

# School-Based Agricultural Education

## An Integrated Model

School-based agricultural education (SBAE) is an essential educational program delivered through career and technical education in every state of the United States and in five U.S. Territories. There are approximately one million agricultural education students in the nation, in more than 7,500 schools who are taught by nearly 12,000 secondary, two-year postsecondary and adult instructors.

School-based agricultural education in the United States consists of three principles, integral core components that include:

- 1) Contextual, inquiry-based instruction and learning through an interactive classroom and laboratory
- 2) Premier leadership, personal growth and career success through engagement in FFA, PAS and NYFEA activities and programs; and
- 3) Experiential, service and/or work-based learning through the implementation of a supervised agricultural experience program.

The complete integration of these three components helps to ensure students' career success or continuation with higher education related to agriculture, agriscience and/or agribusiness following high school graduation.



### **CLASSROOM/ LABORATORY**

**Contextual, *INQUIRY-BASED***  
**Instruction and Learning**  
through an interactive  
classroom and laboratory.



is an integral core component of school-based agricultural education delivered in a classroom, laboratory, greenhouse, or outdoor setting. Interactive classrooms, laboratory instruction and learning may include units based on natural and social sciences such as environmental science, agribusiness, natural resources, aquaculture, food science and safety, animal and plant sciences, entrepreneurship and many other career options. However, students enrolled in these courses or career pathways have the unique opportunity to apply core content concepts in an agriculturally related context. For example, when using science, technology, engineering and math, a student learning about hydrogen and covalent bonding in chemistry is able to apply these concepts when examining the chemistry of food processing. By enhancing their core content knowledge base with the agriculture, food and natural resources career cluster students gain the real-world hands on experiences that enhance career and college readiness.



## FFA

**Premier Leadership, Personal Growth and Career Success** through **ENGAGEMENT** in FFA, PAS or NYFEA programs and activities.



is an integral core component of the comprehensive school-based agricultural education delivery model. The National FFA Organization (FFA), the National Postsecondary Agricultural Student Organization (PAS) and the National Young Farmer Educational Association (NYFEA) are Career and Technical Student Organizations (CTSO) designed to enhance comprehensive school-based agricultural education programs. CTSO organization programs and activities provide student opportunities for leadership, personal growth and career success. Through engagement in FFA, PAS and NYFEA, students have the opportunity to develop leadership, communication, employability, career readiness and personal development skills that will help them succeed in the future. All students are encouraged to participate in activities that highlight and enhance the success of their interactive classroom and experiential, service and/or work-based experiences. These may include public speaking, career development events, career planning, career progress, agricultural sales and marketing, food science, biotechnology, agricultural issues, meat science, livestock evaluation, veterinarian science and experiential, service and/or work-based recognition. Many students also have the opportunity to give back through service learning and community enhancement initiatives.



## SAE

**Experiential, Service and/or Work-Based Learning** through the **IMPLEMENTATION** of a Supervised Agricultural Experience Program.



allows students to practice the application of their knowledge and skills. Implementation of a Supervised Agricultural Experience Program (SAE) is under the direct supervision of the agriculture teacher and typically involves employers or parents. There are a variety of experiential, service and/or work-based learning opportunities from which students and young adults may choose and implement. These may range from, entrepreneurship through owning and managing their own business, internships, working at an agricultural business or completing an independent research project that enhance their science, technology, engineering and math skills. Experiential, service and/or work-based learning develops and enhances leadership, employability and life-long career skills. The interaction of the student, teacher, business manager, alumni and parent(s) helps to ensure experiential, service and/or work-based learning is relevant to each individual student's career cluster and/or career pathway. School-based agricultural education prepares students for both careers and college far beyond the traditional classroom.