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Introduction

The Idaho Quality Program Standards Incentive Grants program and the Agricultural Education Program Start-Up Grants program were established in 2014 with the enactment of Section 33-1629, Idaho Code, Agricultural and Natural Resource Education programs. Agricultural and natural resource education programs are part of the career technical education agriculture, food and natural resources (AFNR) pathway.

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

Local Program Success materials found in the National Council for Agricultural Education's National Program Quality Standards rubric may provide additional tools, resources and information to help AFNR education programs meet the standards and standard statements in this document.

Standard 1:

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

Quality Indicators:

1. The applicable curriculum includes course names and descriptions, course objectives and competencies, course sequences, course prerequisites, and staffing assignments for all courses.
2. The Program(s) of Study (POS) establishes the course sequence offered by the AFNR program and is cross-walked and aligned to the content standards established in IDAPA 08.02.03.004.
3. The AFNR education program provides students with “value added” components to enhance their ability to be either college or career ready.
4. Instructional activities throughout the year are balanced between classroom and laboratory instruction, experiential learning, and leadership and personal development.

Standard 2:

Programs promote 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. Course instructional outlines are documented and based upon an approved program of study.
2. Instruction reinforces written objectives and appropriate assessments aligned to relevant and rigorous academic content and the Idaho content standards.
3. 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, techniques, and community-based support.

Standard 3:

The facilities and equipment support implementation of the AFNR 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 federal health standards including air, temperature, water, acoustics, ventilation, light and particulate control.
4. Current equipment is industry relevant and adequate for student instruction.
5. 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:

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 AFNR instructor.

Quality Indicators:

1. All students have experiential learning programs based on career pathways, clusters, interests, and AFNR education curriculum standards.
2. Continuous instruction and supervision of student experiential learning programs are provided by the AFNR education instructor throughout the calendar year.
3. Students have a comprehensive experiential learning program that shows evidence of improvement.
4. Students have comprehensive experiential learning programs and keep accurate record of continuous improvement.

Standard 5:

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

Quality Indicators:

1. The FFA chapter annually plans and implements a program of activities and reviews and approves Chapter Constitution and Bylaws.

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2. The AFNR education program students participate in FFA programs and activities listed in the program of activities.
3. The FFA chapter conducts and/or participates in local activities and events.
4. The FFA chapter conducts or participates in district, state and national activities.
5. Students who are FFA members show evidence of continuous improvement by achieving advanced degrees based on their SAE program and FFA participation.

Standard 6:

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

Quality Indicators:

1. The AFNR education program consults with an educational advisory board, recognized by the local board of education, to plan and direct the program's curriculum, supervised agriculture experiences (SAE), and leadership development.
2. Technical Advisory Committee is comprised of School Board, Administration, Alumni, parents, local decision makers, and AFNR industry leaders from the community and its impact area.
3. Stakeholder groups (Technical Advisory Committee or Alumni and Supporters Group) collaborate often in order to maintain consistent support of the AFNR education program and promote its success.
4. Program stakeholders and supporters (e.g. Technical Advisory Committee or Alumni and Supporters group) are recognized for their support of the agricultural education program.
5. Community volunteers (FFA Alumni and Supporters group or others) are organized and involved in supporting the agricultural education program.
6. The AFNR education program provides relevant data/information to key stakeholders and other entities.
7. A recruitment and retention plan is annually implemented for prospective and current students.
8. Follow-up data is collected and maintained on all program graduates.

Standard 7:

Competent and certified applicable AFNR education instructor provides the core of the program.

Quality Indicators:

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