

# COVID-19 Guidance: Contracts for Agricultural Education Teachers

May 11, 2020

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As local education agencies (LEAs) consider extended employment and additional service pay for district staff throughout the COVID-19 crisis, please be advised of the statutory provisions within [KRS 157.360](#) related to instructional salaries for certified agricultural education teachers in Kentucky. KRS 157.360(12)(a) states the following:

*(12) (a) Instructional salaries for vocational agriculture classes shall be for twelve (12) months per year. Vocational agriculture teachers shall be responsible for the following program of instruction during the time period beyond the regular school term established by the local board of education: supervision and instruction of students in agriculture experience programs; group and individual instruction of farmers and agribusinessmen; supervision of student members of agricultural organizations who are involved in leadership training or other activity required by state or federal law; or any program of vocational agriculture established by the Division of Career and Technical Education in the Department of Education. During extended employment, no vocational agriculture teacher shall receive salary on a day that the teacher is scheduled to attend an institution of higher education class which could be credited toward meeting any certification requirement.*

While the work performed by agricultural education teachers may be facilitated non-traditionally during the ongoing pandemic, efforts are being made to ensure that summer activities and events for agriculture students and agricultural education teachers may continue through new and different approaches.

Pursuant to KRS 157.360(12)(b), agricultural education teachers shall submit an annual summer plan to the district superintendent for approval that documents the tasks to be performed, their purpose(s) and the time spent on each task.

To aid in the development of these plans during this unique time of crisis, the Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) has developed potential suggestions for how these teachers may fulfill their year-round employment throughout the summer months of 2020. The list below, while not exhaustive, provides appropriate tasks for consideration:

- Conduct supervision of agricultural experience programs by utilizing online meeting platforms and/or phone calls with students to discuss their project, plans for growth, career aspirations and challenges they are facing;
- Host virtual chapter officer team meetings to set goals and plan activities for the upcoming academic year;
- Review agricultural experience program records maintained by the student via the Agriculture Experience Tracker (AET) and provide comments. May also work with students to enter new data for their records;
- Work remotely with students who are preparing for Career Development Events and Leadership Development for the virtual Kentucky FFA State Convention;



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- Hold virtual chapter officer training sessions that utilize resources currently in development by the Kentucky FFA Leadership Training Center;
- Host virtual team practices for FFA members that will compete in Career Development Events during the Kentucky State Fair;
- If the local County Fair Board plans to have a fair during the summer of 2020, the teacher may participate in the meetings and events, while following the guidance related to social distancing and mass gatherings; and
- Participate in virtual professional development sessions that will be available to teachers if the annual CTE Summer Program is not held in July 2020.

Should restrictions be lifted throughout the summer months as state and national COVID-19 guidance evolves, the above-mentioned options may be re-evaluated.

For more information, contact the KDE Office of Career and Technical Education and Student Transition at (502) 564-4286. You may also email the KDE Agricultural Education staff directly: [Brandon.Davis@education.ky.gov](mailto:Brandon.Davis@education.ky.gov) and [Matt.Chaliff@education.ky.gov](mailto:Matt.Chaliff@education.ky.gov).

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