

Preparing for Success

30,454
agricultural
education
students in
Missouri

2026 **FACT SHEET**

OUR VISION:

Agricultural education envisions a world where all people value and understand the vital role of agriculture and natural resources in advancing personal and global well-being.

5 FAST FACTS:

- **365** —Missouri high schools, career centers and community colleges offering agriculture classes.
- **5,563** —high school agriculture graduates in 2024 with **63% pursuing agriculture as a career.**
- **\$76,490,918** —2024 Total SAE-generated state-wide labor income.
- **95.3%** —Missouri ag education graduates placed in some way after high school.
- **26,828 FFA Members**
17,207 Middle School Students
3,117 Postsecondary Students
3,100 Adult Students
—individuals served through agricultural education-related programs in Missouri.

SCHOOL-BASED AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION



INTERACTIVE CLASSROOM

Students explore natural and social sciences, entrepreneurship and other careers through a classroom, greenhouse, laboratory or outdoor setting.



SUPERVISED AGRICULTURAL EXPERIENCE (SAE)

SAEs enhance student experience and allow for classroom application. Unique to each student, SAEs are personalized learning and based on career interests and aspirations.



LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Organizations like FFA, PAS, Young Farmers/Young Farm Wives and MVATA promote personal skill development.

DID YOU KNOW?

Missouri agriculture contributes **\$93.7** billion annually to the state's economy, accounting for **456,618** jobs.





INTERACTIVE CLASSROOM

Students explore natural and social sciences, entrepreneurship and other careers through a:

- Classroom
- Greenhouse
- Laboratory
- Outdoor Setting



AGRICULTURAL PATHWAYS

AGRIBUSINESS

AGRICULTURAL MECHANICS

ANIMAL SCIENCES

FOOD SCIENCE AND SAFETY

NATURAL RESOURCES

PLANT SCIENCES

SUPERVISED AGRICULTURAL EXPERIENCE (SAE)

SAEs enhance student experience and allow for classroom application. Personalized learning, SAEs are unique to each student and based on career interests and aspirations.

Explore Careers

Refine Career Choices

Meet Real-World Career Expectations

Develop Specific Skills for success in the ag industry

MISSOURI'S TOP 5 SAEs

1. Placement / Food Production Systems
2. Placement / Power Structures
3. Placement / Animal Systems
4. Placement, Agribusiness Systems
5. Placement / Plant Systems



LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Organizations like FFA help prepare students for career success through agricultural education by ensuring members are career-ready when they graduate high school.



Leadership

Communication

Employability

Career Readiness

Personal Development Skills

A collaborative study between the National FFA Organization and Purdue University indicates FFA members are high achievers in the classroom and in their future careers.*

**2018-19 Purdue University / National FFA collaborative study.*

The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, national origin, age, veteran status, mental or physical disability, or any other basis prohibited by statute in its programs and activities. Inquiries related to department programs and to the location of services, activities, and facilities that are accessible by persons with disabilities may be directed to the Jefferson State Office Building, Director of Civil Rights Compliance and MOA Coordinator (Title VI/Title VII/Title IX/504/ADA/ADAAA/Age Act/GINA/USDA Title VI), 5th Floor, 205 Jefferson Street, P.O. Box 480, Jefferson City, MO 65102-0480; telephone number 573-526-4757 or TTY 800-735-2966; email civilrights@dese.mo.gov.

Get In touch:

☎ 573.751.8466

✉ keith.dietzschold@dese.mo.gov

📍 205 Jefferson Street | P.O. Box 480 | Jefferson City, MO 65102