



South Carolina Agricultural Education

The Agriculture industry is the **NUMBER ONE** industry in South Carolina. The demand for future employees as well as future leaders in this industry not only exists but is growing.

To meet these demands, Agricultural Education utilized the requirements of the Education Economic Development Act to transform its program into the Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources Career Cluster.

Under the guidance of industry representatives and academic advisors, the Career Cluster was developed to ensure that it meets the needs of its students.

In addition to ensuring the educational needs of the future, care was taken to maintain the rich traditions of the past and including the life lessons provided by the FFA.

Material was also developed to ensure that teachers were equipped to provide proper delivery of the revised curriculum.

Because learning is a lifelong process, the adult education component of Agricultural Education was maintained and enhanced.

The result has been unparalleled growth of Agricultural Education programs, acquiring a gold standard in meeting standards outlined by "No Child Left Behind" and a better prepared workforce for South Carolina's number one industry.



- Agricultural Mechanics and Technology
- Environmental and Natural Resources Management
- Horticulture
- Plant and Animal Systems

INSTRUCTION

Agricultural Education is as unique and diversified as the Agricultural Industry. The program trains students for careers in areas such as: production farming, golf course management, forestry, food science and veterinary studies. These are careers which comprise the largest industry in South Carolina. Due to the nature of the Agricultural Industry, educators are required to provide year round instruction.



State and National Requirements

- The Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources Career Cluster meets all requirements of the Education, Economic Development Act
- The Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources Career Cluster was developed with assistance from the *Center for Agricultural and Environmental Research Training*, the same group that developed the National Standards for Agricultural Education.
- The Agricultural, Food and Natural Resources Career Cluster has the vehicle in place to provide assessment for its program which will allow it to earn a “GOLD” standard from the “No Child Left Behind” initiative.

Facilities

Agriculture is a unique and vast and diverse industry. Agricultural education must have a wide range of resources to properly train those who wish to enter into the **number one** industry in South Carolina.

- Agricultural Education Instructors across the state are responsible for maintaining the following resources throughout the year:
 - 109 greenhouses
 - 73 agricultural engineering shops
 - 22 school farms
 - 204 farm animals
 - 50 outdoor environmental science centers
 - 24 aquaculture facilities
 - 209 small animals (small animal care / pre-veterinary medicine program)
 - 102 turf plots

Qualified Instructors:

- 100 % of teachers possess a Bachelor Degree
- 57 % of teachers possess a Masters Degree
- 7 % of teachers are Nationally Certified
- 10% of teachers have additional certifications

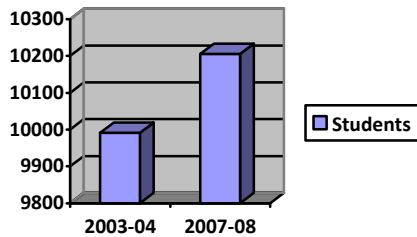
“It is critical that students be prepared to enter the workforce to be productive in their fields of study. The summer provides critical components to be taught for the Agricultural Education program to be successful.”

Dr. Bob Couch
Director
Office of Career and Technology Education
South Carolina Department of Education

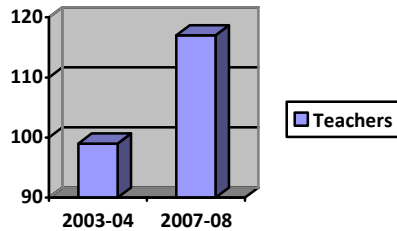
Report Card A+

Since the passing of the EEDA

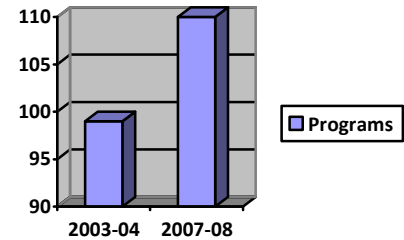
Enrollment



Agriculture Teachers



Agricultural Programs



The following schools have opened or reopened Agricultural Education programs:

Ashley Ridge High School
Bryson Middle School
Buford High School
Calhoun Falls Charter School
Cane Bay High School
Clinton High School
Conway High School
Darlington County Career Center
Georgetown High School
J. Harley Bonds Career Center
Keenan High School
Manning Junior High School
Mid Carolina High School
Nation Ford High School
Newberry County Career Center
Newberry High School
Scott's Branch High School
Seneca High School
Socastee High School
Swansea High School
Wando High School
Woodmont High School

The following schools have created multiple teacher departments:

Abbeville Career Center
B.J. Skelton Career Center
Hanna-Westside Extended Campus
Pendleton High School
R. D. Anderson Career Center
Union High School

Leadership Development



The FFA is an integral, intra-curricular part of agricultural education as outlined by the National Vocation Education Act*. The FFA operates at local, state and national levels and is organized in chapters in schools where Agriculture Education instructors serve as chapter advisors.

The National FFA Organization has a paid membership of more than 500,000 students from over 7300 chapters located in all fifty states, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands.

South Carolina is experiencing a growth in FFA membership. In fact, SC is nearing a 25-year high in membership.

As part of its educational program, FFA members in South Carolina and the nation have an opportunity to participate in and learn career skills in 45 national proficiency areas through hands-on experiences ranging from food science and technology to golf course management to wildlife management to production agriculture. In addition to classroom instruction, students are required to have a Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE) that consists of a part-time and summer employment or home entrepreneurial project. ***These projects are supervised by the Agricultural Education teacher.***

SAE Projects in South Carolina Schools in 2007-08 resulted in:

- A total of **\$3,924,313.10** of annual income for students
- A total of **\$797,768.15** money invested annually
- A total of **1,196,102** hours invested in the projects

FFA members also participate and compete in 25 national career development events such as public speaking, forest management, agronomy and landscaping design. The South Carolina FFA Association was represented by 19 state champion teams in national competition in 2007-08.



The South Carolina FFA Association manages the South Carolina FFA Center at North Myrtle Beach. The property was purchased by FFA members in 1956 and has operated for over 50 years providing many students with their first glimpse of the Atlantic Ocean while providing educational and leadership activities.

*Public Law 105-225 (formerly Public Law 81-740) 105th Congress Passed Aug. 12, 1998 - [H.R. 1085] In 1950, the 81st Congress of the United States, recognizing the importance of the FFA as an integral part of the program of vocational agriculture, granted a Federal Charter to the FFA. In 1998, the 105th Congress of the United States reviewed and passed technical amendments. This shows through the revisions as Public Law 105-225.

Adult Education



Agricultural Education *is a lifelong learning process*. Agricultural Education is in a unique position to provide continuing technical and professional training in agribusiness and farming which is **South Carolina's number one industry**.

Therefore, Agricultural Education programs require teachers to offer an Adult Education component. This component is met through the South Carolina Young Farmer and Agribusiness Association.

The South Carolina Young Farmer and Agribusiness Association (formerly the SC Young Farmers of America) has been thriving for over 60 years and has provided education to thousands of agriculturalists.

Agricultural Educators administer 54 Young Farmer and Agribusiness Chapters in the state.

The success of the adult education program is evidenced by the following:

- South Carolina currently has the largest membership in the National Young Farmer Education Association (the parent organization for the Young Farmer and Agribusiness Association) nationally.
- The National President of the NYFEA has been from South Carolina 3 times over the past eight years.
- A school from South Carolina has received the **Adult Education Program of the Year** Award provided by the National Association of Agricultural Educators each of the past five years.



What is at Stake

"We have confirmed what we've thought for years; Agribusiness is the number one industry in South Carolina"
Hugh Weathers, Commissioner of Agriculture, South Carolina.

The Agriculture Industry is and always has been the backbone of the economy both in our nation and our state. It is the responsibility of Agricultural Education to ensure that this great industry continues to remain strong and its future is protected. So the question begs, who will be the leaders of tomorrow in this key industry in our state? Where will our leaders, employees, researchers and producers in the Agricultural Industry come from? Who will fill the more than 200,000 agriculturally related jobs? Who will become responsible for the \$33.9 Billion impact that this industry makes on our state's economy?

"South Carolina's economy depends on the success of our state's number one industry - agribusiness. Ours is a two-for-one. For every job in agribusiness, another two jobs are generated in the state's economy. For every \$1 in earned income created by agribusiness, another \$2 in earned income is generated in the economy. The future of South Carolina depends on how successful we are now in growing young minds and encouraging them to enter agribusiness careers."

Hugh Weathers
SC Commissioner of Agriculture

At one time, the answer may have been from our family farms where young people learned the Agricultural Industry the old fashion way, from their fathers and grandfathers. However, there are fewer and fewer farms today. The face of the Agriculture Industry is changing.

"S.C.'s Agricultural Education programs train young people how to become successful in the state's largest industry of forestry and agriculture, while also providing much needed leadership training for future leaders of our state."

David Winkles
President
SC Farm Bureau

Our future industry leaders must come from our classrooms. The South Carolina Legislators realized this when they passed the Education Economic Development Act in 2005. One of the 16 Career Clusters developed was the Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources Career Cluster. A cluster designed to identify students with interest in Agriculture then train them to take the helm of our State's largest industry. A cluster that provides education opportunities with unique and yet proven teaching tools, tools which require year round instruction and / or supervision from our teachers.

"The Agriculture Education efforts in the State provide critical understandings that allow the young and old farmers alike understand how to take advantage of our programs and survive economically. Agriculture is a huge part of South Carolina's Economy and in these days of new technology and difficult financing, education is an absolute necessity."

Perry Thompson
Acting State Executive Director
USDA/FSA
South Carolina State Office

Our state's economy relies on the success of the Agricultural Industry. Our Agricultural Industry relies on the success of Agricultural Education. **Support Agricultural Education and support the future of South Carolina.**