Agriculture, Food & Natural Resources
Exploring Agriculture Education (Seventh Grade)
Course Number 02.01300

Course Description: Exploring Agricultural Education analyzes the different aspects of the agricultural industry. This course is designed to introduce students to the vast opportunities available in Agricultural Education. Students will be given the opportunity to learn how agriculture and agribusiness affects their daily lives. Students will also have the opportunity to participate in FFA activities.

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to analyze different aspects of the agricultural industry and how it affects their daily lives. Students will have a working knowledge of the National FFA Organization, and the significance of the agricultural education program. Students will be aware of the various career opportunities in agriscience, forestry and natural resources, and agricultural mechanics.

Course Standard 1

AFNR-MSAGED7-1: Employability Skills
Demonstrate employability skills required by business and industry.
The following elements should be integrated throughout the content of this course.

1.1   Communicate effectively through writing, speaking, listening, reading, and interpersonal abilities.

Person-to-Person Etiquette	Telephone and Email Etiquette	Communicating at Work	Listening
Interacting with Your Boss	Telephone Conversations	Improving Communication Skills	Reasons, Benefits, and Barriers
Interacting with Subordinates	Barriers to Phone conversations	Effective Oral Communication	Listening Strategies
Interacting with Co-workers	Making and Returning Calls	Effective Written Communication	Ways We Filter What We Hear
		Effective Nonverbal Skills	Developing a Listening Attitude
		Effective Word Use	Show You Are Listening
		Giving and Receiving Feedback	Asking Questions
			Obtaining Feedback
			Getting Others to Listen

Nonverbal Communication	Written Communication	Speaking	Applications and Effective Résumés
Communicating Nonverbally	Writing Documents	Using Language Carefully	Completing a Job Application
Reading Body Language and mixed Messages		One-on-One Conversations	Writing a Cover Letter
Matching Verbal and Nonverbal communication		Small Group Communication	Things to Include in a Résumé
Improving Nonverbal Indicators		Large Group Communication	Terms to Use in a Résumé
Nonverbal Feedback		Making Speeches	Organizing Your Résumé

Showing Confidence Nonverbally		Answering Questions	Writing an Electronic Résumé
Showing Assertiveness		Visual and Media Aids	
		Errors in Presentation	

1.2 Demonstrate creativity by asking challenging questions and applying innovative procedures and methods.

Teamwork and Problem Solving	Meeting Etiquette
Thinking Creatively	Preparation and Participation in Meetings
Taking Risks	Conducting Two-Person or Large Group Meetings
Building Team Communication	Inviting and Introducing Speakers
	Preparing Visual Aids

1.3 Exhibit critical thinking and problem-solving skills to locate, analyze and apply information in career planning and employment situations.
   a. Investigate educational requirements, job responsibilities, employment trends, and opportunities within the national career clusters using credible sources.

Problem Solving	Customer Service	The Application Process	Interviewing Skills	Finding the Right Job
Transferable Job Skills	Gaining Trust and Interacting with Customers	Providing Information, Accuracy and Double Checking	Preparing for an Interview	Locating Jobs and Networking
Becoming a Problem Solver	Learning and Giving Customers What They Want	Online Application Process	Questions to Ask in an Interview	Job Shopping Online
Identifying a Problem	Keeping Customers Coming Back	Following Up After Submitting an Application	Things to Include in a Career Portfolio	Job Search Websites
Becoming a Critical Thinker	Seeing the Customer's Point	Effective Résumés:	Traits Employers are Seeking	Staying Motivated to Search
	Selling Yourself and the Company	Matching Your Talents to a Job	Considerations Before Taking a Job	
		When a Résumé Should be Used		

1.4 Model work readiness traits required for success in the workplace including integrity, honesty, accountability, punctuality, time management, and respect for diversity.

Workplace Ethics	Personal Characteristics	Employer Expectations	Business Etiquette	Communicating at Work
Demonstrating Good Work Ethic	Demonstrating a Good Attitude	Behaviors Employers Expect	Language and Behavior	Handling Anger
Behaving Appropriately	Gaining and Showing Respect	Objectionable Behaviors	Keeping Information Confidential	Dealing with Difficult Coworkers
Maintaining Honesty	Demonstrating Responsibility	Establishing Credibility	Avoiding Gossip	Dealing with a Difficult Boss

Playing Fair	Showing Dependability	Demonstrating Your Skills	Appropriate Work Email	Dealing with Difficult Customers
Using Ethical Language	Being Courteous	Building Work Relationships	Cell Phone Etiquette	Dealing with Conflict
Showing Responsibility	Gaining Coworkers' Trust		Appropriate Work Texting	
Reducing Harassment	Persevering		Understanding Copyright	
Respecting Diversity	Handling Criticism		Social Networking	
Making Truthfulness a Habit	Showing Professionalism			

1.5 Apply the appropriate skill sets to be productive in a changing, technological, diverse workplace to be able to work independently and apply team work skills.

Expected Work Traits	Teamwork	Time Management
Demonstrating Responsibility	Teamwork Skills	Managing Time
Dealing with Information Overload	Reasons Companies Use Teams	Putting First Things First
Transferable Job Skills	Decisions Teams Make	Juggling Many Priorities
Managing Change	Team Responsibilities	Overcoming Procrastination
Adopting a New Technology	Problems That Affect Teams	Organizing Workspace and Tasks
Use Technology Ethically & Efficiently	Expressing Yourself on a Team	Staying Organized
Interact Appropriately in a Digital World	Giving and Receiving Constructive Criticism	Finding More Time
		Managing Projects
		Prioritizing Personal and Work Life

1.6 Present a professional image through appearance, behavior and language.

On-the-Job Etiquette	Person-to-Person Etiquette	Communication Etiquette	Presenting Yourself
Using Professional Manners	Meeting Business Acquaintances	Creating a Good Impression	Looking Professional
Introducing People	Meeting People for the First Time	Keeping Phone Calls Professional	Dressing for Success
Appropriate Dress	Showing Politeness	Proper Use of Work Email	Showing a Professional Attitude
Behavior at Conventions		Proper Use of Cell Phone	Using Good Posture
Working in a Cubicle		Proper Use in Texting	Presenting Yourself to Associates
			Accepting Criticism
			Demonstrating Leadership

Course Standard 2

AFNR-MSAGED7-2: Agriscience
Analyze constructs in agriscience.

2.1 Connect and apply scientific concepts in practical agricultural applications.
2.2 Analyze technological trends and research in agricultural and natural resources.

2.3   Explain the global economic impact of agriculture in meeting human needs for food, fiber, and natural resources.

2.4   Investigate and draw conclusions about how agriculture impacts the local and state economy.

Course Standard 3

AFNR-MSAGED7-3: FFA

Apply principles of leadership, personal growth and career success through activities of the National FFA Organization.

3.1   Explain the benefits of the National FFA Organization.

3.2   Expand leadership goals, personal growth and career success through Agriculture Education.

3.3   Describe the knowledge and skills needed for Career Development Event (CDE) activities in FFA.

3.4   Design and carry out a Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE) program based on career goals and industry needs for each individual.

Course Standard 4

AFNR-MSAGED7-4: Plant Systems

Compare and contrast essential processes in the growth and development of plants.

4.1   Explain the interrelationship between the vegetative components of a plant through analysis of their functions.

4.2   Explain the structure and function of the reproductive parts of plants.

4.3   Explain photosynthesis and the environmental conditions needed for plant growth.

Course Standard 5

AFNR-MSAGED7-5: Animal Systems

Investigate the production of livestock, poultry and dairy animals.

5.1   Apply concepts in selecting major breeds of species for agricultural production.

5.2   Distinguish between the functions of the components of the digestive, reproductive, and other major systems of animals.

5.3   Analyze the role, importance, and scope of the dairy, beef, pork, equine, and small ruminant animal industries.

Course Standard 6

AFNR-MSAGED7-6: Natural Resources

Explain sustainable approaches in wildlife and natural resources management.

6.1   Investigate potential careers in wildlife and natural resources.

6.2   Communicate information about wildlife to heighten awareness regarding conservation and resource preservation.

6.3   Assess ecosystems in terms of sustainable habitat management.

6.4   Analyze local resource concerns based on the SWAPA+H criteria (soil, water, air, plants, animals, and human considerations).

Course Standard 7

AFNR-MSAGED7-7: Ag Engineering

Use principles of engineering to solve problems in agricultural settings.

7.1   Differentiate between the common types of tools and equipment used in agricultural applications.

7.2 Calculate linear measurements and simple angles using approved methods of measurement.

7.3 Investigate concepts in agricultural power, structural, and technical systems.

7.4 Select and use appropriate safety equipment in agricultural settings.