

Integration of FFA Activities In the Ag. Education Program

Summer 2007

Agricultural Proficiency Contest

Background

The Agricultural Proficiency Career Development Event is an individual event where the student completes either a placement or entrepreneurship application/form based on their supervised agricultural experience program. Information can be found on the National FFA website at http://www.ffa.org/index.cfm?method=c_programs.Proficiency. Specific information on the state contest can be found by contacting the State FFA Office or at www.kyffa.org

Rationale

The Supervised Ag Experience (SAE) combines a variety of skills the student has developed while taking agriculture classes. The Proficiency requires students to demonstrate these skills by communicating work done in and out of the classroom. The Agricultural Proficiency can derive from any course above the freshman level.

Teaching the Content

Unit	SAE/Proficiency
Lessons	Rules for the Agricultural Proficiency CDE Performance Review (Getting Started in this activity, Progress and Analysis/Evaluation of Program) Skills, Competencies, and Knowledge Inventory Scope, Income and Expense Skills and Activities Financial Balance Sheet Efficiencies Attained Other Earned and Non-Earned Income Resume Supporting Documentation
Academic Expectations	1.11, 1.16, 2.8, 2.18, 2.37, 2.38, 6.1
Building Interest	The Agricultural Proficiency application will be presented to students on the first day of the unit with the understanding that their completed application will be judged for the local Agricultural Proficiency Contest. The student who scores best in a given area will represent the chapter at the regional level.

Connecting the Activity To the Content

This unit is designed to help the student prepare for the Agricultural Proficiency contest. At the beginning of the unit the student will have to determine what specific proficiency areas matches their SAE as well as determine whether it is an entrepreneurship or placement entry. Students will use these skills to showcase the work he or she has done with their SAE outside the classroom as well as discuss the financial impact it has made on the student. In preparing these materials, the student will also develop a resume. The development of these skills should help the student be successful on state assessments (CATS, KOSSA).

Taking It To the Next Level

The completed application will be judged as the local contest based on a rubric provided by the National FFA. The student with the highest scoring application in a given area will compete at the regional level. Once local winners are chosen revisions will be made to improve the application before regional competition. Winners advance to the next level.

Benefits of the Activity

The SAE/Proficiency is significant in that it demonstrates the students' experiences in a real-life setting. This is valuable to both scholarship committees and potential employers. Colleges and employers want students who show initiative and the ability to produce a product. The combination of the SAE/Proficiency and the resume provides a picture of the student that other events cannot. The process also forces the student to analyze his/her own work. (i.e. Have I made a profit?, Have I grown intellectually?) The writing skills involved with this process will also better prepare the student for written assessments (CATS, KOSSA).

At the local level, the chapter winner will receive a plaque and pin at the annual chapter FFA Banquet.

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Small Power Equipment Career Development Event

Background

The Small Power Equipment Career Development Event is a team event which involves four students. Each student will work individually completing a written exam, problem solving and skill activity as well as identifying small engine parts and tools. Rules and specific information for the state contest can be found by contacting the State FFA Office or at www.kyffa.org

Rationale

Being able to trouble-shoot a problem or perform regular maintenance on a small engine is a skill which can benefit the student in his or her personal life and is also highly marketable to potential employers. The Small Power Equipment CED derives from the Small Power Equipment course.

Teaching the Content

Unit	Small Engines
Lessons	Rules for the Small Power Equipment CDE Small Engine Construction and Operation Small Engine Systems (fuel/air, cooling, compression, ignition and lubrication) Small Engine Maintenance Schedules and Procedures Small Engine Disassembly and Assembly Small Engine Trouble Shooting
Academic Expectations	1.1, 2.1, 2.3, 2.10, 2.37, 5.1, 5.5, 6.1
Building Interest	The FFA Small Engine Team CDE will be presented to students on the first day of the class with the understanding that the exam for the unit will also serve as the local Small Power Equipment Contest. The students who score best on the Parts & Tools ID test, selected Skill & Activity events and the final written exam will represent the chapter at the regional level.

Connecting the Activity To the Content

The lessons within this course focus on identifying the components of the small engine, performing regular maintenance and trouble-shooting unexpected problems. Throughout the course, students are assessed on knowledge of parts and tools and a variety of skill and activity events. A final written exam is given at the end of the course. Performance on the Parts & Tools ID test, selected Skill & Activity events and the final written exam determines the members of the Small Power Equipment team.

A variety of problem-solving and critical thinking skills are developed in this course. These skills can be applied to real-life situations and better prepare the student for state assessments (CATS, KOSSA).

Taking It To the Next Level

As mentioned previously, overall performance on the Parts & Tools ID test, selected Skill & Activity events and the final written exam determines who will compete in the Small Power Equipment CDE. This serves as the local contest. The top 4 students are selected as team members with the 5th student serving as an alternate.

The team prepares for the next level of competition by practicing after school.

Benefits of the Activity

The problem-solving and critical thinking skills will benefit the student beyond the scope of small power equipment. These skills can be applied to various real-life situations and are highly sought by employers. The experience of being part of the Small Power Equipment CDE is one that the student can use in building a resume.

At the local level, the chapter winner will receive a plaque and pin at the annual chapter FFA Banquet.

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Record Keeping Career Development Event

Background

The Record Keeping Career Development Event (CDE) is a team event which involves four students. Each student will work individually to complete a written exam by entering sample records in the Kentucky Agriculture Record Book. Rules and specific information for the state contest can be found by contacting the State FFA Office or at www.kyffa.org

Rationale

Whether it is tracking personal finances, keeping the books for the family farm or searching for a job in a business industry, record keeping is a valuable skill. Most often the Record Keeping CDE derives from the Principles of Agricultural Science and Technology course.

Teaching the Content

Unit	Record Keeping
Lessons	Rules for the Record Keeping CDE Reasons for Keeping Records Expense, Income, and Labor Inventory Income Not Related to Agriculture Financial Statement FFA Activity List
Academic Expectations	2.8, 2.18, 2.37, 6.1
Building Interest	The FFA Record Keeping Team CDE will be presented to students on the first day of the unit with the understanding that the exam for the unit will also serve as the local Record Keeping Contest. The students who score best will represent the chapter at the regional level.

Connecting the Activity To the Content

The lessons are designed to teach the student about each component of record keeping. As each lesson is taught, students practice applying the concept by entering the new information in a record book. This is followed by a test on each component of the record book. At the end of the unit, the student is tested by how correctly a variety of data is entered into a record book. Based on the results of this test, the Record Keeping team is formed.

Through this activity, students learn critical skills (i.e. computing percents and developing knowledge of assets, liabilities, net worth and depreciation) which they can apply to real life situations. These skills will not only help them successfully compete in the Record Keeping CDE, but will prepare them for CATS and KOSSA.

Taking It To the Next Level

The unit serves as the local contest as well as evaluation of the content. The top four students will compete as the Record Keeping team and the 5th place student will be the alternate.

After the local team has been chosen, the team will continue to practice after school in preparation for the next level of contest.

Benefits of the Activity

This activity will help the student develop critical thinking skills which are essential for success on the state assessments. Just as important, these skills are valuable in helping the student evaluate their own finances especially in developing the SAE. These are also skills that employers seek and can be included in the student's resume.

The student can use these skills to continue in other contests such as Proficiencies and receive advanced degrees in the FFA.

The team members will receive a plaque and pin at the chapter FFA banquet.

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FFA Creed Speaking Career Development Event

Background

The FFA Creed Speaking Career Development Event (CDE) is an individual event. The contestant will recite the FFA Creed from memory and answer questions about its meaning and purpose. Rules can be found in the National FFA CDE Handbook (available at http://www.ffa.org/documents/cde_handbook.pdf). Specific information on the state contest can be found by contacting the State FFA Office or at www.kyffa.org

Rationale

Oral communication is vital regardless of the career path a student may choose. The FFA Creed Speaking CDE promotes the development of effective speaking skills. The FFA Creed Speaking CDE is primarily part of the Principles in Agricultural Science and Technology course.

Teaching the Content

Unit	Leadership Development/Speaking Skills
Lessons	Rules for the FFA Creed Speaking CDE Benefits of being an effective speaker Basic Principles of Speaking Effective Methods for Practicing Speaking Controlling Your Nerves Delivering the Creed
Academic Expectations	1.12, 2.37, 3.1
Building Interest	The FFA Creed Speaking CDE will be presented to students on the first day of the unit with the understanding that the student who scores best will represent the chapter at the regional level.

Connecting the Activity To the Content

The lessons in this unit are focused on developing effective speaking skill as well as leadership skills. The student is required to learn the creed and recite it to the class. This is done in a sequential process. Day One, the first paragraph must be recited; Day Two the first and second paragraphs are recited, etc. By the end of a week, the student should be able to recite the entire creed.

Taking It To the Next Level

Any student who successfully recites the creed in the class may compete in the local contest. This is held as part of the Greenhand Ceremony. This is also part of the requirements for earning the Greenhand Degree. The winner of the local contest advances to regional competition.

To prepare for the next level of competition, the student will practice in class, at the chapter meeting and after school.

Benefits of the Activity

Oral communication skills are essential in all life aspects. Being able to present oneself to a variety of audiences (scholarship committees, job interviews) is a critical skill in today's society.

This contest also fosters the development of self-confidence and poise. These are skills which are sought within the professional world.

The local winner is recognized at the monthly club meeting with an FFA jacket or \$50 if the student already has the jacket. A plaque is also presented at the annual chapter banquet.

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Jr. Chapter Meeting Team Career Development Event

Background

The Jr. Chapter Meeting Team Career Development Event is a team event which involves a minimum of eight and a maximum of ten first year students. The Jr. Chapter Meeting Team will conduct opening ceremonies and take care of one item of business. They will then close the meeting with the official closing ceremonies. Rules and specific information for the state contest can be found by contacting the State FFA Office or at www.kyffa.org

Rationale

Organization and problem solving skills are critical for performance in the Junior Chapter Meeting Team Career Development Event. Throughout this unit, students are taught parliamentary procedure and put into situations where these skills and knowledge must be applied. The Junior Chapter Meeting Team Career Development Event derives from the Principles of Agricultural Science & Technology course.

Teaching the Content

Unit	Parliamentary Procedure
Lessons	FFA Chapter Meeting Room Arrangement Officer Symbols FFA Opening and Closing Ceremonies Purpose and Uses of Parliamentary Procedure The Role of Members and the Role of the Presiding Officer Main Motion Division of the House Amendments Qualified Adjournment and Unqualified Adjournment Refer to a Committee Rise to a Point of Order and Rise to a Point of Information
Academic Expectations	1.12, 2.14, 2.16, 2.37, 3.1, 4.2, 5.1, 6.1
Building Interest	The Jr. Chapter Meeting Team CDE will be presented to students on the first day of the unit with the understanding that the exam (written and demonstration) for the unit will also serve as the local Jr. Chapter Meeting Team Contest. The students who score best will represent the chapter at the regional level.

Connecting the Activity To the Content

The lessons within this unit are designed to teach the student the role and responsibility of each office and how the rules of parliamentary procedure are used. The students will demonstrate their knowledge in both classroom demonstrations of parliamentary procedure and written assessments.

Throughout the unit, students will develop problem solving and organizational skills. Communicating their knowledge orally (class demonstrations) will also be required. These skills will help the student prepare for both course and state assessments (CATS, KOSSA).

Part of the written assessment includes an evaluation of meeting scenarios to determine whether or not correct parliamentary procedure has been followed.

Demonstrations will be performed in teams assigned by the teacher. Students will be evaluated individually with the top 13 advancing to the next level.

Taking It To the Next Level

Combined performance in classroom parliamentary demonstrations and a written unit exam serves as the local contest. Ten members and three alternates will be selected.

The 10 members will “try-out” for which office they will hold on the team. Once the officers are assigned, the team will practice under the guidance and assistance of the chapter advisor and chapter parliamentarian.

Benefits of the Activity

Students will develop problem solving, organizational and communication skills as a result of this activity. All of these skills are important in applying for scholarships and jobs. These skills can be included as part of the student resume.

Students will find that parliamentary procedure is used in a variety of church and civic functions and within job-related committees.

At the local level, the chapter winner will receive a plaque and pin at the annual chapter FFA Banquet.