

MISSOURI

AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION

Fact Sheet

2023

PREPARING FOR SUCCESS



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

29,367

Students enrolled in Missouri agricultural education programs.

\$93 Billion

Revenue contributed to state economy from Missouri agriculture & forestry industries.
Source: MDA MO Ag Economic Impact, 2021

5,248

High school agricultural education graduates in 2021. 65% are pursuing agriculture as a career.

INTERACTIVE CLASSROOM

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

Aligned to a Career Path

Student-Led

Connected to Agriculture



Instructor Supervised

Measurable

Work-Based Learning

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

SUPERVISED AGRICULTURAL EXPERIENCE

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

CLASSROOM

SCHOOL
BASED

AGRICULTURAL
EDUCATION

SAE

FFA

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

Missouri's TOP FIVE SAEs

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



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.

TEAMWORK.

COMMUNICATION.

CAREER DEVELOPMENT.

FUTURE LEADERS.

GROWING LEADERS

FFA helps prepare members for career success through ag education by ensuring members are career-ready when they graduate high school. In 2021, **93.9%** of the state's high school ag education graduates were placed in some way after high school. **33%** were employed, while **58%** were continuing their education and **3%** were in the military.



"Agriculture education and Missouri FFA provided me an opportunity to develop and hone a wide variety of skills. While I was gaining knowledge in the classroom and through career development events, leadership and speaking experiences are where my soft skills and ability to communicate the information I gathered effectively came from. Having knowledge is important, but knowing how to effectively communicate and redistribute that knowledge to inquiring minds is invaluable. Missouri FFA provided the avenue through which I could develop those skills."

Sydney Thummel,
Executive Director, Missouri Beef Industry Council

STRENGTHENING AGRICULTURE

FFA is a critical partner for promoting agriculture, food and forestry careers. According to a 2021 study of the Economic Contribution of Missouri, Agriculture and Forestry provides **456,618 jobs** and contributes **\$93.7 billion** to the state's economy. Agricultural education and career and technical education (CTE) programs prepare students for agriculture and forestry careers.



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, **\$41,005** in grant money was provided for chapters statewide to use in these areas.



Statewide, more than **\$64,377,360** of total student labor income was generated through SAE programs in 2021, or **\$3,396 per student**. **16%** of students had **ownership projects**, while **49%** had **placement projects** where students work for someone in an agribusiness or on a farm. Moreover, **10%** had **agriscience projects** and **25%** had a **combination** of projects.