

Lesson E2–1

Discovering Opportunities in the FFA

Unit E. Developing Leadership Skills in Agriculture

Problem Area 2. Recognizing Opportunities in FFA

Lesson 1. Discovering Opportunities in the FFA

New Mexico Content Standard:

Pathway Strand: Leadership and Teamwork

Standard: XI: Use leadership skills in collaborating with others to accomplish organizational goals and objectives.

Benchmark: XI-D: Include self, community, diversity, environment, global awareness and knowledge to develop premier leadership.

Performance Standard: 1. Participate in issues important to the community. 2. Perform leadership tasks associated with citizenship. 3. Study local, state, national, and global issues. 4. Apply knowledge gained from study of trends and issues. 5. Participate in activities that promote acceptance of diversity.

Student Learning Objectives. Instruction in this lesson should result in students achieving the following objectives:

1. Describe how the FFA develops leadership skills, personal growth, and career success.
2. Identify major state and national activities available to FFA members.

List of Resources. The following resources may be useful in teaching this lesson:

Recommended Resources. One of the following resources should be selected to accompany the lesson:

Morgan, Elizabeth M., et al. *AgriScience Explorations*, Second Edition. Danville, Illinois: Interstate Publishers, Inc., 2000. (Textbook, Chapter 20)

National FFA Organization. *FFA Student Handbook*. Alexandria, Virginia: National FFA Organization, 1995.

National FFA Organization. *Official Manual*. Indianapolis, Indiana: National FFA Center, 1998.

Other Resources. The following resources will be useful to students and teachers:

Cooper, Elmer L. and Bret Iverson. *Agriscience Fundamentals and Applications*. Albany, New York: Delmar Publishers, Inc., 1997. (Textbook, Unit 6)

Fraze, Steven D., Sharon Hunter, Marshall Stewart, Brenda Scheil, and Robert Terry, Jr. *Developing Leadership and Personal Skills*. Danville, Illinois: Interstate Publishers, Inc., 1997. (Textbook, Appendix A)

List of Equipment, Tools, Supplies, and Facilities

Writing surface

Overhead projector

Transparencies from attached masters

Terms. The following terms are presented in this lesson (shown in bold italics):

Career Development Event (CDE)

Experiencing Discovery, Growth, and Excellence (EDGE)

Food For America

Leader

Leadership

Partners for a Safer Community

Partners in Active Learning Support (PALS)

Personal growth

Work Experience Abroad (WEA)

Interest Approach. Use an interest approach that will prepare the students for the lesson. Teachers often develop approaches for their unique class and student situations. A possible approach is included here. Have your officers or a former member visit your class and discuss what they have gained from participating in FFA activities.

Summary of Content and Teaching Strategies

Objective I: Describe how the FFA develops leadership skills, personal growth, and career success.

Anticipated Problem: How does the FFA organization develop the skills and characteristics for future career success?

- I. The purpose of the FFA is to help students develop to their full potential through activities in the agriculture program.
 - A. Leadership is one of the major areas stressed in the FFA.
 1. **Leadership** is the ability to influence other people to meet individual or group goals.
 2. A **leader** is a person who helps other people reach their goals.
 3. There are four desirable traits of a good leader:
 - a. Personal skills-traits that make it easier for other people to follow a leader. Examples are being hardworking, responsible, and honest.
 - b. “How to” skills-traits that help a leader share responsibilities such as organizing meetings, speaking to groups, or writing messages.
 - c. “Thinking” skills-traits that enable a leader to think and assess problems.
 - d. “People” skills-traits that help a leader relate well with other people such as being trustworthy, respecting others, and having a positive attitude.
 - B. **Personal growth** is developing skills to have a good life.
 1. It includes leadership skills, career skills, social behavior and citizenship skills.
 2. Social behavior deals with manners and respect to others.
 3. Citizenship involves being a good member of the community and country.
 - C. The FFA promotes career success through recognition of excellence in agriculture and the development of skills for career advancement.
 1. Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE) is an example of a career related activity.
 2. A **Career Development Event (CDE)** provides opportunities to practice technical skills learned in the classroom that will be used later in career opportunities.
 - D. The FFA provides several offices for leadership development. These offices include:
 1. President-presides over meeting.
 2. Vice-President-presides in absence of the president.
 3. Secretary-takes minutes.
 4. Treasurer- in charge of the financial accounts.
 5. Sentinel-keeps order in meeting.
 6. Reporter-reports news to media.
 7. Historian-keeps FFA scrapbook.

Several techniques can be used to help students understand this objective. Students need text materials to master the purpose of the FFA. Chapter 20 in *Agriscience Explorations* is recommended. Use TM: E2–1A to further explain the purpose of the FFA.

Objective 2: Identify major state and national activities available to FFA members

Anticipated Problem: What are the major state and national activities available to FFA members?

- II. As an FFA member, you are able to participate in a wide range of activities at the local, state, and national levels.
 - A. Every year state and national conventions are held to conduct business, provide recognition for award winners, and demonstrate opportunities for leadership growth.
 1. The National FFA Convention is now the largest youth conference in the nation. Recent attendance has been in excess of 45,000 members.
 2. The convention offers motivational speeches, educational tours, leadership conferences, and the FFA National Agricultural Career Show.
 - B. Every year at their respective conventions, state and national officers are elected to serve for the upcoming year.
 1. State officers usually travel around their state visiting chapters and presenting leadership workshops.
 2. National officers spend more than 300 days of the year traveling across the U.S. and abroad representing the FFA.
 - C. At state and national conventions, FFA members provide much of the entertainment.
 1. Many state and the national conventions host a talent contest.
 2. Musically talented individuals can participate in state and national chorus and band.
 - D. FFA offers many camps and leadership conferences for members.
 1. At the national level, two programs are offered, The Washington Leadership Conference and Made For Excellence seminars.
 - a. The Washington Leadership Conferences are held in Washington, D.C. during the summer.
 - b. The Made for Excellence program focuses on personal development and is held in numerous locations.
 - E. The **Work Experience Abroad (WEA)** program is the FFA foreign exchange program. It allows members to travel to more than 30 foreign countries. WEA enables members to live and work with an agriculture family in a different country for 3–12 months.
 - F. FFA members who are interested in science and have college goals should participate in the Agriscience Student Recognition Program.
 1. Winners at the state and national level earn substantial scholarships for higher education.

2. Participants develop a scientific project, that involves agriculture. They write a report describing methods, technologies, observations, and results.
- G. More than \$1 million are awarded every year through the FFA Scholarship Program. To apply for one of the National FFA scholarships, secure an application form from the advisor or guidance counselor.
- H. *Partners in Active Learning Support (PALS)* is an FFA mentoring program based on partnering FFA members with younger students to build trust and develop self-esteem.
- I. *Food for America* is a program that FFA members present to elementary students. It educates younger students about where food comes from and the importance of agriculture.
- J. *Partners for a Safer Community* is a national collaborative effort to promote agriculture safety and health through education, community development, and youth leadership.
- K. *Experiencing Discovery, Growth, and Development (EDGE)* is a leadership and personal growth program for middle grade FFA members.
- L. National FFA Week is held every year during the third week in February. Members conduct various activities to celebrate and promote their organization.
- M. The national FFA magazine, *FFA New Horizons*, is an excellent source of articles about members participating in various local, state, and national activities.

Use a variety of techniques to help students master this objective. Providing text materials will enhance student learning. Chapter 20 in AgriScience Explorations, Chapters 6 and 7 in the FFA Student Handbook and the Official Manual are recommended. Use TM: E 2–1A to help students understand the purpose of the FFA. Use TM: E2–1B to explain the opportunities available in the FFA.

Review/Summary. Use the objectives for the lesson as guides in reviewing and summarizing the content. Have the students explain the content associated with each objective. Use questions at the end of the chapter of the text materials as a form of review.

Application. Students can apply the content of this lesson in their agricultural education and FFA activities.

Evaluation. Assessing the extent to which the students have achieved the objectives can be based on student participation in reviewing and summarizing the lessons as well as attentiveness throughout. A written test can also be given. A sample written test is attached.

Answers to Sample Test:

Part One: Matching

1=e, 2=c, 3=d, 4=b, 5=a

Part Two: Completion

1. Leadership
2. Leadership, personal growth, career success
3. National FFA Convention
4. State Officers
5. Band and Chorus
6. National FFA Week

Part Three: Short Answer

Any five of the following:

- | | | |
|---|----------------|------------|
| a. Improve understanding of agriculture | e. Scholarship | i. Service |
| b. Leadership | f. Character | j. Thrift |
| c. Citizenship | g. Cooperation | |
| d. Patriotism | h. Recreation | |

Test

Lesson E2–1: Discovering Opportunities in the FFA

Part One: Matching

Instructions. Match the term with the correct response. Write the letter of the term by the definition.

- | | |
|---------|---------------------|
| a. PALS | d. WEA |
| b. CDE | e. Food For America |
| c. EDGE | |

- _____ 1. When FFA members present to elementary students a program about the importance of agriculture and where food comes from.
- _____ 2. A leadership and personal growth program conference for middle grade FFA members.
- _____ 3. A program where FFA members can travel to over 30 foreign countries.
- _____ 4. An activity such as a contest, which is an extension of information learned in the classroom.
- _____ 5. An FFA mentor program based on partnering FFA members with younger students to build trust and self-esteem.

Part Two: Completion

Instructions. Provide the word or words to complete the following statements.

- _____ is the ability to influence other people to meet individual or group goals.
- FFA stresses three areas _____, _____, and _____.
- The _____ is the largest youth conference held annually.
- _____ usually travel around the state visiting chapters and presenting workshops.
- Musically talented FFA members can participate in the FFA _____ and _____.
- _____ is held the third week in February.
- _____ is a national collaborative effort to promote agriculture youth safety and health through education, community development and youth leadership.

Part Three: Short Answer

Instructions. Provide information to answer the following questions.

1. List five characteristics that the FFA helps to develop.

The Purpose of the FFA

FFA helps to develop the following characteristics:

- **Character**
- **Citizenship**
- **Cooperation**
- **Improved understanding of agriculture**
- **Leadership skills**
- **Patriotism**
- **Recreation**
- **Scholastic activity**
- **Service**
- **Thrift**

The FFA stresses three areas:

- **Career Success**
- **Leadership**
- **Personal growth**

Opportunities in FFA Include Involvement In:

- **Band and Chorus**
- **Camps and Leadership Conferences**
- **Earn Money**
- **Gain Recognition**
- **FFA Reinforces Learning Activities**
- **Field Trips**
- **Fun/Recreation**
- **Individual Awards and Degrees**
- **International Opportunities**
- **Travel**
- **Scholarship Programs**
- **State and National Conventions**