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STATE OF NEVADA



NEVADA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
NEVADA STATE BOARD FOR OCCUPATIONAL EDUCATION

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March 26, 2003

The Honorable William J. Raggio  
Chairman, Senate Finance Committee  
401 South Carson Street  
Carson City, Nevada 89701

Dear Senator Raggio:

I am writing in support of line item funding for agriculture education and program quality criteria as presented in Senate Bill 366.

Agriculture educators have taken a proactive role in determining the future of their profession. They have, without mandate, developed content and performance standards for agriculture science, agriculture mechanical engineering technology, and plant and environmental horticulture science. In December, 2002, academic crosswalks were presented and approved by the Nevada State Board of Education/Nevada State Board for Occupational Education for science credit for agriculture science and plant and environmental horticulture science.

Quality criteria is a new program evaluation system developed by agriculture instructors that identifies benchmarks of performance for agriculture education instruction. Annually, the classroom instructor, local agriculture advisory groups, including members from the community, and the State agriculture consultant evaluate the curriculum, standards, leadership, work-based learning, community involvement, program promotion, and other parts of the program. Agriculture education has taken every opportunity over the past three years to improve the quality of education they are providing in our school districts.

With the anticipated funding restraints that many school districts will experience this year, it is extremely vital that we are able to maintain the agriculture programs in our school systems.

If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact me.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gary Waters".

Gary Waters  
President, Nevada State Board of Education  
Nevada State Board for Occupational Education

EXHIBIT G Senate Committee on Finance

Date: 3/27/03 Page 1 of 6

An Equal Opportunity Agency

Agriculture Education Funding FY03 FY04

School Ag Program	School District	DSA	Federal Carl Perkins	SB366	Enrollment
Albert Lowry High School	Humboldt County	\$12,000.00		\$18,591.00	71
Area Technical Trade Center	Clark County	\$2,500.00		\$13,025.00	30
Churchill County High School	Churchill County	\$7,600.00		\$30,570.00	170
Douglas County High School	Douglas County	\$7,000.00		\$22,100.00	100
Elko Senior High School	Elko County	\$5,400.00		\$47,510.00	310
Eureka County High School	Eureka Count	\$3,000.00	\$3,500.00	\$18,591.00	71
Lund High School	White Pine	\$500.00		\$13,630.00	30
Moapa Valley High School *	Clark County			\$22,100.00	100
Owyhee High School	Elko County	\$5,300.00	\$1,000.00	\$14,840.00	50
Pahranaagat Valley High School	Lincoln County	\$200.00		\$12,420.00	20
Pershing County High School	Pershing County	\$5,000.00	\$1,500.00	\$17,139.00	59
Regional Technical Institute	Washoe County	\$4,100.00		\$17,865.00	65
Smith Valley High School	Lyon County	\$2,100.00		\$13,630.00	30
Spring Creek High School	Elko County	\$5,500.00		\$31,780.00	180
Virgin Valley High School	Clark County	\$1,000.00		\$11,815.00	15
Wells High School	Elko County	\$4,500.00		\$18,470.00	70
White Pine County High School	White Pine	\$5,000.00		\$14,840.00	40
Yerington High School	Lyon County	\$2,000.00		\$17,260.00	60

TOTALS		\$72,700.00	\$6,000.00	\$356,176.00	1471
Total Occ Funding **		\$3,600,000	\$6,000,000		55,000
Percentage of funding for Ag		2.00%	0.10%		2.80%

\* Moapa agriculture education classroom instruction is not funded, however the school lab facilities receives \$68,000 which includes one farm managers full time salary.

\*\*Calculated from \$22 million occ spending minus 82% which is salary, leaving 3.6 million for program support.

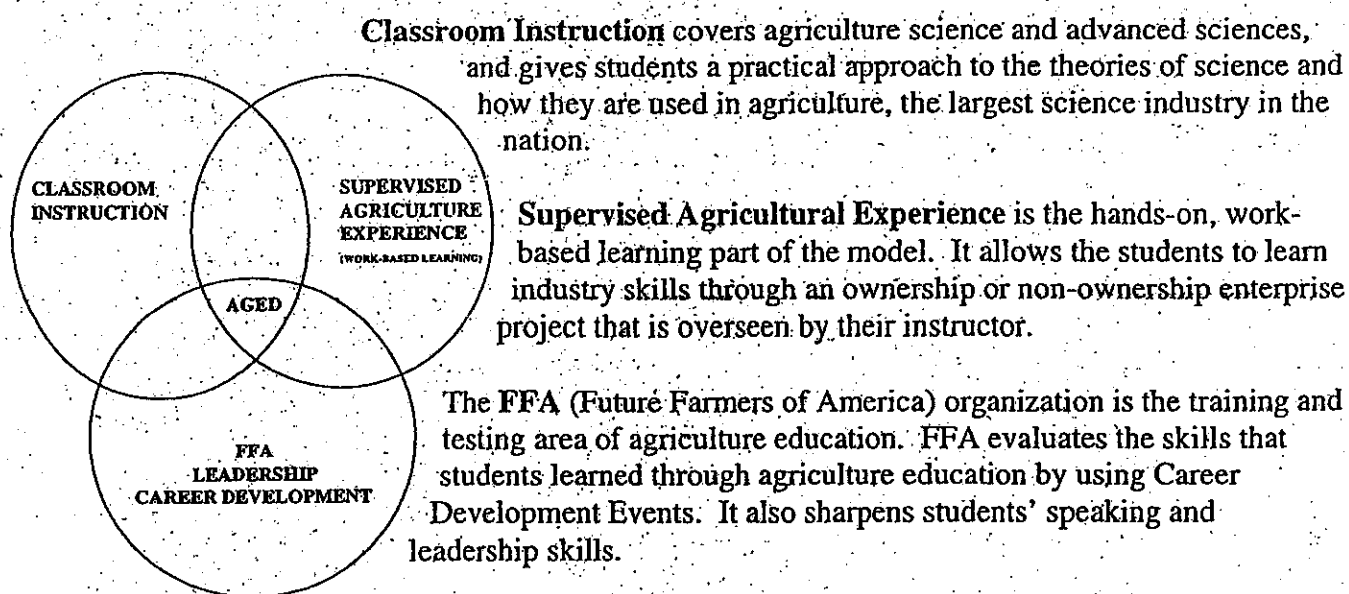
Funding would have \$10,000 base + \$121 for each student enrolled.  
\$143,824 will be taken from the allocation for special grant opportunities for the development of new urban programs in Washoe and Clark county school district.

## Nevada Agriculture Education Fact Sheet

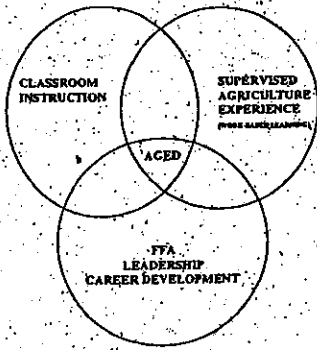
**Ag. Facts:** Agriculture is one of the largest and most vital industries. Nevada agriculture is the third largest industry in the state, and recorded a total receipt of over 300 million dollars in 2000. Agriculture education and the agriculture industry are joined through the Nevada Agriculture Council, which combines the efforts of all agriculture industries in the Silver State.

**Mission:** The mission of agriculture education is to prepare and support individuals for careers, build awareness, and develop leadership for the food, fiber, and natural resource systems.

**Structure:** Agriculture education combines **Classroom Instruction**, **Supervised Agricultural Experience**, and the FFA organization through integral instruction. The agriculture education model is supported by both federal and state law. Nevada Agriculture Education is currently developing skill standards for its courses.



*Nevada Agriculture Education is cows and plows,  
as well as biochemists, engineers, and veterinarians.*



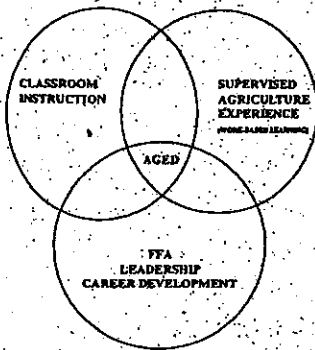
## Nevada Agriculture Education

### Survey Results

Two hundred fifty six senior students were enrolled in an agriculture education at the end of the 2001 school year as reported by the Nevada Occupational Reporting System and the Department of Education. These students were given a survey conducted by the Department of Education. Seventy surveys were received in the Office of Career, Technical, and Adult Education, which reflects a 27 percent survey, return rate. The following list includes an excerpt of the survey results:

- ❖ 34% of the respondents stated they planned to enter an agriculture career
- ❖ 95% of students that intended to enter an agriculture occupation were going to a four year university or a community college
- ❖ 52% of students that **did not** intend to enter an agriculture occupation ranked agriculture education as helping them prepare for graduation at a **HIGH** level
- ❖ 50% of students that **did** intend to enter an agriculture occupation ranked agriculture education as helping them prepare for graduation at a **HIGH** level
- ❖ 49% of all students ranked agriculture education as helping them prepare for graduation at a **HIGH** level
- ❖ 50% of students that **did not** intend to enter an agriculture occupation felt that FFA involvement was either **necessary** or **very important** for their future success
- ❖ 51% of students that **did** intend to enter an agriculture occupation felt that FFA involvement was **necessary** or **very important** for their future success
- ❖ 50% of students that **did not** declare a non agriculture or an agriculture occupation felt that FFA involvement was **necessary** or **very important** for their future success
- ❖ 54% of all students felt that FFA involvement was **necessary** or **very important** for their future success

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## Nevada Agriculture Education Career Paths

### Classroom Instruction

Nevada Agriculture Education students are exposed to the following areas of instruction;

- **Agriculture and Society** – the interrelationship of Nevada agriculture and society on the local, state, national, and international levels, and will discuss the economic impact of leading commodities.

**Animal Science** – the importance of animals, their domestication, and role in modern society. Students will explain the care and uses of domesticated livestock in society.

**Plant and Soil Science** – the requirements for plant growth and development with the interaction of soil, water, and fertilizer in plant production. Students will identify and explain the functions of plant systems, soil characteristics, and the interaction of both.

**Supervised Agricultural Experience** – the relationship between a Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE) and their preparation for a career in agriculture.

**Leadership/FFA** – the traits of effective leaders and participate in leadership training through involved membership in the FFA.

**Agriculture Business, Sales, and Marketing** – the importance of agricultural firms and technologies with regard to the production, processing, servicing, purchasing, and marketing of agricultural products.

**Agriculture Mechanical Engineering and Technology** – concepts of mechanical systems and structures. Students will also understand emerging technologies and their interrelationship in the agriculture industry.

**Natural Resources** – the interrelationship of modern agriculture and the environment, focusing on water, land, and other natural resources in Nevada. Students will explain how natural resource availability affects agriculture.

**Employability Standard** – competence in workplace readiness, career development, and lifelong learning.

1/11/02



## Nevada FFA Association

700 E. Fifth Street  
Carson City, NV 89701

Phone 775-687-9218 Fax 775-687-9114  
[www.nvaged.org](http://www.nvaged.org)

### Nevada Agriculture Education Yearly Activities

#### January & February

*Made For Excellence Conference* – The National FFA curriculum focuses on the personal growth of each individual person. Students learn about using conflict resolution techniques appropriately, setting goals and building self-esteem.

*Advanced Leadership Conference* – The curriculum builds on MFE and prepares students for future careers, either through hands-on experience or advanced education. Students also polish their leadership and communications skills.

*International Leadership Seminar for State Officers* – All current state officers are eligible. Officers enjoy 12 educational and fun-filled days in another country. They gain knowledge and understanding of the country's lifestyle while visiting American embassies, meeting young farmers, visiting farms and agribusinesses, and enjoying a few days getting to know their host family.

*Chapter Visits* – The Nevada State Officers travel throughout Nevada visiting FFA Chapters. The officers present several workshops to all FFA members. The workshops range from opportunities in agriculture education to honing their leadership skills.

#### March & April

*Nevada Career Development Events* – Nevada FFA students test their classroom instruction through team and individual competitions. After a year of local and regional competitions, students compete in 28 Career Development Events that range from Livestock Evaluation to Parliamentary Procedure.

*Nevada State Convention* – Over 400 FFA students attend the annual convention each year. Members listen to exciting motivational speakers as well as the retiring addresses of the current state officers. The new year's state officers are announced and many students and supporters are recognized for their achievements. Student delegates from each chapter discuss and vote on important topics that affect the association.

*Blast Off Training* – The National FFA offers a premier development program for state officers to begin their year of service. BLAST OFF provides training in life management, presentations, social skills, personal goals and assessment.

(more, reverse)