

2019 Oregon Agriculture Education and FFA Legislation

Business and Organization Support Request



Rationale

School-based agricultural education is built upon the three core integral tenets of classroom and laboratory learning, student leadership through the National FFA Organization, and experiential learning through supervised agricultural experience.

To sustain and expand the influence of agricultural education in this state, Oregon is best served by systematically investing in all three core integral tenets. Beyond classroom and laboratory learning, the Oregon and National FFA Associations provide two critical tenets:

- **Student Leadership.** Organizing leadership development conferences, providing in-class presentations, coordinating career development events, facilitating scholarship funds, and managing award programs.
- **Experiential Learning.** Connecting real-world applications to classroom learning by providing unequaled leadership training opportunities and leveraging industry support and engagement year-round through programs providing guidance, supervision, training and advising to students as they engage in real-world experiential learning projects.

The estimated state economic impact of student supervised agricultural experiences, the majority of which are entrepreneurship projects, is currently documented at over \$13.8 million.

Agricultural education programs are found in 33 of the state's 36 counties and impact almost 12,000 students annually with 108 agriculture education programs and their integral FFA Chapters.

Initiative Components

Goals of the proposed legislation are: 1) to increase student achievement, 2) to remove barriers of participation, 3) to improve graduation rates, and 4) to provide college preparation and career placement for students enrolled in secondary agricultural education courses. These goals will be achieved by:

Oregon FFA Association Support and Programming for Student Success:

1. Enrolling each student registered in a grades 9 through 12 school-approved agricultural, science and technology (AST) program of study for a minimum of one course per school year as a member of the National FFA Organization.
2. Providing financial support for leadership development and training through multiple programs, including but not limited to:
 - Local chapter officer leadership training
 - Leadership conferences for first year members on career and college readiness pathways
 - Statewide training for Oregon FFA Association officers, including coaching and industry partnership development
 - Coordinate industry-verified and guided Career Development Events (competitive) across local, regional, and state levels in career exploration and preparation.
 - Direct student recognition programs from local to national levels.

- Work with Oregon State Fair to plan and implement industry based events that showcase and educate value and importance of agriculture in Oregon's economy.

Investment needed to support Oregon FFA and Agriculture Education - \$715,000 annually

Oregon Agriculture Education Summer Month Extended Activity Supervision Programming

3. Oregon Department of Education will establish a grant program available to all school districts with approved Program of Study for Agriculture Education for the purpose of funding extended duty contracts in school districts for personnel to manage approved programming during summer months between school years
 - Current summer management varies from district to district based upon funding availability and program support. There is need to recruit and retain high quality professionals to teach, and summer weak summer contracting in some cases limiting student experiences and growth.
 - There are outlined protocols for qualification for grant funds as well as allowable expenditures that must be met in order to maintain funding.

Investment needed to support student summer programming - \$300,000 annually

The following is a list of Agriculture Education Legislation Supporters:

(This is where your company/organization/etc. would be listed with name and/or brand logo).

Invest in Oregon's AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION & FFA



Dear Friend and Supporter of Oregon FFA and Agricultural Education,

During the 2019 Oregon Legislative Session, Oregon Agriculture Educators, agriculture industry partners, and grassroots supporters in school-based agricultural education are uniquely poised to advance agricultural education in Oregon. The strong local support of agricultural, science and technical (AST) programs and FFA chapters can be enhanced and expanded by providing statewide investment in critical areas.

We are asking you to support our goals and core tenants of our legislation in order to strengthen the future of agriculture education and the leadership within our school systems for years to come.

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We invite you and your organization to be a supporter of our cause. Your name and image (logo) would exhibit solidarity and a belief in investing in the future of our communities and programs that value and uphold the tenants of agriculture education. Having overwhelming support from industry partners, along with their recognizable branding and logos, will impress upon our legislature the value of funding and supporting programs that are making positive impacts within our state.

We encourage you to have your group or industry carefully consider your support and contact our Legislative Advocacy Co-Chairs of Wes Crawford (Sutherlin HS) and J.D. Cant (Imbler HS) to officially add your organization to the growing list of supporters. They can be contacted at crawforw@gmail.com.

The Agriculture Education model is a tested and true program that grows innovative leaders, willing to tackle the future solutions in the food, fiber, and fuel industries that revolve around agriculture. We thank you for considering the future of our industry, our state, and our educational programs that make positive impacts on young people's lives.

FFA MISSION: FFA makes a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth, and career success through agricultural education.