

Idaho Agricultural Education Quality Program Standards



This document was prepared and reviewed by representatives of:

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INTRODUCTION

The Idaho Agricultural Education Quality Program Standards are a result of a need to provide a consistent delivery of high quality agricultural education programs across the state of Idaho focused on relevant instruction, rigorous clear goals, continuous program improvement and the development of essential skills for student success. Input from local and state leaders was sought and obtained regarding the qualities of highly successful agricultural education programs.

The Idaho Agricultural Education Quality Program Standards are designed to be used by the local instructor(s), administration, community partners and/or stakeholders, advisory council, FFA Alumni and/or an external assessment team to conduct an evaluation of the local agricultural education program and develop clear goals and objectives for program improvement. The local self-assessment or evaluation will serve as the basis for further review by the State Division of Career Technical Education in determining how well an agricultural education program meets the Idaho Agricultural Education Quality Program Standards.

During the 2014 sixty-second Legislative regular session, Senate Bill 1275 was passed to amend Chapter 26, Title 33 of the Idaho Code to establish provisions relating to the Idaho Quality Standards Incentive Grants and direct the State Board of Career Technical Education to adopt and implement the Idaho Agriculture Education Quality Program Standards.

The Idaho Agriculture Education Quality Program Standards comprise seven main areas dealing with the school based agricultural education program and the agricultural education instructor. Standards 1 – 6, address the agricultural education program and standard 7 addresses the agricultural education instructor. Each standard and standard statement is followed by a series of quality indicators which further define or assess the standard or standard statement.

Local Program Success materials found in the National FFA Local Program Resource Guide may provide additional tools, resources and information to help agricultural education programs meet the standards and standard statements in this document.

Standard 1: Program Planning, Design & Curriculum

Standard Statement:

A standards-based curriculum in Agriculture, Food & Natural Resources Systems is delivered through an integrated model that incorporates classroom and laboratory instruction, experiential learning and student leadership & personal development.

Quality Indicators:

1. The agricultural education curriculum includes: 1.) approved Ag/NR courses; 2.) course names & descriptions; 3.) course objectives/ competencies; 4.) course sequences, 5.) course prerequisites, 6.) staffing assignments for all courses.
2. The Program of Study (POS) offered by the program is cross-walked/aligned to the Idaho Department of Education (SDE) academic content standards and references the Idaho Core Standards.
3. Experiential learning (SAE) is integrated throughout the instructional program.
4. Student leadership & personal development (FFA) is integrated throughout the instructional program.
5. The agricultural education program consults with an advisory board, recognized by the local board of education, with current constitution and bylaws on program planning, design and curriculum.
6. The agricultural education program provides students with “value added” components to enhance their ability to be either college or career ready.

Standard 2: Instruction & Assessment

Standard Statement:

Programs promote academic achievement and skill development of all students through year-round instruction using multiple methods to assess student learning that illustrates academic achievement and skill development.

Quality Indicators:

1. Instructional activities throughout the year are balanced between classroom & laboratory instruction, experiential learning (SAE), and leadership & personal development (FFA).
2. Course instructional outlines are documented and based upon an approved Program of Study (POS).
3. Instruction reinforces written objectives and appropriate assessments aligned to relevant and rigorous academic content and Idaho Core standards. The instructor uses multiple instructional strategies for varied student learning styles and incorporates real-life experiences to facilitate learning.
4. The instructional program uses a variety of current instructional materials, equipment, techniques, technology and community-based resources.

Standard 3: Facilities & Equipment

Standard Statement:

The facilities and equipment support implementation of the agricultural education program and curriculum by providing all students opportunities for the development and application of knowledge and skills. (Facilities are defined as classroom, agricultural education science laboratory, computer laboratory, wood and metal shop, greenhouse, head house, land laboratory, livestock facilities, storage areas and office).

Quality Indicators:

1. Facility size, layout, storage and labs provide for effective delivery of the courses offered and student enrollment.
2. Facility is clean, organized, and maintained to provide an environment conducive to learning.
3. Facility meets existing local, state, and/or federal health standards including air, temperature, water, acoustics, ventilation, light and particulate control.
4. Idaho Building Safety Inspection (IBSI) has been conducted on the facility, equipment and tools with all defective items removed, repaired, or replaced.
5. Current equipment is available and maintained and adequate consumable supplies are provided annually to deliver instruction.
6. Current technology is available, maintained, and updated to offer high quality instruction and support experiential learning and student leadership development.

Standard 4: Experiential Learning

Standard Statement:

Education is enhanced through active participation by all students in a year-round experiential learning program that is planned, developed and managed by the student with instruction and support by the agriculture instructor.

Quality Indicators:

1. All students have experiential learning programs based on career pathways/clusters/ interests and agricultural education curriculum standards.
2. Continuous instruction and supervision of student experiential learning programs are provided by the agriculture instructor throughout the calendar year.
3. Students have comprehensive experiential learning programs that show evidence of continuous improvement.
4. The agricultural education program consults with an advisory board, recognized by the local board of education, with current constitution and bylaws on experiential learning.

Standard 5: Leadership Development

Standard Statement:

All students participate in year-round intra-curricular agricultural education student organization programs and activities.

Quality Indicators:

1. The FFA chapter annually plans and implements a Program of Activities (POA) and reviews and approves Chapter constitution and/or bylaws.
2. The agricultural education program students participate in FFA programs and activities and have a progressive plan for leadership and personal development.
3. The FFA chapter conducts and/or participates in local activities and events.
4. The FFA chapter participates in district, state and national activities.
5. Students who are FFA members show evidence of continuous improvement by achieving advanced degrees based on the SAE program and FFA participation.
6. The agricultural education program consults with an agricultural education advisory board, recognized by the local board of education, with current constitution and bylaws on leadership development.

Standard 6: Partnerships & Marketing

Standard Statement:

Key stakeholders are continually engaged, consulted and invested in the agricultural education program.

Quality Indicators:

1. School and community partners (School Board, Administration, agriculture advisory board, Alumni, parents, media, decision makers, agricultural industry leaders and community) are familiar with the agricultural education model (classroom, SAE and FFA), are involved in shaping and strengthening the program and promoting program accomplishments and success.
2. Agricultural education program stakeholders and supporters are recognized for their support of the agricultural education program.
3. Community volunteers (FFA Alumni or others) are organized and involved in supporting the agricultural education program.
4. The agricultural education program provides relevant data/information to key stakeholders and other entities.
5. A recruitment and retention plan is annually developed and implemented for prospective and current students.
6. Follow-up data is collected and maintained on all agriculture program graduates.

Standard 7: Certified Agricultural Education Instructor and Professional Growth

Standard Statement:

Competent and certified agricultural education instructor provides the core of the program.

Quality Indicators:

1. The agricultural education instructor has current Idaho certification to teach agriculture and has advanced training to enhance instruction in the agricultural education program.
2. The agricultural education instructor provides student instruction and supervision throughout the year in classroom & laboratory, experiential learning (SAE) and leadership & personal development (FFA).
3. The agricultural education instructor demonstrates effectiveness in quality teaching that promotes student growth.
4. The agricultural education instructor practices classroom management that maximizes time-on-task and minimizes disruptive behaviors.
5. The agricultural education instructor demonstrates effectiveness involving experiential learning (SAE) activities that promotes student growth.
6. The agricultural education instructor demonstrates effectiveness involving leadership and personal development (FFA) activities that promotes student growth.
7. The agricultural education instructor demonstrates professional growth through activities to promote knowledge of content, instructional strategies, industry practices, and instructor leadership roles.
8. The agricultural education instructor is an active member in local, state and national professional education associations.