

# Missouri

## AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION

### 2021 FACT SHEET



As Missouri hopes to double its agriculture production over the next 30 years, the need to develop a next-generation agricultural workforce becomes critical. Encouraging new workers to consider careers in food, agriculture and forestry is an important first step in strengthening Missouri agriculture. High school agricultural education curriculum is the foundation for training and education programs.

## At a Glance

# 27,668

Students enrolled in Missouri agricultural education programs.

# \$88 Billion

Revenue contributed to state economy from Missouri agriculture & forestry industries.  
Source: MDA MO Ag Economic Impact, 2016

# 5,660

High school agricultural education graduates in 2019.  
68% are pursuing agriculture as a career.

## INTERACTIVE CLASSROOM

Through **classroom instruction**, ag education students use unique problem-solving skills.



## SUPERVISED AGRICULTURAL EXPERIENCE

Ag Ed students gain **hands-on experience** outside the classroom through their Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE).

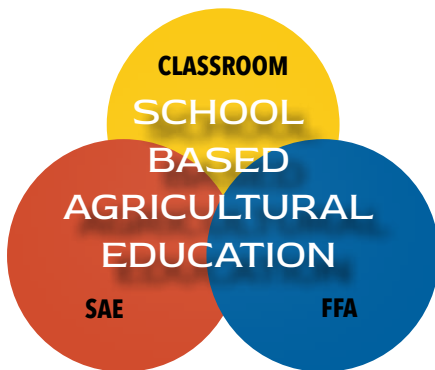
## FFA

Missouri FFA is an integral Career and Technical Student Organization designed to enhance school-based agricultural education programs.

## PREMIER LEADERSHIP PERSONAL GROWTH CAREER SUCCESS

Through involvement in FFA, students have the opportunity to learn:

- Leadership
- Communication
- Employability
- Career Readiness
- Personal Development Skills



Introducing young workers to careers in the industry is a vital **first step** in building a **talented workforce** pipeline.



# STRENGTHENING AGRICULTURE

FFA is a critical partner for promoting agriculture, food and forestry careers. According to the *Workforce Needs Assessment of Missouri's Food, Agriculture & Forestry Industries* released in July 2020, **61% of survey respondents** worked with organizations like FFA to promote careers in their industry. Agricultural education and career and technical education (CTE) programs **prepare students for these careers.**



Statewide, more than **\$50,482,154** of total student labor income was generated through SAE programs in 2019, or **\$3,015** per student. **13%** of students had **ownership** projects, while **38%** had **placement** projects where students work for someone in an agribusiness or on a farm. Moreover, **7%** had **agriscience** projects and **20%** had a **combination** of projects.

## GROWING LEADERS

FFA helps prepare members for career success through ag education by ensuring members are career-ready when they graduate high school. In 2019, **97%** of the state's high school ag education graduates **were placed** in some way after high school. **30%** were **employed**, while **63%** were **continuing their education** and **4%** were in the **military**.



"Classroom instruction and hands-on training through Supervised Agricultural Experience, or SAE, coupled with leadership development in FFA is every bit as relevant today as it was when I was a student. It is a proven way to equip young people with the technical and life skills to be successful in their future professions and leaders in their communities. I credit my ag teacher and the opportunities afforded through ag education for giving me direction and confidence, and reinforcing my passion for serving others."

Garrett Hawkins, President, Missouri Farm Bureau

## BUILDING COMMUNITIES

Local FFA chapters build community partnerships and help create career opportunities through programs that help feed the hungry. Across the state, members engaged in four areas of community service — **Hunger, Health and Nutrition; Community Engagement; Environmental Responsibility; and Community Safety.** With the help of National FFA, **\$47,320** in grant money was provided for chapters statewide to use in these areas.

**TEAMWORK.**

**COMMUNICATION.**

**CAREER DEVELOPMENT.**

**FUTURE LEADERS.**



## Missouri's TOP FIVE SAEs

1. Placement in Animal Systems
2. Placement in Agribusiness Systems
3. Placement in Food Production/ Processing
4. Beef Production
5. Placement in Power Structures/ Tech Systems

Supervised Agricultural Experiences (SAEs) help students explore careers, refine their career choice, meet real-world career expectations and develop specific skills to be successful in the agricultural industry. SAEs enhance their experience, allowing them to apply what they learn in the classroom. Most of all, SAEs are personalized learning. SAEs are unique to each student and based on career interests and aspirations.