a variety of career opportunities in the agricultural industry
2. Define comprehensively the term and characteristics of a SAE
3. Defend the role and benefits of SAE in agricultural education

### TOOLS AND EQUIPMENT:

- 5 random objects (e.g., pencil, peanut butter jar, bandana, compass, calculator)
- Introduction to SAEs video, Texas SAE Builder
- Copies of Career Goal Setting handout, page 2
- Flip chart paper
- Markers

### KEY TERMS:

- Education
- People Skills
- Experience
- Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE)

### INTEREST APPROACH: (10 minutes)

5 [In the previous lesson, students established career goals and objectives. In this lesson, students will be able to connect their goals to the agriculture industry, agriscience education, and SAE.]

Bring 5 random objects to class, when at first glance by a student, would seem unrelated to the agricultural industry (for example: pencil, peanut butter jar, bandana, compass, calculator, etc.). At the beginning of class, ask students to name off some of the obvious careers in agriculture they can think of; leave the careers listed up so you can add to them later.

Divide the students into five groups and give each group one of the random objects. Instruct the groups to brainstorm at least five new careers in agriculture that could be related to that one object (they cannot be the same as listed previously). Give the groups 5 minutes to complete the task. When time is up, record the careers students brainstormed by adding to the agricultural career listed started at the beginning of class.



Explain to students the diversity of agricultural careers and how students must begin careers await students enrolled in agriscience education.

### **TEACHING PLAN AND STRATEGY:** (20 minutes)

#### *OBJECTIVE 1: Careers in Ag*

Discuss career opportunities in the agricultural industry:

Students may wonder why they should take agriscience courses. With over 200 rewarding careers related to the agricultural industry, many students will be agriculture related fields. Some of these fields include:

Agribusiness Management, Agricultural and Natural Resources, Communications, Building Construction Management, Agriscience, Resource Development and Management, Parks, Recreations and Tourism Resources, Packaging, Horticulture, Forestry, Food Science, Animal Science/Livestock, and Fisheries/Wildlife.

Identify essential career skills:

Numerous career fields, including agriculture, have identified 3 vital career skills people need to carry out most jobs: education, people skills, and experience. Agriscience education can help students develop these three skills needed for a successful career.

Education – provides the preparation people need to enter a career; includes high school classes, college courses, technical school, and certifications.

People skills – abilities that help people get along well together; includes being courteous, honest, respectful, a good communicator, supportive, and able to solve problems with a group.

Experience – having personally done something in a particular job or location to increase expertise in an area.

#### *OBJECTIVE 2: What makes a project a SAE*

Define SAE:

Supervised Agricultural Experience is the part of agriscience education that provides students with the opportunity to gain the experience they need for a successful future career. A wide range of experiences can be had through SAE, helping students explore their areas of interest in agriculture and careers. SAEs allow students to develop specific job skills, earn money, and apply concepts taught in agriscience class.



In order to be a SAE, a student's project must contain the following 4 distinctive characteristics:

**Planned:** all SAEs should be carefully planned and hold educational value. SAEs should relate to what the student is learning in class. Planning a SAE can help the student's project meet their objectives by defining what has to be done.

**Developed:** SAEs should reflect the agricultural and career interests of a student. SAEs should also utilize the resources available to the student.

**Managed:** Records should be carefully kept on SAEs in order to evaluate the progress and performance of the student, both financially and educationally

**Supervised:** Agriculture teachers should supervised and provide help during all stages of the student's SAE. Teachers should observe and assess a student's

*OBJECTIVE 3: The SAE component of agricultural education*

Describe how SAE works:

A SAE develops experience that can be used the rest of a student's life while earning and learning. Not only do SAEs help students see the real-life application of classroom instruction, but they allow for students to explore their own interests in agriculture. Many times, students develop and perfect the skills they will need for a successful career while using the knowledge they gained in the agriscience classroom.

The type and scope of a student's SAE will determine where the experience is carried out. SAEs are usually carried out after regular class houses at school but may also occur on weekend, holidays, during the summer, or during the school day. SAEs can be conducted at school or at home.

Discuss the benefits of SAE:

- Helps in making career and education decisions
- Develops self-confidence
- Gives practical meaning to courses studied in school
- Develops job skills
- Promotes thinking skills
- Applies record keeping skills
- Promotes good money management
- Teaches the work ethic
- Helps develop the ability to assume responsibility
- Gives practical experience in relating to other people
- Helps make the transition from school to work
- Helps achieve FFA awards



## SAE Lesson 2 – Agricultural Careers and Opportunities in SAE



Ask students for additional benefits they believe could be gained from SAE.

### **APPLICATION ACTIVITY:** (7 minutes)

Connect SAE to student career goals:

Agriscience education helps students develop all three essential career skills employers seek. Have students complete page 2 of Career Goal Setting handout carried over from Lesson 1 – Career Goals and Objectives, and identify on the the connection their career goal(s) can have to the agricultural industry. A student’s Supervised Agriculture Experience (SAE) provides the opportunity to gain the experience (an essential career skill) needed for their career goal(s). Allow a few students to share how they connected their career goal(s) to a career in the agricultural industry.

Also, have students identify the amount of available time outside of school they have to dedicate to a SAE, where they would like to conduct a SAE the most, and what benefits from a SAE they are interested in the most.

### **EVALUATION/SUMMARY:** (8 minutes)

Conduct a brain dump:

On separate flip charts around the room, have the following topics written: Career Skills, Characteristics of SAE, What is an SAE?, and Benefits of SAE. Rotate from one chart to another, having students “dump their brains” by telling you everything they learned from the lesson about that topic. Ask probing questions related to each topic to ensure students grasped the concepts completely.

### **REFERENCES:**

Morgan, E.M., Chewlewski, R.E., & Wilson, E. (2000). Agriscience explorations. Danville, IL: Interstate Publishers, Inc.

National Agriculture Day, <http://www.agday.org/education/careers.php> Texas SAE Builder videos, <http://saebuilder.com/videos.aspx>

The LifeKnowledge Center for Agricultural Education, <https://www.ffa.org/ffaresources/educators/lifeknowledge/Pages/default.aspx>

