MISSOURI FFA

2027 SAE AWARD HANDBOOK

Learning to Do * Doing to Learn * Earning to Live * Living to Serve

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Up-Dated November 2026

The Agricultural SAE Award Program

SAE programs form the basis of award and degree programs. They are planned practical activities conducted outside of regularly scheduled class time that help students develop and apply agricultural knowledge and skills learned inside the classroom. These activities can include:

Entrepreneurship
Placement (paid or unpaid)
Agriscience Research
School Based Enterprises
Service Learning

Developing SAEs into a successful program takes time and planning. SAE programs also involve goal setting because they take time to grow and develop.

You should apply in an area in which you are strongest. For instance, if you have worked for a turf grass contractor for several years but have started your own enterprise with a couple of customers during the last year of your SAE, you should apply in the placement area to take advantage of the longer history and development. With the answers to your questions, you will be able to show the judges your growth in skills and knowledge within your SAE.

Who can apply and in what areas?

With the expansion from Proficiency Awards to the SAE Awards (2027) Missouri will be using the National FFA SAE Award Application with the exception of Food Service – Entrepreneurship and Food Service Placement.

These application can be found the application center and each student applying will need to start their application.

Agricultural SAE Awards are available to all FFA members enrolled in high school agriculture. You can apply for specific award areas while you are in high school or after you are out of high school, as long as you have been out for **less than one year**. If you have graduated from high school, you must have completed at least three full years of instruction in agricultural education or the program of agricultural education offered in the school last attended. **Applications with less than two years' worth of records will not be eligible to win state and compete at Nationals.**

You can only compete at the state level in one area per year. Check with the local FFA advisor for any other specific requirements. **(Only for 2027 cycle – Students are eligible to apply in any area they qualify for regardless of previous application or winnings)**

Applicants do not need to live on a farm or ranch to participate in the award program. The agricultural industry needs qualified employees in more than 235 career areas, including processing, sales and service, conservation, forest management, horticulture, landscaping, nursery operations, turf management, floriculture, and production agriculture.

Your reasons for submitting an SAE Award application may vary: to compete against others, to achieve a sense of satisfaction, to reach a goal, or just to have fun.

As a Missouri FFA member, you are responsible for your own work. Plagiarism, in any form, is a violation of the FFA Code of Conduct. All proficiency applications are expected to be original work submitted by individual members.

State Staff may run a plagiarism check on applications if needed.

To determine which SAE you have, consider the following:

- Placement – you are paid for work or un-paid volunteer work. Examples working at a nursery, grooming at a horse stable, or volunteering at a local park.
- Entrepreneurship – these are programs that involve ownership of an agricultural production or an agribusiness enterprise. Example: owning a lawn care service or animals.
- Agriscience Research – you are planning and conducting a scientific experiment based on a hypothesis and the use of the scientific method of investigation could be qualitative, quantitative, experimental, or descriptive research.
- School Based Enterprise – An SBE is an Entrepreneurship SAE based at the school and involves a group of FFA members working cooperatively. They are operated from the school campus utilizing facilities, equipment and other resources provided by the agricultural education program or the school in general.
- Service Learning – is conducted by one or a team of FFA member(s) who plan, conduct, and evaluate a project to provide a service to the school, public entities, or the community.
- See the National FFA SAE Award Handbook for more information!

Current SAE Award Descriptions and other helpful documents can be found on the National FFA Organization website at:

https://ffa.app.box.com/v/proficiencyhandbooks/folder/429005275089

Missouri SAE Award Area – (MISSOURI ONLY)

In Missouri we have two **SAE Award Areas** that are not recognized by National FFA, Food Service – Entrepreneurship and Placement. The description for this state only award is listed below. (These area are on the National Application)

Food Service – Entrepreneurship – STATE ONLY AWARD -- Involves students' ownership in the areas of food preparation and food service as well as management of food distribution systems. Ownership could be obtained at restaurants, fast-food facilities, delicatessens, grocery stores, and other establishments that prepare and serve prepared food to customers or prepare food and food related items for sale. This area does not include enterprises that are recognized in the Ag Processing or Food Science SAE Award areas. Nor does it relate to activities that are not related to food preparation and service. **(Note: Examples of activities not recognized are serving as a host or hostess, dishwashing, busing and waiting tables.)**

Food Service – Placement – STATE ONLY AWARD -- Involves students working for wages and/or experience in the areas of food preparation and food service as well as management of food distribution systems. Work experience could be obtained at restaurants, fast-food facilities, delicatessens, grocery stores, and other establishments that prepare and serve prepared food to customers or prepare food and food related items for sale. This area does not include enterprises that are recognized in the Ag Processing or Food Science SAE Award areas. Nor does it relate to activities that are not related to food preparation and service. **(Note: Examples of activities not recognized are serving as a host or hostess, dishwashing, busing and waiting tables.)**

General Guidelines and Recognition

1. **SAE Award Descriptions will be used to determine if applications are in the correct award area. Disqualifications are possible and thus will not be recognized at State FFA Convention**. Notifications will be sent by April 1st.

2. You will be granted only one proficiency award per year and will be eligible to receive that same award only once at the state level. **Applications disqualified during state screenings are not eligible to be submitted again**.

3. You will be considered for the State award only during the same calendar year in which you placed first in the area competition.

4. If your application wins state it must be submitted to National and thank you note written to receive the National FFA Foundation cash award.

5. Judging will be based on the following criteria:
   (consult the rubrics on the National FFA Website)

   - Skills and competencies learned that relate to an agricultural field.
   - Financial achievements including growth in scope.
   - Personal growth and development through FFA Activities.
   - Evidence of student accomplishments based on available resources and opportunities.
   - Communication skills as demonstrated in the written portions of the application.

Guidelines for Completing the Application

For guidelines on completing the SAE Award Application, consult the National FFA SAE Award Handbook at:

https://ffa.app.box.com/v/proficiencyhandbooks/file/2536824999653

For Missouri SAE Award judging, we will accept the following:

***Ownership Business Agreement form 100 (Entrepreneurship applications)**

***Placement Agreement form 101 (Placement applications).**

These forms can be found on the Curriculum Tab --- Recordbook Documents under Excel Documents of the Missouri FFA Website.

(AET Recordbook users may use forms or other information from AET)

Business plans for Entrepreneurship will not be required for Missouri Judging.

https://curriculum.missouriffa.org/main/record-books/