

SAE

Supervised Agricultural Experience

Supervised Agricultural Experience Fact Sheet The Correlation Between SAE and FFA

There is often a misconception that SAE and FFA have no correlation; this couldn't be farther from the truth. In reality, these two integral components of agricultural education work hand-in-hand to maximize student growth. Simply put, FFA provides incentives for improvement and development of SAE through degree programs and proficiency awards. Yet without SAE, these FFA programs and awards would not be possible. In addition, both SAE and FFA act as "connecting activities" for classroom and laboratory instruction – the other integral component of agricultural education. Together these three elements make up a dynamic educational model that combines academic (classroom/laboratory instruction), technical and career knowledge (SAE) and life skills development (FFA). See the diagram below developed by the National FFA.

Note: The darker the shading, the more intense the strength of learning the "what" via the "how."

A Model of Agricultural Education

	Knowledge			Life Skills
	Academic	Technical	Career	
Classroom/Laboratory				
SAE				
FFA				

HOW **WHAT**

FFA award opportunities for SAE achievement include FFA degrees, "Star" awards and proficiency awards. FFA degrees are earned on the chapter, state and national levels based on competencies, education and leadership criteria. The "Star" awards are given to outstanding degree recipients at each level in the production agriculture, agribusiness, agricultural placement and agriscience categories. Proficiency awards recognize outstanding SAE programs in 50 areas ranging from agricultural processing and emerging agricultural technology to dairy production and floriculture. In addition to degrees and proficiency honors, students typically have to be FFA members to participate in fairs and shows which offer opportunities to showcase SAE projects.

Any way you look at it, FFA and SAE have a strong connection. It takes one to have the other and both to achieve student success. Both components are also required to achieve a fully-integrated, quality program – the objective of agricultural education.