

# Standards for a Quality Program in Agricultural Education

Having a quality agriculture education program should be the goal of every agriculture education program in the state. But what makes a program successful? What determines a quality program?

These standards serve as the foundation for a quality program. All programs need to be accountable to the stakeholders that are served in the community. These standards were designed to include stakeholder input and provide a process to improve the program. As community members, parents, students, teachers, and administrators embrace these standards they will establish a framework for accountability and a system for continuous program improvement.

***The following standards are indicators of a quality agricultural education program:***

## **Quality Educators**

- 1. Qualified instructors should be employed with a minimum of 40 working days on an extended contract.
- 2. The instructor is actively involved in the professional agricultural teacher associations and utilizes an improvement plan to demonstrate continual professional development.

## **Program Planning**

- 3. Agricultural education programs have a vision and mission statement that is in alignment with the school district's mission and vision.
- 4. The curriculum is in alignment with the Wisconsin Model Academic Standards for Agricultural Education and incorporate the Wisconsin Model Academic Standards for Mathematics, Science, English Language Arts, and Social Studies while promoting educational equity.
- 5. Comprehensive programming includes three components: classroom education, supervised agricultural experience, and FFA.
- 6. Programs are served by an advisory committee.
- 7. An agricultural education exploratory program is offered at the middle school level with exploratory experiences offered PK-6.

## **Curriculum, Instruction, Student Assessment**

- 8. The agricultural education program applies the academic standards to support student academic achievement and career development.
- 9. FFA is an integral part of the agriculture education program; therefore, all programs shall have an FFA Chapter.
- 10. The agricultural education program includes experiential learning with all students having a supervised agricultural experience program with options for certified certified work-based learning programs.
- 11. The instructional program is articulated with technical colleges, and four-year university programs.
- 12. Career guidance and counseling are offered as a part of the curriculum emphasizing educational options.
- 13. The curriculum is based on current occupational trends, industry standards and researched based educational practices.

- 14. Learning experiences are structured for active, performance-based learning to address individual differences in learning needs and talents of students.
- 15. Standards-related classroom assessments are integrated with curriculum and instruction to promote meaningful learning and student accountability.

## **Program Evaluation**

- 16. Graduate follow-up studies and other forms of program assessment that measure the program against current standards are conducted on a continual basis and recommendations are used for continual improvement.
- 17. Educational equity is a basic program component. Student enrollment is representative of the school's population.

## **Quality Schools**

- 18. Educators are involved collectively in activities that enhance the school environment and student achievement.
- 19. Educators are proactively working with district and school leadership to advance career and technical education..

## **Parent and Community Involvement**

- 20. Continual marketing of the educational and economic benefits of the program are shared with parents, students, administration, guidance personnel, faculty and prospective employers.
- 21. Collaborative relationships and partnerships are established to maximize student achievement and career development.
- 22. An active FFA Alumni chapter supports the local program.

## **Resources**

- 23. The facilities, equipment, technology and operating budget support the vision and mission of the agricultural education program.
- 24. Community leaders, resources, facilities, and industries are identified and utilized to enhance the quality of the instructional program.

## **Legal Requirements**

- 25. Program operation is in compliance with all state and federal laws and regulations.