

## Essential Elements of an SAE

A Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE), or experiential learning, is an essential component of the agriculture, food and natural resources (AFNR) program. This is a **student LEAD project** that is a required component for agricultural education and is intended for students.

According to the National Council for Agricultural Education "Students are able to consider multiple careers and occupations, learn expected workplace behavior, and develop specific skills within an industry, and are provided opportunities to apply academic and occupational skills in the workplace or a simulated workplace environment".

A complete SAE is comprised of **three essential elements**:



### Details:

**Setup & Planning** *As a student lead project, each one should be a planned SAE Project. Successful SAE planning includes considering the following topics:*

- General Overview
  - Project name and project dates (estimated start and finish)
  - Level of involvement – individual, school-based or service learning, which helps describe the project
  - Who is supervising – may include a teacher, employer, parent/guardian
  - How it connects to agriculture or related to careers
- Resources Needed
  - Time – hours beyond the normal class period (1 credit), which may include additional arrangements of laboratory time, work-based learning courses and time beyond the school day
  - Money – sources of funding, budget, expected results and equipment needed
- Expected Learning Outcomes
  - A connection to Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources (AFNR) or related state content standards
  - Actual project results and comparisons to planned learning outcomes

**Documenting** *Keeping proper documentation throughout the entire SAE experience is essential to measure results. Proper SAE documentation includes:*

- Daily recordkeeping of SAE, but should also include FFA and classroom experiences
- Track time and monetary investments in the SAE and dates of actual involvement
- Summarize SAE project results
  - Annual summary of project responsibilities and learning outcomes
  - Determine if SAE is ongoing or completed (inactive)

**Supervision** *Expected SAE supervision includes one or more teacher(s), employer(s) and/or parent/guardian(s) and the student to:*

- The Student to review reports, develop an annual summary (*skills/responsibilities and results*)
- Supervisors should assist students in achieving project objectives and content support
- Supervisors should evaluate students work and assist them in reflection and planning any new or continuing projects



# Essential Elements of an SAE

## Supervised Agricultural Experiences (SAE)

Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE) participation should connect to real-world situations and enhance career development. Student-lead SAE projects are typically categorized into one of three "Levels of Focus":

- (1) **Individual** is student and/or family supported and bears all of the risk and seeks returns.
- (2) **School-based (SBE)** is entrepreneurship in nature and the school manages the risk, but the enterprise is student managed in hopes of creating returns for the school and student(s).
- (3) **Service-Learning** is completed to provide a service to the school, public entity or community.

Once the SAE project's level is set, the type of SAE depends on interest and available resources. Review the following SAE categories/key areas and examples:

SAE Category & Key Areas	Project Examples*
<p><b>Foundational (Exploration):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Designed as a base project to gain experience</i></li> <li>• <i>A complete project is a grouping of experiences</i></li> <li>• <i>Time is the key invested resource</i></li> <li>• <i>This SAE encourages immersion into a more advanced SAE type (see below)</i></li> <li>• <i>Possibly contributes to FFA awards (State specific)</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ <i>Career exploration or job shadowing</i></li> <li>✓ <i>Attend an educational event such as career fair or interview clinic</i></li> <li>✓ <i>Developing a personal budget</i></li> <li>✓ <i>Learn about workplace safety</i></li> <li>✓ <i>Attend an agricultural education event such as welding</i></li> </ul>
<p><b>Research:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Applies to using the scientific method to answer a research question or develop a new product</i></li> <li>• <i>Typically involves either an experiment, analyzing an event or inventing and reporting results</i></li> <li>• <b>Time and potentially money are invested resources related to AFNR content</b></li> <li>• <i>Contributes to State and National FFA awards</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ <i>Measure plant growth with varying light exposure (Experimentation)</i></li> <li>✓ <i>Measure student perceptions of biotechnology (Experimentation)</i></li> <li>✓ <i>Review water quality regulation and develop a summary (Analytical)</i></li> <li>✓ <i>Develop new equipment for smaller horsepower tractors (Invention)</i></li> </ul>
<p><b>Placement:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Paid or unpaid work experience relating to aligned to national/state content standards</i></li> <li>• <i>If money is earned, the project is a paid work-based experience</i></li> <li>• <b>Time is the invested resource and learning is through work-experience</b></li> <li>• <i>Contributes to State and National FFA awards</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ <i>Working at school greenhouse</i></li> <li>✓ <i>Working at veterinary clinic caring for small animals</i></li> <li>✓ <i>A management internship at farm supply retailer</i></li> <li>✓ <i>Working at a family farm operation in production and equipment maintenance</i></li> </ul>
<p><b>Entrepreneurship:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>A business and for-profit venture that relates to AFNR content areas</i></li> <li>• <b>Time &amp; money are invested resources</b></li> <li>• <b>Must include financial risk by the student</b></li> <li>• <i>Contributes to State and National FFA awards</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ <i>Operate a feed sales business</i></li> <li>✓ <i>Operate a lawn care business</i></li> <li>✓ <i>Raise and sell a market animal at state fair</i></li> <li>✓ <i>Operate a breeding swine business</i></li> <li>✓ <i>Operate a farmers market business</i></li> </ul>

\*For illustration purposes only, not an exhaustive list.

