



# 2014-2015 Annual Report

## Blue Ridge Agricultural Education Department

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Farmer City, IL 61854

[www.blueridgeffa.weebly.com](http://www.blueridgeffa.weebly.com)

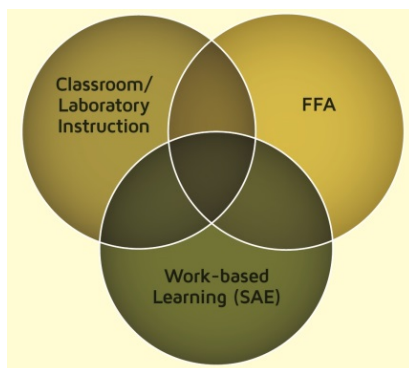
### **Blue Ridge Agriculture Department Mission Statement:**

The purpose of the Blue Ridge High School Agriculture Education Program is:

1. To create an interest in the agriculture industry for all students.
2. To provide students with the necessary tools to gain skills that are needed to succeed in the agriculture industry
3. To deliver instruction that will allow students to be informed consumers and stewards of the agriculture industry.

### **The National FFA Organization 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.



### **Kirsten Blackford**

Agricultural Education Instructor

FFA Advisor

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# Blue Ridge Agriculture Department Annual Report

## I. Scope of the Blue Ridge Agriculture Department

The Blue Ridge Agriculture Department is located in a rural farming community of approximately 2,000 people. The Blue Ridge High School currently has about 240 students, of which 31 are enrolled in the Agriculture Department. Learning areas of the Agriculture Department include a classroom, shop laboratory, 10- acre land laboratory, teacher office/ storage area, and computer lab station. The classroom can sit up to 25 students per period, and has technology including a Smartboard, LCD Projector, Apple TV, and document camera. Within the mechanics shop, there are 5 Arc Welders, 2 MIG Welders, and 1 Oxyacetylene Tank Systems. Additionally, there is a small engines lab. The 10 acre land lab is used to produce corn and soybeans on a rotating basis. Finally, the computer lab has 10 computers for student use, of which 1 was purchased through grant funding in the 2014-2015 school year.

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## Agriculture Department Goals

The program goals and objectives of the Blue Ridge High School Agriculture Education Program are:

1. To create an awareness of the agriculture industry in the school, community, state, and the nation;
2. To further develop leadership and communication skills that will prepare students for secondary education or future employment;
3. To provide access to literacy of the agriculture industry for all members of the community;
4. To contribute to the mission of Blue Ridge High School by a positive and safe environment for all students to grow and learn;
5. To continue to provide services and support to the Blue Ridge School District and surrounding communities.

## I. Course Enrollment

### Course Enrollment by Grade Level

Course Name	8 <sup>th</sup> Grade	9 <sup>th</sup> Grade	10 <sup>th</sup> Grade	11 <sup>th</sup> Grade	12 <sup>th</sup> Grade	Total Enrollment
Agriculture Explorations	34					34
Introduction to Agriculture		7		3		3
Agriculture Mechanics (First Semester)			10	2		12
Conservation (Second Semester)			6	3	2	11
Biological Science Applied in Agriculture*			5	2		7
Agriculture Business Management*					4	4
Supervised Agriculture Experience		1	1			2
Total Enrollment:	34	1	22	10	6	73

**Unduplicated Students: 62**

- \* stands for a course that fulfills academic graduation requirements.
- See Appendix for Course Outlines
- To see Illinois Agriculture Education enrollment totals, visit [www.agriculturaleducation.org](http://www.agriculturaleducation.org)

## II. Blue Ridge FFA Chapter Component



The FFA is a national organization for students enrolled in agriculture and horticulture science programs. The mission of the organization is to promote premier leadership, personal growth, and career success. Membership within the organization is divided into active members, alumni membership, and honorary membership.

### *The FFA Motto*

*Learning to Do*

*Doing to Learn*

*Earning to Live*

*Living to Serve*

### Membership Summary

Active FFA Members: 21

### Financial Summary

\$13,005 Operating Funds

### Officer Team Members

<b>President</b>	Gabrielle LeBaube
<b>Vice President</b>	Taylor Builtta
<b>Secretary</b>	Victoria Medernach
<b>Treasurer</b>	Noah Weitekamp
<b>Reporter</b>	Katrina Medernach
<b>Sentinel</b>	Chase Zimmerman

FFA Chapter Membership	School Year 2014-15
8 <sup>th</sup> Graders	10
Freshmen	5
Sophomores	9
Juniors	3
Seniors	4
Graduates	2
<b>Total Membership:</b>	<b>33</b>

### III. Supervised Agricultural Experience Component

SAE stands for “Supervised Agricultural Experience”. The purpose of the SAE is to provide the agriculture student with an opportunity to explore agricultural career interests. A main focus of the SAE is to develop record keeping and decision-making skills. Students who maintain an SAE have the opportunity to exhibit at fairs to earn money, while gaining additional showmanship experience. SAE record books are used as the basis for awarding FFA Proficiency Awards as well as the Degrees of membership awarded through FFA.

#### Blue Ridge Agriculture Department SAE Statistics:

SAE Statistics	School Year 2015-2016
<b>Fair Earnings:</b>	
Livestock Fair	136
Grain and Ag Mechanics Fair	0
SAE Fair	100
<b>Total Fair Earnings:</b>	<b>236</b>
<b>SAE Participant Statistics</b>	
Entrepreneurship SAE's:	2
Placement SAE's:	6
Agriscience SAE's:	0
Exploratory SAE's:	0
State Degree Recipients:	3
American Degree Recipients:	0
Net SAE Earnings:	\$7,685
SAE Visits:	1
Total SAE Participants:	6
Proficiency Award Participants:	5
Section Winners:	2
District Winners:	1
State Winners:	0

#### IV. Program Activities/Awards/ Accomplishments- As of April 1, 2015

- A. Agriculture Communications Summit**                      **August 1**                      **Champaign, IL**  
**Hours of Preparation: 0.5**                                      **Hours of Supervision: 2.0**

**Purpose:** Chapter Reporters learn more about their position at the chapter level at this conference. Members are able to learn how to write press releases, practice interviewing strategies, and working on taking the perfect picture. 1 member attended this event.

- B. Leadership Training School**                                      **September 9**                                      **Maroa, IL**  
**Hours of Preparation: 2**    **Hours of Supervision: 4.0**

**Purpose:** Chapter officer meet other officers throughout the section. Members work on communication and leadership skills to improve each chapter. Ms. Blackford presented a workshop on communication and teamwork. 2 members attended this event.

- C. Greenhand/Student Leader Conference**                      **September 24**                                      **Champaign, IL**  
**Hours of Preparation: 1.0**    **Hours of Supervision: 4.0**

**Purpose:** First year FFA members, Greenhands, learn more about the FFA organization and how to get involved at the chapter, section, and state level. 2 students attended this event.

- D. Soil Judging Career Development Event**                      **October 7**                                      **Lovington, IL**  
**Hours of Preparation: 20.0**    **Hours of Supervision: 4.0**  
**Placing: 9<sup>th</sup> Place in Section 16**

**Purpose:** The purpose of the Soil Judging CDE is to prepare participants for careers related to Soil Sciences. 7 Students competed in the event.

- E. Food Science Career Development Event**                      **October 22**                                      **Clinton, IL**  
**Hours of Preparation: 15.0**    **Hours of Supervision: 4.0**  
**Placing: 6<sup>th</sup> Place in Section 16**

**Purpose:** The purpose of the Food Science CDE is to prepare participants for careers related to Food Sciences. 4 Students competed in the event.

- F. National FFA Convention**    **October 29-31**                                      **Louisville, KY**  
**Hours of Preparation: 4.0**    **Hours of Supervision: 36.0**

**Purpose:** The purpose of the National FFA Convention is to conduct official business and present awards of the National FFA Organization. Additionally, students in attendance listen to presentations from motivational speakers and attend the Career Expo. 6 Students attended the trip.

**G. Agronomy Career Development Event**                      **November 11**                      **Champaign, IL**  
**Hours of Preparation: 10.0**    **Hours of Supervision: 4.0**  
**Placing: 5<sup>th</sup> High Individual Overall**

**Purpose:** The purpose of the Agronomy CDE is to prepare participants for careers related to Crop and Weed Sciences. 1 Student competed in the event.

**H. Pumping for Hayden**    **November 26**                      **Farmer City, IL**  
**Hours of Preparation: 10.0**    **Hours of Supervision: 4.0**

**Purpose:** This community service project was to raise money for Hayden Schaumberg. Hayden is the Watseka FFA Chapter President. He was injured during a football accident. The chapter pumped gas for tips. This event collected over \$600 to help cover medical expense for Hayden.

**I. Dairy Judging Career Development Event**                      **December 4**                      **Windsor, IL**  
**Hours of Preparation: 15.0**    **Hours of Supervision: 4.0**  
**Placing: 1<sup>st</sup> Place in Section 16**

**Purpose:** The purpose of the Dairy Foods CDE is to evaluate the different products that come from dairy cattle. 4 Students competed in the event.

**J. Public Speaking Career Development Event**                      **January 28**                      **Farmer City, IL**  
**Hours of Preparation: 35.0**    **Hours of Supervision: 6.0**  
**Placing: 4<sup>th</sup> Place Creed, 3<sup>rd</sup> Place JV Extemp, and 1<sup>st</sup> Place Varsity Extemp**

**Purpose:** The purpose of the Public Speaking CDE is to better the communication skills of FFA members. Blue Ridge hosted the Section 16 contest. 5 Students competed in the event.

**K. 212 Conference**    **January 30-31**                      **Schaumburg, IL**  
**Hours of Preparation: 2.0**    **Hours of Supervision: 18.0**

**Purpose:** The purpose of the 212 is start developing leadership qualities in freshman and sophomore FFA members. Members get to meet others from all across the state. Teachers are able to participate in professional development activities while at the conference. 3 members attended the event.

**L. State FFA Degree Interviews**    **February 6**                      **Decatur, IL**  
**Hours of Preparation: 30.0**    **Hours of Supervision: 8.0**

**Purpose:** The Illinois State FFA Degree is one of the highest FFA degrees a member can achieve. Students had to complete an application and interview for this honor. Membership requirements are outlined in the FFA Manual. 3 members received recommendation to get the degree.

**M. DeWitt County Farm Bureau Tour**                      **February 16**                      **Decatur, IL**  
**Hours of Preparation: 2.0**                      **Hours of Supervision: 6.0**

**Purpose:** DeWitt County Farm Bureau took 4 students on a tour to the Caterpillar Plant in Decatur. Members were able to learn more about the Farm Bureau and how they can get involved in the future.

**N. Section 16 Proficiency Awards**                      **February 17**                      **Maroa, IL**  
**Hours of Preparation: 30.0**                      **Hours of Supervision: 6.0**

**Purpose:** Members complete their year of SAE programs by finishing a record book. Students then interview with a panel of judges to further explain their experience and are compared against others in the section. 5 members competed in the event. 2 advanced to the district level.

**O. “Knight of Fun”**                      **February 22**                      **Farmer City, IL**  
**Hours of Preparation: 2.0**                      **Hours of Supervision: 4.0**

**Purpose:** The “Knight of Fun” kicked off FFA week for the Blue Ridge FFA Chapter. Members were able to play a variety of games and enjoy a night of fun.

**P. Teacher and Faculty Appreciation Cookout**                      **February 25**                      **Farmer City, IL**  
**Hours of Preparation: 2.0**                      **Hours of Supervision: 4.0**

**Purpose:** FFA members showed appreciation to faculty and staff at BRHS by cooking a lunch during FFA week. FFA members cooked over 80 hamburgers for this event.

**Q. “Truck and Tractor Day”**                      **February 26**                      **Farmer City, IL**  
**Hours of Preparation: 2.0**                      **Hours of Supervision: 8.0**

**Purpose:** Officers came up with the idea for Truck and Tractor Day for FFA week. Students were able to drive their truck or tractor to school. Each study hall student and every agriculture student voted on the best tractor and truck. During lunch a panel of judges voted on the best as well. 13 students participated in the event.

**R. FFA Open House**                      **February 27**                      **Farmer City, IL**  
**Hours of Preparation: 4.0**                      **Hours of Supervision: 10.0**

**Purpose:** The FFA Open House was open to the public to visit a petting zoo and to participate in a lesson on soybeans. Over 375 students from grades Pre-K through 12 attended this event.



**S. Alumni Brunch** February 28 Farmer City, IL  
**Hours of Preparation: 4.0** **Hours of Supervision: 3.0**

**Purpose:** To finish off FFA week, the chapter hosted an Alumni Brunch. This brunch allowed FFA members to thank the Alumni for their support. New members came to learn about the organization.

**T. District 4 Proficiency Awards** March 11 Sullivan, IL  
**Hours of Preparation: 2.0** **Hours of Supervision: 6.0**

**Purpose:** Members complete their year of SAE programs by finishing a record book. Students then interview with a panel of judges to further explain their experience and are compared against others in the district. 2 members competed in the event and advanced to state.

**U. PaPa's Pizza to Go Fundraiser** March 12 Farmer City, IL  
**Hours of Preparation: 7.0** **Hours of Supervision: 5.0**

**Purpose:** As a chapter fundraiser, members sold frozen pizzas. Members collected orders and then on March 12 made the pizzas. The chapter made 200 pizzas raising \$600 for the chapter.

**V. State Proficiency Awards** March 27 Champaign, IL  
**Hours of Preparation: 2.0** **Hours of Supervision: 6.0**

**Purpose:** Members complete their year of SAE programs by finishing a record book. Students then interview with a panel of judges to further explain their experience and are compared against others in the district. 1 member competed in the event.

**W. Farm Bureau Youth Conference** March 30-31 Springfield, IL  
**Hours of Preparation: 2.0** **Hours of Supervision: 18.0**

**Purpose:** The purpose of FBYC is for juniors to enhance their leadership and communication skills to better the chapter. IL Farm Bureau and Affiliates hosted this conference. 2 members attended this event.

**X. District 4 Public Speaking** April 1 Monticello, IL  
**Hours of Preparation: 2.0** **Hours of Supervision: 6.0**

**Purpose:** The purpose of the Public Speaking CDE is to better the communication skills of FFA members. 1 member competed in this event.

## V. Professional Activities of the Agriculture Instructor

### A. Professional Development Meetings and Conferences designed to improve classroom instruction or overall Agriculture Department activities:

1. Fall Agriculture Teachers Meeting	Decatur, IL	August
2. Beginning Ag Teachers Workshop	Springfield, IL	September
3. Winter Ag Teachers Meeting	Decatur, IL	January
4. 212 Conference Teacher's In-service	Schaumburg, IL	January
5. IAVAT Conference and In-service	Decatur, IL	June
6. National FFA Convention	Louisville, KY	October
7. Illinois FFA Convention	Springfield, IL	June
8. BRHS Staff Meetings	Farmer City, IL	Monthly

### B. Professional Organization Memberships and School Committees

1. Illinois Association of Vocational Agriculture Teachers
2. National Association of Agricultural Educators
3. Illinois Association of Career and Technical Educators
4. Association of Career and Technical Educators
5. Section 16 IAVAT Secretary
6. Blue Ridge CUSD 18 Steering Committee
7. FFA Alumni Member
8. Sigma Alpha Professional Agriculture Sorority Alumni Member

### C. Planned Summer Activities

BSAA Workshop	Champaign, IL	June
State FFA Convention	Springfield, IL	June
IAVAT Summer Conference	Bloomington, IL	June
Middle School Endorsement Classes	Bloomington, IL	June
County Fair	County Fair, IL	July
SAEP Visits	Blue Ridge School District	June- August
Officer Training	Farmer City, IL	July
Agriculture Department Organization	Blue Ridge School District	June- August
Curriculum Evaluation and Organization	Blue Ridge School District	June- August

## VI. Advisory Council

The Blue Ridge Advisory Council is a group of volunteers related to the Agriculture Department through business, education, and/or industry. The group serves to provide recommendations for improvement and expansion of the Agriculture Department, such as curriculum changes, chapter goals, facilities, and fundraising activities.

### A. Members are as follows:

<u>Member Name</u>	<u>Occupation</u>
Mark Paullin	Farmer
Don Bergfield	Agriculture Instructor at Parkland College
Justin Otto	Evergreen FS Plant Manager/ School Board Member
Greg Franklin	Farmer
David Schneman	Farmer
Bill Rutledge	Farmer
Greg Plunk	Pioneer Seed Sales
John Lawrence	Principal Blue Ridge High School
Kirsten Blackford	Agriculture Teacher and FFA Advisor

### B. Advisory Council Meetings

#### 1. Advisory Council Meeting #1: BRHS Agriculture Department August 7, 2014

**Meeting Summary:** During the meeting, members discussed the upcoming activities in the Agriculture Department, and toured all of the facilities. Members were able to meet Ms. Blackford and learn about her background in agriculture education

**Recommendations:** 1.) Increase student numbers in the agriculture department by updating curriculum. 2.) Discussed the Gene Elliott Scholarship

## VII. Blue Ridge FFA Alumni Chapter

The Blue Ridge FFA Alumni Chapter serves as a type of “booster” club for the Blue Ridge FFA Chapter. Members of the chapter consist of parents, community members, and past FFA members, who work to help supplement FFA chapter activities. Awards that the Blue Ridge FFA Alumni chapter has received include:

### A. Officers:

President	Brad Ash
Secretary/ Treasurer	Ben Arteman

### B. Members:

Ben Arteman	Lucas Maxwell
Jim Tobin	Ryan Maxwell
Gabby LeBaube	Marvin Nelson
Angela Arteman	Carolyn Paullin
Brian Arteman	Jeff Paullin
Brad Ash	Mark Paullin
Judy Ash	Lloyd Powers
Greg Builta	Glenn Reeser
Richard Builta	Loren Roth
Eston Ellis	Karl Swigart
Nancy Ellis	Peggy Swigart
Laura Enger	Paul Tobin
Victor Fehr	Peggy Tobin
David Floyd	Don Warsaw
Tom Hieronymous	Leslie Whitehouse
Scott Holoch	Justin Otto
Kyle Kopp	Brian Maxwell
Aaron Kopp	David Schneman
Rusty Lindenbaum	Scott Roth



Bonnie Wright  
Andrew Ellis  
Dan Warren  
Kirsten Blackford  
Kim LeBaube  
Lorrie LeBaube  
Shaun Zimmerman  
Mike Medernach  
Dyke Schaffer  
Nathan Cheek  
Emily Cheek  
Jenna Cheek  
Kirk Builta  
Lane Kreiling

### C. FFA Alumni Meetings

**FFA Alumni Meeting #1: BRHS Agriculture Department**

**February 28, 2015**

Meeting Summary: Discussion of Membership Dues Drive. Members were able to meet Ms. Blackford. Discussion of future events.

## VIII. Grants and Partnerships

### A. Incentive Funding Grant- \$1616

- This grant is applied for through the Agricultural Education Line Item in the ISBE budget. The allocation is tied directly to indicators that are designed to identify those components that outline a quality agriculture education program. The money was used this year to upgrade welding machines, electricity student boxes, and advance technology in the department.

### B. Career and Technical Education Funding- \$492.32

- Blue Ridge is a part of the Bloomington Area Career Students. Students from Blue Ridge attend BACC to learn more about vocational careers. Each CTE department at Blue Ridge gets money to help improve the program. The money was used this year to upgrade the curriculum for BSAA.

### C. Local Funding Contribution and Donations

- FFA Land Lab- Harvested 446 bushels of soybeans in the fall of 2014. Doug Franzen and Noah Weitekamp planted the crop. Plunk Farms & Pioneer Seed donated seed. Evergreen FS donated chemical applications. Kopp Farms harvested the crop. Thank you to those individuals and businesses who made this land lab a success. The chapter received \$4355.
- PaPa's Pizza to Go Fundraiser- As a chapter fundraiser, members sold frozen pizzas. Members collected money and orders from individuals across the community. On March 12, ten members made the pizzas. The chapter made 200 pizzas raising \$600 for the chapter.
- Maxwell Counter Donation- Funds will be used to purchase new tables in the agriculture classroom.

## IX. Foundation Contributions

The Illinois FFA Foundation is the funding body for the Illinois FFA. Money is collected annually from businesses, organizations and individuals from across Illinois. These funds are then used to operate the Illinois Association FFA. Activities such as conducting leadership conferences, conventions, and camps, providing awards and grant opportunities for students, and hosting career development events are all funded by the Illinois FFA Foundation. Of the funds received this year, over \$1500 was collected from the Blue Ridge FFA Chapter.

FFA Foundation Donors for the current year are:

Ben Arteman	Kirk Builta	Birkey's Farm Store
Bellflower Feed Mill	Day Drainage	Arends & Sons
Blue Ridge FFA	Medernach Farms	
Paullin Farms	Youngs Ye Olde Hair Shoppe	
Plunk Farms	Terry and Tericia Emmerson	
Swigart Herefords	Collin's Heating and Cooling	
Hieronymus Farms	Donald and Connie Warsaw	
LeRoy Fertilizer Services	Robert and Diane Wolf	

## **X. Reflections**

In looking back at the 2014-15 school year, I am pleased with the progress of our Agriculture Department. The amount of “hands- on” learning in the program is phenomenal, thus making the program more marketable to future students. I am concerned about student numbers, as state graduation requirements are placing a great demand on the instructional time that students have when in the district, but I appreciate the district’s help in trying to draw students to the program through the 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Exploratory course. As for the FFA portion of the program, I am very impressed with the involvement and success that we have seen from our members. These successes that our students are gaining today will lead them to success in their careers as well as an agriculture program and FFA Chapter that will be successful long into the future. My goals for future years are to continue the increased participation in Supervised Agricultural Experience activities, and to increase the use of technology within the classroom and laboratory areas.

## **XI. Appendix**

### **A. Course Titles and Descriptions**

#### **Exploring the Agriculture Industry**

Grade Level: 8                      Length of Course: ¼                      Credit: ¼

##### **Course Description:**

This exploration course provides the opportunity to learn fundamental concepts in agriculture to serve as a foundation for future courses and to inform students about the industry that is so vital to society and to their future. Major units of instruction include an introduction to the agricultural industry, animal science, plant science, horticulture science, environmental science, agricultural mechanics, and leadership and personal development. Participation in FFA student organization activities is an integral course component for leadership development, career exploration and reinforcement of academic concepts.

#### **Introduction to Agricultural Industry**

Grade Level: 9 & 10                      Length of Course: 1 Year                      Credit: 1

**Course Description:** This orientation course provides an opportunity for students to learn how the agricultural industry is organized; its major components; the economic influence of agriculture at state, national, and international levels; and the scope and types of job opportunities available in the agricultural field. Basic concepts in animal science, plant science, soil science, horticulture, natural resources, agribusiness management, agricultural mechanics, food science, and environmental science will be presented. Improving computer and workplace skills will be a focus. Participation in FFA student organizations activities and Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE) programs is an integral course component for leadership development, career exploration, and reinforcement of academic concepts.

#### **Agriculture Business Management**

Grade Level: 11-12                      Length of Course: 1 Year                      Credit: 1

**Prerequisite:** Required to have taken Introduction to Agriculture

##### **Ag Business counts as a Consumer Education credit for graduation**

**Course Description:** This course will develop students' understanding of the agricultural industry relating to the United States and World marketplace. Instructional units include: business ownership types, planning and organizing the agribusiness, financing the agribusiness, keeping and using records in an agribusiness, operating the agribusiness, agricultural law, taxes, and developing employability skills. Student skills will be enhanced in math, reading comprehension, and writing through agribusiness applications. Improving computer and workplace skills will be a focus. Participation in FFA student organization activities and Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE) projects is an integral course component for leadership development, career exploration and reinforcement of academic concepts

## **Biological Sciences Applied in Agriculture**

Grade Level: 10-12

Length of Course: 1 Year

Credit: 1

### **BSAA counts as a Science credit for graduation**

**Prerequisite:** Student must have taken and passed Biology I. Recommended to have taken Introduction to Agriculture.

**Course Description:** This course is designed to reinforce and extend students understanding of science by associating basic scientific principles and concepts with relevant applications in agriculture. Topics of study are in the areas of initiating plant growth, managing plant growth, growth and development of animals, and processing animal products. The course will be valuable preparation for further education and will increase the relevance of science through the applied setting of agriculture by enhancing literacy in science and the scientific process. Improving computer and workplace skills will be a focus. Participation in FFA student organization activities and Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE) projects is an integral course component for leadership development, career exploration and reinforcement of academic concepts.

## **Agricultural Mechanics**

Grade Level: 10-12

Length of Course: ½

Credit: ½

**Prerequisite:** Recommended to have taken Introduction to Agriculture

**Course Description:** This course will concentrate on expanding student's knowledge and experiences with agricultural mechanics technologies utilized in the agricultural industry. Units of instruction included are: maintenance, welding, electricity/electronics, internal combustion engines, and employability skills. Careers of agricultural construction engineer, electrician, plumber, welder, equipment designer, parts manager, safety Inspector, welder, and other related occupations will be examined. Improving workplace and computer skills will be a focus. Participation in FFA student Organization activities and Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE) projects is an integral course component for leadership development, career exploration and reinforcement of academic concepts.

## **Conservation**

Grade Level: 10-12

Length of Course: ½

Credit: ½

**Prerequisite:** Recommended to have taken Introduction to Agriculture

**Course Description:** This course develops management and conservation skills in understanding the connection between agriculture and natural resources. Student knowledge and skills are developed in: understanding natural resources and its importance; fish, wildlife, and forestry management and conservation; and exploring outdoor recreational enterprises. Hunting and fishing as a sport, growing and managing tree forests, and outdoor safety education will be featured. Career exploration will be discussed including: park ranger, game warden, campground manager, forester, conservation officer, wildlife manager, and related occupations. Improving computer and workplace skills will be a focus. Participation in FFA student organization activities and Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE) projects is an integral course component for leadership development, career exploration and reinforcement of academic concepts.



## **Agricultural Communications and Leadership**

Grade Level: 11-12

Length of Course: ½

Credit: ½

**Prerequisite:** Recommended to have taken Introduction to Agriculture

**Course Description:** The primary goal of this course is for students to increase knowledge and personal abilities in the areas of leadership and communications to help them become successful in life and in the workplace. This is a performance oriented course. Ag

Communications/Leadership will further enhance student potential for leadership development, personal growth, and career success. It will also allow students to analyze certain agricultural issues and determine how they affect people on all sides of the issue. The students will learn and enhance their written and oral communication skills by presenting their views and opinions to the class. Participation in FFA student organization activities and Supervised Agriculture Experience (SAE) projects is an integral course component for leadership development, career exploration and reinforcement of academic concepts. Enrollment in this course is by instructor consent.

## **Horticulture**

Grade Level: 10-12

Length of Course: ½

Credit: ½

**Prerequisite:** Recommended to have taken Introduction to Agriculture

**Course Description:** This course is designed to introduce students to the horticulture industry and provide them with basic plant science knowledge that can be further developed in advanced horticulture courses. Major units of instruction include horticulture research, horticultural careers, plant anatomy, seed germination, plant propagation, growing media, pest management, hydroponics, identifying horticultural plants, growing greenhouse crops, and floral design. Improving computer and workplace skills will be a focus. Participation in FFA student organization activities and Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE) projects is an integral course component for leadership development, career exploration and reinforcement of academic concepts

## **Supervised Agriculture Experience**

Grade Level: 10-12

Length of Course: ½

Credit: ½

**Prerequisite:** Required to have taken Introduction to Agriculture

**Course Description:** This course is based on student abilities and home/work opportunities. Records will be kept in official SAE record books. If employed outside the family situation, it shall be for at least two months in length (or of equivalent hours), and recorded in the appropriate record book. The student must show the product of the work experience program and of the record book at the Section Fair during the summer or fall. The student must visit the Ag. instructor at least twice during the time period for which credit is being given and a record book must be turned in at the end of the semester before credit is awarded.

## B. Websites

**FFA Website:** [www.blueridgeffa.weebly.com](http://www.blueridgeffa.weebly.com)

**Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/blueridgeffa](http://www.facebook.com/blueridgeffa)

**School Website:** [www.blueridge18.org](http://www.blueridge18.org)