

DRAFT SAMPLE - NATIONAL FFA ORGANIZATION

DEFINITION OF AGRICULTURE AND AGRICULTURALLY RELATED

Entrepreneurship, placement, research and service-learning projects, including those which are school-based, which meet the following definitions and are federally legal, qualify as Supervised Agricultural Experiences (SAE) for recognition at the national level. Only projects meeting these definitions will be eligible for recognition through SAE based national awards, degrees and grants (*American FFA Degree, national level Agricultural Proficiency Awards, SAE Grants*).

Agriculture – the science, art or practice of raising crops and/or animals for food, fuel or fiber. Including the science, technology and practices to maintain, treat, market or modify crops and animals.

Agriculturally Related – by pathway/focus area. Entrepreneurship, placement, research and service-learning projects, including those which are school based, which:

- Agribusiness Systems - plan, develop, fund, manage and market projects related to producing, managing or processing food, fuel, fiber and biological natural resources. ([Agribusiness System Examples](#))
- Agricultural Education and Communication - create and/or present curriculum to educate and/or inform the public about topics related to producing, processing, marketing and using food, fuel, fiber and biological natural resources. Includes creating and broadcasting or publishing stories about agriculture through all types of media. ([Agricultural Education and Communication Examples](#))
- Animal Systems - manage, produce or study all types of animals for any ethical and legal purpose. ([Animal Systems Examples](#))
- Biotechnology Systems - study or use data and scientific techniques to solve problems concerning living, non-human, organisms and/or apply principles and techniques for the development, application and management of biotechnology with application to agriculture, food and natural resources. ([Biotechnology Systems Examples](#))
- Environmental Service Systems - monitor and/or help to minimize negative impacts and/or maximize positive impacts, of human activity on environmental systems related to the production of food, fiber, fuel and the use of biological natural resources. ([Environmental Service Systems Examples](#))
- Food Products and Processing Systems - deal in selecting and processing animal and plant based food, fiber and fuel for storage, distribution and consumption. ([Food Product and Processing Examples](#))
- Natural Resource Systems - deal with the use, management, protection, enhancement and improvement of soil, water, wildlife, forests, range lands and air quality related to the production of food, fiber, fuel and the use of biological natural resources. ([Natural Resource System Examples](#))
- Plant Systems - produce and/or manage plants for all ethical and legal purposes. ([Plant Systems Examples](#))
- Power, Structural and Technical Systems - design, create or maintain structures, equipment, power systems, and non-biological technology used in the production and/or management of food, fuel, fiber and biological natural resources. ([Power, Structural and Technical Examples](#))
- Service-Learning – require the member to fill community needs through completing all following steps: design, organize, seek committee oversight, provide and report not for profit goods or services which require agricultural or agriculturally related skills to produce or perform. *Service activities which do not require applicants to perform all listed steps are community service but do not qualify as Service-Learning SAE. Projects must be entirely member driven and may not be part of an FFA Chapter POA.* ([Service-Learning Examples](#))

State/Chapter Level Definitions: Local FFA chapters and state FFA associations are free to modify or create their own definitions for chapter and/or state level awards, degrees and grants. National FFA will provide options for chapter and state level recognition of accepted non-agriculture and non-agriculturally related projects which will be designated Supervised Occupational Experiences (SOE). SOEs will not be accepted for **national** level awards, degrees or grants.

DRAFT SAMPLE - SAE AND SOE EXAMPLES

These examples are **NOT all inclusive!** Any specific example listed below as “SAE Eligible” will be accepted for national level recognition. Any specific project listed as “SOE Eligible” will not be eligible for national level competition/recognition.

Agribusiness Systems

- **SAE Eligible**
 - Performing business skills including such things as recordkeeping, marketing, buying and selling all types of agricultural and agriculturally related products and services
 - Re-selling agriculture and agriculturally related items such as
 - Feed
 - Seed or seedlings
 - Fencing
 - Raw commodities (vegetables, grain, meat, wool)
 - Tractors
 - Landscaping equipment
 - Fertilizer
 - Chemicals
 - Pet supplies
 - Providing for agriculture or agriculturally related businesses or producers.
 - Creating marketing plans and/or materials (*websites, social media, posters, flyers, newspaper/magazine adds, etc.*)
 - Providing auction or market services
 - Providing agritourism opportunities
 - Pest management/mitigation (*insect, rodent, etc.*)

Additional Examples: <https://ffa.app.box.com/s/vmdugudzu0mn5f7jkaikceqvfe58mzi>

- **SOE Eligible**
 - Performing business skills for non-agricultural or agriculturally related products or businesses.
 - Reselling non-agricultural items such as
 - Toys
 - Clothing
 - Crafts
 - Prepared human food items
 - Providing marketing or other services to non-agricultural businesses or producers

Agricultural Education and Communication

- **SAE Eligible**
 - Creating curriculum and/or teaching people about the production of food, fiber, fuel and biological natural resources
 - Communicating facts and stories about agriculture and natural resources to the public through print, radio, TV, social media, etc.

Additional Examples: <https://ffa.app.box.com/s/x7e4v2qzxcwkleuqkun3mt0421m5nejx>

- **SOE Eligible**

- Creating curriculum and/or teaching people about topics which are not food, fiber, fuel and biological natural resources such as:
 - Math
 - English
 - Child care
 - Car maintenance or restoration
- Working for Agricultural Extension, schools, churches, camps or any other organization to present non-agricultural information or perform non-agriculturally related activities.
- Participating in or preparing FFA or other organization activities which do not include preparing and presenting agricultural curriculum
 - Serving as a club or organization officer (FFA, 4-H, etc.)
- Preparation for and training others for competitions in which the applicant is a competitor.
 - FFA CDE\LDEs and all other competitions
 - 4-H competitions
- Communicating facts and stories about topics other than agriculture and natural resources to the public through print, radio, TV, social media, web, etc.

Animal Systems

- **SAE Eligible**

- Producing and/or caring for animals, insects or fish which provide meat, milk, eggs, wool, leather, fur, hair, feathers, honey, etc. for human use
- Producing or caring for animals to work, provide companionship or for display
- Producing or caring for wild animal or fish species to increase, maintain or reduce populations
- Studying animal growth, nutrition, disease, behavior, etc.
- Working at a pet supply store

Additional Examples: <https://ffa.app.box.com/s/zvhqxadimc6g416gi5kv7sm46s4w9cfv>

- **SOE Eligible**

Biotechnology Systems

- **SAE Eligible**

- Create new treatments and techniques to improve animal or plant health and growth
- Create new uses for, storage of or processes for animal or plant products
- Work for a business/lab studying plant or animal system with applications to agriculture or natural resources.
- Agriscience research related to animals, plants, biological natural resources and agricultural by-products

Additional Examples: <https://ffa.app.box.com/s/ulnc8l2ock3r39au6n7qnpe1uzjjq3kd>

- **SOE Eligible**

- Creation or study of treatments and processes for humans or non-biological systems
- Study of human or non-biological systems

Environmental Systems

- **SAE Eligible**
 - Study, create or implement ways to eliminate or reduce negative impacts of agriculture on water, soil or air quality
 - Study effects of cropping systems on wildlife.
 - Study or create ways agricultural products, processes, waste or by products can be reused or repurposed to benefit the environment.

Additional Examples: <https://ffa.app.box.com/s/Opzuwuc0gfvhatj8gny4ld6pk5jewqww>

- **SOE Eligible**
 - Recycling non-agricultural products such as scrap metal, soda cans, aluminum foil, vehicles, vehicle tires etc.
 - Trash clean-up projects

Food Products and Processing Systems

- **SAE Eligible**
 - Food safety inspection and/or grading
 - Food sanitation
 - Experimentation and development of food preservation techniques and packaging
 - Experimenting with and development of food additives or modifications to improve nutrition, texture or taste
 - Preparing animal feeds
 - Cleaning and or grinding grains into flour
 - Pasteurizing and bottling milk
 - Cutting and packaging meat
 - Harvesting and processing hides into leather or furs
 - Harvesting, cleaning and/or packaging wool or hair for further processing into materials
 - Study the effects of packaging techniques on food spoilage rates
 - Study how to control food spoilage
 - Study effects of ingredients on food preparation
 - Developing new food products (meat substitutes, lab grown foods, etc.)
 - Processing food for preservation by canning, bottling, drying, curing, freezing, vacuum packing, etc.

Additional Examples: **SAE Idea Cards in this need revision**

- **SOE Eligible**
 - Food preparation, cooking or baking any kind of food items for human consumption
 - Serving food in any type of restaurant, institution, cafeteria or any other setting
 - Working as a cashier in a food service business of any type
 - Making non-agricultural products from leather, cloth, fur, hair, lumber, metal or other materials

Natural Resource Systems

- **SAE Eligible**
 - Study the effects of cropping practices on wildlife populations

- Study water movement through different soil types
- Improvement and management of wildlife habitat
- Working for federal/state/local agencies which manage biological natural resources
- Planting, managing, harvesting and/or processing trees and other natural vegetation in undeveloped areas.
- Managing land, bodies of water and plants for outdoor recreation
- Providing services and or management of natural resource based sports and outdoor activities:
 - Campgrounds
 - Guiding and outfitting services
 - Sustainable design and management of trails
- Quarrying and processing of rock, sand and minerals specifically for landscaping or agricultural use

Additional Examples: <https://ffa.app.box.com/s/2mhqkhzqnpr1ygdietor5w8nubjn90e>

- **SOE Eligible**
 - Providing or managing water sports such as swimming, water skiing, diving.
 - Coaching or managing non-natural resource based sports (*All sports using a ball; track and field; car racing, pulling and demolition; etc.*)
 - Extracting, managing or maintaining non-biological natural resources such as coal, oil, natural gas, and metal ore
 - Quarrying and processing of rock, sand and minerals for uses other than agriculture (*counter tops, monuments, grave markers, petroleum products, etc.*)

Plant Systems

- **SAE Eligible**
 - Grow or maintain any type of food crop
 - Grow or maintain any type of non-food plants (*turf, trees, flowers, shrubbery, etc.*)
 - Compare the rates of transpiration of plants in different locations in a landscape
 - Compare GMO and conventional seed/plant growth under various conditions
 - Compare plant growth of hydroponics and conventional methods

Additional Examples: https://www.ffa.org/educator_resources/sae-idea-cards-plant-systems/

- **SOE Eligible**
 - Growing or maintaining plants that have been declared illegal by Federal or your state law

Power, Structural and Technical Systems

- **SAE Eligible**
 - Design, build and/or maintain structures or equipment to be used for or on animals.
 - Design, build and/or maintain structures or equipment used to plant, maintain, harvest or process plants.
 - Design, build or maintain equipment or structures for working with biological natural resources
 - Fishing equipment (*flies, poles, nets, boats*)
 - Hunting equipment (*knives, sheaths, holsters, saddle scabbards, hunting firearms*)
 - Wildlife observation or hunting blinds or hides
 - Compare the energy output of alternative fuel sources to traditional forms

- Create minimum energy use agricultural structures
- Compare properties of various alternative insulation products for agricultural uses
- Examining the efficiency of ventilation systems in agricultural production facilities
- Designing, building or maintaining vehicles **used primarily for agriculture** (*ATV, UTV, Farm truck, snowmobiles*)
- Working for an equipment parts business which primarily supplies parts for agricultural equipment.

Additional Examples: <https://ffa.app.box.com/s/0j0438zo941eymcncgppqabh5iqzlrpg>

- **SOE Eligible**

- Design, build and/or maintain human residential structures.
- Design, build and/or maintain equipment not primarily used for agriculture.
 - Personal vehicles
 - Sports equipment
 - Furniture
 - Decorative items (signage, mailbox, home decorations, jewelry)
 - Clothing items
 - Delivery vehicles for non-ag products
- Designing, building or maintaining vehicles **primarily for non-agricultural** uses (*ATV, UTV, personal vehicle, snow mobile*)
- Working for an equipment parts business which primarily supplies parts for non-agricultural equipment.

Service-Learning

- **SAE Eligible**

- Organize and provide volunteer and/or non-profit goods or services to the community and it's members in which agriculturally related tasks are performed
 - Create, manage and/or maintain a community garden
 - Install or maintain landscaping for community spaces (parks, community centers, etc.)
 - Create a gleaning program to harvest left over crops for food banks
 - Create or maintain a free animal adoption or vaccination service
 - Create a program to provide language interpretation services for agricultural businesses/markets
 - Create a program to teach agricultural terms and/or knowledge to agricultural workers.
 - Create a tutoring program for agriculture or natural resource subjects
 - Create and manage a stock show experience for special needs students.

- **SOE Eligible**

- Providing non-profit services in which agriculturally related tasks are not performed
 - Cleaning grave markers or monuments
 - Building and installing playground equipment
 - Trash clean-up
 - Collecting money or goods for donations
 - Making quilts
 - Writing letters
 - Visiting people
 - Raising and/or training service animals
 - Child care

- Helping to build a home with Habitat for Humanity
- Participation in activities which are including in the chapter POA or are organize by the chapter.
- Volunteering to serve with any organization (*FFA, 4-H, Americorps, Scouts, Red Cross, etc.*)

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