Where can SAE take me?

Unit. Supervised Agricultural Experience

Problem Area. What SAE-related opportunities are there in the FFA?

Student Learning Objectives. As a result of this lesson, the student will…

1. Identify the FFA program activities that are related to SAE
2. List 10 FFA proficiency award areas

Time.

Instruction time for this lesson: 50 minutes

Resources:

www.ffa.org

Tools, Equipment and Supplies

- Overhead projector
- An assortment of FFA proficiency award medals and FFA degree pins
- A small sapling, shrub or plant (that will be butchered)
- Pruning shears
- 4 large post-it notes
- SAE.3.TM.A-F
- SAE.3.Assess
- SAE.3.PPT (A PowerPoint presentation containing the key materials in the lesson is also available.)

Key Terms:

The following terms are presented in this lesson and appear in bold italics:

- Proficiency Award
**Interest Approach**

Place 7-8 FFA proficiency awards medals and degree pins in your right hand and place your left hand over your right hand so that students can’t see what you have in your hands (note: medals and degree pins are obtained from the National FFA Organization for free.) When class starts, shake your hands so that the medals jingle.

What do you think is in my hands?

*Have the students guess. After a minute reveal what you have.*

These are FFA proficiency award medals and FFA degree pins. You can earn these awards as a result of your SAE program. In order to earn these you must have an SAE program. Today we are going to learn more about these awards and other FFA programs related to SAE activities.

*Alternative interest approach: If you don’t have the award medals or degree pins, use coins instead. Emphasize that a number of the awards carry a monetary prize at the state and national level.*

**Summary of Content and Teaching Strategies**

**OBJECTIVE 1: Determine the FFA program activities that are related to SAE.**

Since different things appeal to different students, we are taking a two-pronged approach to getting students excited about SAE. Some students are motivated by external factors such as medals and awards. Others are motivated intrinsically by such things as making career choices. This lesson will focus on extrinsic motivators while a later lesson will focus on intrinsic motivation.

The National FFA provides proficiency awards to students who excel in their SAE program. Today we will learn what a proficiency award is and the types of proficiency awards available. With a little work, you can win one of these proficiency awards. We will also learn about other FFA programs related to the SAE program.

*Display visual SAE.3.TM.A and discuss with the students (or use the PowerPoint presentation SAE3)*

**FFA Proficiency Awards, Degrees and Programs**

I. The National FFA Organization provides rewards and competitions related to the SAE programs of students
   A. Proficiency Awards
   B. FFA Degrees
   C. Agriscience Activities
   D. AgriEntrepreneurship program
   E. Career Development Events
II. **What is a Proficiency Award?**

An award presented by the National FFA to recognize excellence in an SAE program. There are about 40 areas of agriculture for which awards are available.

*Display visual SAE.3.TM.B and discuss with the students.*

I. Proficiency award winners are recognized at the:
   A. local level
   B. district, federation, regional and/or area level
   C. state level
   D. national level

II. Award winners may receive
   E. Medals
   F. Certificates
   G. Plaques
   H. Money
   I. Opportunity to travel

The recognition varies according to the level of the award.

*Display visual SAE.3.TM.C and discuss with the students.*

Proficiency Awards are currently given in the following categories:

Agricultural Communications
Agricultural Education
Agricultural Mechanical Design and Fabrication
Agricultural Mechanics Energy Systems
Agricultural Mechanics Repair and Maintenance
Agricultural Processing
Agricultural Sales
Agricultural Services
Aquaculture
Beef Production
Dairy Production
Diversified Agricultural Production
Diversified Crop Production
Diversified Horticulture
Diversified Livestock Production
Display visual SAE.3.TM.D and discuss with the students.

**FFA Degrees**

I. Students who meet specified requirements are awarded FFA Degrees. There are five levels of FFA degrees.
   A. Discovery (found in the middle school)
   B. Greenhand
   C. Chapter
   D. State
   E. American

II. Each degree gets progressively harder to obtain.

III. The degree requirements are found in the FFA manual.
IV. Each degree has a requirement that involves the SAE program.
V. If you don’t have an SAE program, you cannot earn FFA degrees.

Display visual SAE.3.TM.E and discuss with the students.

FFA Officers
I. There are chapter, state and national FFA officers.
II. In order to be one of these officers, you must hold certain FFA degrees.
III. But we know you can’t earn these degrees without having an SAE.
IV. Therefore, in order to be a FFA officer, you need to have an SAE program.

Star Awards
I. Each year, the National FFA recognizes the:
   A. Star Farmer of America
   B. American Star in Agribusiness
   C. American Star in Agriscience
   D. American Star in Agricultural Placement
The top student in each SAE category is recognized.

Display visual SAE.3.TM.F and discuss with the students.

Agriscience
I. The National FFA sponsors
   A. An Agriscience Fair
   B. Agriscience Student Recognition Program
II. Students who have Agriscience Research SAE programs compete in these competitions

Agri-Entrepreneurship
I. Students with Entrepreneurship SAE programs compete in the Agri-Entrepreneurship award program.
II. The top 10 entrepreneurship programs in the nation are recognized.
OBJECTIVE 2: List 10 FFA proficiency award areas.

**Activity**

Now that we know what the different types of FFA programs that are related to SAE, let’s see how much you remember. I have a crossword puzzle activity for you.

*Pass out SAE.3.Assess.* A to the students. Walk around the room as they work on this activity. Near the end of class go over the answers with the students.

**Review/Summary**

Get a small branch from a tree with 4 well defined branches leading off the main stem. Using Post-It notes label four of the branches – FFA Officer, FFA Degrees, Proficiency Awards, Agriscience Fair. Ask the following questions.

- Can you earn FFA degrees if you don’t have an SAE program? The answer is no.
  
  *Using the pruning shears, cut off the branch labeled FFA degrees.*

- Can you win FFA proficiency awards if you don’t have an SAE program? The answer is no.
  
  *Using the pruning shears, cut off the branch labeled FFA proficiency awards.*

- Can you be an FFA officer if you don’t have an SAE program? The answer is no.
  
  *Using the pruning shears, cut off the branch labeled FFA officer.*

- Can you enter the Agriscience Fair if you don’t have a Agriscience SAE project? The answer is no.
  
  *Using the pruning shears, cut off the branch labeled Agriscience Fair.*

How does this plant look now? Pretty bare. Your involvement in the agriculture program will be pretty bare if you don’t have an SAE.

**Application**

**Extended Classroom Activity:**

Tell the students they have been hired by the FFA to develop one new proficiency award area. Have the students to write one paragraph describing this new proficiency award.

**FFA Activity:**

Have students get on the FFA web site and read about the Stars.

**SAE Activity:**

Have students get on the FFA web site and read the biographies of the most recent Agri-Entrepreneurship award winners.
### Answers to Assessment:

#### SAE and FFA Programs

**Across**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Statement</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Writing a series of articles for the local newspaper might qualify one for the Agricultural</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>________ Proficiency Award.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Production of flowers would qualify you for the ________ Proficiency Award.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>A category of SAE where you work for someone else</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Caring for lawns might qualify one for the ________ Grass Management Award.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>A category of SAE where one helps improve the community is known as Agricultural ________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Learning.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Growing landscape plants or young trees, not caring for babies, qualifies one for this</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>proficiency award.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Growing two or more different horticultural crops would qualify one for the ________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Horticulture Proficiency Award.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Growing hay and silage would qualify one for the ________ Production Proficiency Award.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Highest FFA degree</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>If you raised Yorkshires, Durocs or Hampshires you might qualify for the ________ Production</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
<td>Proficiency award.</td>
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**Down**

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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Serving as a fishing guide might qualify one for the Recreation Proficiency Award.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>The Proficiency Award for students who raise fish</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>The second FFA degree for high school students</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>If your SAE is in some cutting edge agricultural area, you could apply for ________Agricultural</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Technology Proficiency Award.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>The first FFA degree for high school students</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Students who conduct agricultural experiments could enter the FFA ________ Fair.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Managing a stand of pine trees would qualify for the ________ Management and Products</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Proficiency Award.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Another term for the &quot;Horse&quot; Science Proficiency Award.</td>
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<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Oats, rice and corn are examples of crops that could qualify for the ________ Production</td>
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- Agricultural Sales
- Agricultural Services
- Aquaculture
- Agricultural Education
- Beef Production
- Dairy Production
- Diversified Agricultural Production
- Diversified Crop Production
- Diversified Horticulture
- Diversified Livestock Production
- Emerging Agricultural Technology
- Environmental Science and Natural Resource Management
- Equine Science
- Fiber and/or Oil Crop Production
- Floriculture
- Food Science and Technology
- Forage Production
- Forest Management and Products
- Fruit Production
- Grain Production
- Home and/or Community Development
- Landscape Management
- Nursery Operations
- Outdoor Recreation
- Poultry Production
- Sheep Production
- Small Animal Production and Care
- Specialty Animal Production
- Specialty Crop Production
- Swine Production
- Turf Grass Management
- Vegetable Production
- Wildlife Management
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SAE and FFA Programs

Across

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