



The National Organization of Agriculture Students



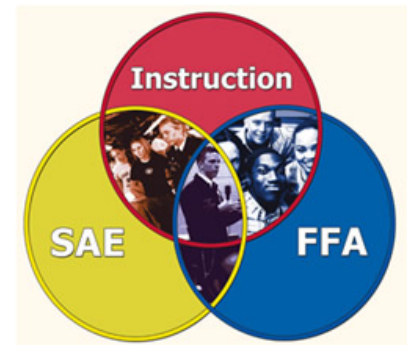
EAST CENTRAL FFA
7173 F.M. 1628
San Antonio, TX 78263

July 1, 2021

Dear Prospective Agriculture Student,

Welcome to the East Central Agricultural Science Department and the East Central FFA. We are excited that you have chosen to be a part of the agricultural science program. Getting involved will open the door to a world of opportunities. We have a variety of activities for you to take advantage of, from leadership development events to career development events. All of these activities occur throughout the year. Every year FFA members that have been active and participated in the many activities are rewarded by receiving scholarship money to further their education. In 2020 East Central FFA members received approximately \$200,000.00 in scholarships. How can you become involved in the agriculture science program and what are the different areas that you could get involved with?

The agriculture science program can be broken into three basic areas: Instruction, Supervised Experience Programs (hands-on learning), and the FFA. Each one of the areas overlaps into the other and you could only take full advantage of all of the opportunities offered by participating in all of the areas. A diagram of the program looks like this:



INSTRUCTION

The instruction division is basically the agriculture class that you are enrolled in. For each of you it is the first year class, “Principles of Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources”. All areas of the agriculture industry will be discussed throughout the year. We will cover animal science, plant and soil science, food technology, leadership and personal skill development, wildlife and natural resources, as well as agriculture mechanics (shop work). You will be able to then choose an area that interests you the most and then concentrate on it for the remainder of your high school career.

The 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.

SAE—SUPERVISED AGRICULTURE EXPERIENCE

The FFA motto contains the phrase “Doing to Learn”. That is exactly what the SAE or project program allows you to do. Think of the SAE as on the job training. The traditional project program is Entrepreneurship. Animal projects, such as poultry (chickens & turkeys), pigs, lambs, goats, cattle, & rabbits are examples of an entrepreneurship SAE. **You do not have to raise an animal project to be in an Agriculture Science class.** Others include operating your own business such as a lawn care service or flower stand. There are many other opportunities for you to have an SAE. Placement SAE’s are when you work in a job that can be tied in some way to agriculture. The job could be paid or unpaid. Research and Experimentation is another type of SAE. Students with this SAE plan and conduct a research project and present their findings to a panel. We have had many students that have been very successful with this SAE. An Exploratory SAE would allow you to explore careers in agriculture by attending an agriculture career fair, or creating a report or documentary on the work of a veterinarian.

FFA

The final circle of your involvement is the FFA. One thing that you should know is that the letters “FFA” don’t stand for “Future Farmers of America” any more. This was changed because agriculture is so much more than just farming. The National FFA Organization is one of the largest organizations of its type in the world. Almost a half a million students are members of the FFA. Being a member allows you to compete on different teams, attend events and build your resume’. Some events that you will be able to attend in the first few weeks of school include the District Leadership Lab and the Area Greenhand Camp. Attending these events will start you on the way toward making yourself qualified for scholarships and other FFA awards.

Our 2021-2022 East Central FFA Officers have come up with an exciting opportunity for you to meet other FFA members. We will host a Welcome Back at Green Acres on Friday, August 13th from 6:30pm - 7:30pm. Your FFA chapter will pay for a round of golf for you and we will have Pizza as long as it lasts.

Once again we are excited that you signed up for an agriculture science class and look forward to having you in the program. We will be sending you some more information about upcoming activities later in the summer. If you or your parents have any questions about the program or would just like to talk more about the opportunities that await you we can be contacted by phone at 210-581-1185 or by email. Our emails are: Danny Kempen daniel.kempen@ecisd.net , Lorie Kempen lorie.kempen@ecisd.net , Jordan Hevner , jordan.hevner@ecisd.net.

Sincerely,

Agriculture Science Teachers
East Central High School

