



Introduction to the Agricultural Industry

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Prerequisites: Introduction to the Agricultural Industry

Level: 9th or 10th

Credit: 1.0

Additional Information: Introduction to the Agricultural Industry is an exploratory course that examines agriculture studies and agriculture related industries. Introduction to the Agricultural Industry provides students a practical hands-on learning experience that prepares students for upper-level agriculture courses. Therefore, the course is designed for freshman and sophomore students but exceptions will occasionally be made. This course is one year in length and upon successful completion of this course with a D or higher, 1 graduation credit will be awarded.

Course Description

Introduction to the Agricultural Industry is an orientation course that provides students an opportunity to learn how the agricultural industry is organized. The course's major components include the economic influence of agriculture at the state, national, and global scale. Furthermore, the scope and types of job opportunities in the agricultural field will be extensively examined. Topic clusters in this course include animal science, plant science, soil science, horticulture, natural resources and environmental science, agribusiness management, and agricultural mechanics. Improving computer and workplace skills will be a focus. Participation in FFA student organization activities and Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE) projects is an integral course component for leadership development, career exploration, and reinforcement of academic concepts.

Course Objectives/Goals

- Students will learn about the FFA organization and develop academic and leadership skills through participation in FFA events.
- Students will be able to explain economic influences of agriculture at the state, national, and global scale.
- Students will explore potential careers in the agricultural industry.
- Students will know basics about the agricultural animal industry.
- Students will be able to describe plant systems and soil systems.
- Students will analyze the horticulture industry.
- Students will be able to explore the field of study of natural resource management and environmental science.
- Students will develop and maintain a Supervised Agricultural Experience that pertains to individual interest and promotes skills in agribusiness.

Student Expectations

It is important that students in this class keep an open mind and respect the differences in student ability, backgrounds and beliefs. All students are expected to come to class on time, be prepared, and participate on a daily basis. Students will be expected to follow all rules listed and described in the Steepleville High School Student Handbook and Steepleville High School Agricultural Program Student Handbook. It is expected that students wear appropriate attire (safety glasses, closed-toe shoes, protective clothing, etc.) during shop work. All students enrolled in Introduction to the Agricultural Industry will be required to keep an updated SAE (Supervised Agricultural Experience) and retain membership in the FFA organization. Students will be expected to arrive daily with a writing utensil, note pad and calculator.

Teaching Methods

Introduction to the Agricultural Industry is a course taught through a wide variety of teaching methods, but with a dominant focus through hands-on learning. Students will learn through class lecture, small group discussion, class debate, laboratory exercises, video, readings, independent study, games, guest speakers, and both individual and group projects.

Assessments

Students will be assessed through regular completion of homework, projects, class participation, laboratories, and Supervised Agriculture Experiences. Quizzes will assess students throughout each unit and a test will be given upon completion of each unit.

Grading Policy

The grading procedure for this class will be out of 100%. The breakdown of percentiles can be seen below.

Quizzes 10% Participation 15%

Homework 15% Labs & Projects 30%

Tests 20% SAE 10%

Missed/Late Work

Late homework assignments will automatically be dropped 10%, unless prior arrangements have been made or the missed assignment was due to an excused absence. Missed quizzes or tests due to an unexcused absence will result in a zero. Make-up dates will be allowed for all quizzes and tests missed due to an excused absence.

Academic Honesty

Academic integrity is a vital component for individual success within Steeleville's Agriculture Department. Plagiarism and cheating by any student will result in a zero for the grade of the assignment and will follow punishment described in the student handbooks.

Text

A variety of text material will be given in this course. The primary text material will be MyCaert Agriculture Education State Curriculum readings. Text material will also include, but is not limited to, various textbook chapters, newspaper clippings, pamphlets, Internet articles, news articles, and short narrative briefs.

Unit I: Agriculture and Society

Recognizing the Role of Agriculture in Society

- Nature of the Agriculture/Horticulture Industry
 - History of Agriculture
 - Importance of Agriculture to Society
 - World Food Supply
 - Analyzing Trends in Agriculture

Using Agricultural Organizations and Agencies

- Government Agencies in Agriculture/Horticulture
- Private Organizations in Agriculture/Horticulture

Identifying Careers in Agriculture/Horticulture

- Individual Agriculture/Horticulture Interest
- Selecting an Agriculture/Horticulture Occupation
 - Working Conditions and Earning Potential

Unit II: Developing Leadership and Communication Skills

Opportunities in FFA and Youth Organizations

- History and Organization of FFA
 - Opportunities in the FFA
 - Achievement in FFA
 - Leading the FFA Chapter
- Planning and Conducting Effective Meetings
 - Youth Clubs and Organizations
 - Schools and Community Awareness
 - FFA Alumni Organization

Developing Personal Skills

- Self-Understanding and Assessment
- Understanding Conflicts and Their Resolution

Developing Communication Skills

- Sources of Information
- Introduction to Communication
- Effective Communication Techniques
 - Effective Speaking Techniques

- Effective Listening Techniques
 - Persuasive Message
- Communication Skills in the Workplace
 - Written Communication

Unit III: Agribusiness & Supervised Agricultural Experiences

Agribusiness Applications

- Creating a Business Plan
 - Record Keeping
- Net Worth, Cash Flow, and Income Statements
 - Budgets and Financial Analysis Ratios
 - Depreciation, Fixed, and Variable Costs
 - Computers in Agriculture

Understanding Supervised Agricultural Experiences

- Benefits of an SAE
- Types of SAE Programs
- Possible SAE Programs
- Planning SAE Programs
- Implementing SAE Programs
- Keeping and Using SAE Records
- Long Range Plans for Expanding SAE Programs

Unit IV: Natural Resources & Environmental Science

Introduction to Natural Resources

- Exploring Natural Resources
 - Understanding Ecology and Ecosystems
- Understanding Human Demands on Natural Resources
 - Comprehending Natural Resource Conservation
 - Exploring Careers in Natural Resources

Introduction to Environmental Science

- Water Quality
 - Air Quality
 - Pollution
- The Nature of Soil
 - Soil Formation
 - Soil Profile
 - Soil Color
 - Soil Texture and Structure
- Moisture-Holding Capacity of Soil

Unit V: Horticulture & Crop Science

Plant Science

- The Importance of Plant Science
 - Corn Production
 - Wheat Production
 - Soybean Production
 - Forage Production
- Exploring Careers in Plant and Soil Science

Horticulture Science

- Understanding Horticulture
- Determining the Importance of the Horticulture Industry
 - Exploring Career Opportunities in Horticulture

Unit VI: Animal Science and the Industry

Introduction to the Animal Science Industry

- The Animal Science Industry
 - Animal Products and Human Use

- Animal Welfare Issues

Understanding the Livestock, Large Animal, Poultry, and Beef Industry

- The Beef Industry
- The Dairy Industry
- The Swine Industry
- The Sheep and Goat Industry
 - The Poultry Industry
 - The Equine Industry
 - The Rabbit Industry
 - Companion Animals
- Career Opportunities in the Animal Science Industry

Unit VII: Mechanical Systems and Technology

Introduction to Agricultural Mechanics and Technology Systems

- Identifying Basic Areas of Agricultural Mechanics
 - Using Personal Safety in Agricultural Mechanics
- Exploring Careers in Agriculture Mechanics and Technology Systems

Construction Systems

- Using Hand Tools
- Using Power Tools
- Caring for and Reconditioning Construction Tools