



**APPLICATION FOR STATE-APPROVED  
AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION PROGRAM**

# **West Platte AG Education Program**

## **“Growing Tomorrow's Leaders”**

**Presented by:**

**West Platte School District**

**WEST PLATTE SCHOOL BOARD ADOPTION DATE**

**JUNE 19, 2013**

**Program to Begin**

**2013-2014 School Year**



## I. Rational

Since its founding in the mid 1800's, the West Platte community has been deeply rooted in agriculture. Once the second largest city on the Missouri River, Weston was a bustling port founded on the cash crops of hemp and later tobacco.

Today, agronomy continues to be a primary staple of the West Platte community, with tobacco and corn rows covering the fields. Century-old tobacco barns perch atop most hills, paying tribute to the past and present ties to Weston's agricultural heritage.

The West Platte School District originally offered an Agriculture Education Program in the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. However in the late 1950's the District chose to move away from agriculture, reportedly as a result of the emerging Space Age movement.

The future of agriculture in our district and region is yet to be known; however, it is clear that agriculture will continue to be a driving force of our local and national economy. Our past, as well as the present and future high-demand jobs in agriculture have helped our community recognize the need to take new action to realign our students to these opportunities. Many within our community recognize the exciting new careers that are available in the agriculture industry. Therefore, we are applying to create a new Agriculture Program to help Grow Tomorrow's Leaders in Agriculture among the students of the West Platte School District.

### A. Program, by Title:

West Platte AG Education Program - Growing Tomorrow's Leaders  
Agricultural Education 01.000

### B. Determined Need for the Program:

The interest in the agriculture, food fiber, and natural resource system in our area has highlighted the need to develop a broader range of related academic skills, better economic understanding and increased management skills necessary for success in our community, state, and nation.

Missouri Connections data was used to determine the interest in the program. The student interest assessment shows that a high percentage of students would be interested in enrolling in an Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources program: 11% of 2014 graduates, 36% of 2015 graduates, 58% of 2016 graduates, and 40% of 2017 graduates have expressed interest in enrolling in agriculture programs. As the program is developed and grows, it is anticipated the interest from students will continue to grow.

It is the consensus of the School Board and administration that an Agricultural Education Program would provide appropriate, meaningful, and challenging additional opportunities for the students in the school district.

### C. Advisory Committee

An Agricultural Advisory Committee consisting of members of the Board of Education, community, parents, student leaders, and West Platte staff will assist in program development and leadership. Several of these people are in production or other agricultural industry related fields and contribute to the economic success of the community. The committee will be involved in curriculum additions and program plans. Keith Dietzschold, NW District Supervisor for the

Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education has been consulted and has shown strong support for the program.

D. Administration of Program

Dr. Jerrod Wheeler, Superintendent, and Dr. Logan Lightfoot, High School and Jr. High Principal will be responsible for the supervision of the program. The agriculture education instructor will analyze and evaluate the strengths and areas for improvement in the program. The State Department, through its district supervisor, will provide evaluation and input into the program.

E. Name, Location, and Space

The West Platte AG Education Program - Growing Tomorrow's Leaders classroom will be housed at West Platte High School. The Agricultural Education Program will be housed in the shop area of the high school, as well as in an adjacent classroom. These areas are being vacated by the former Industrial Arts program. The shop is well-equipped to support Ag Structures and Ag Construction classes. The District also desires to pursue an Enhancement Grant so that funds may be partnered to provide a greenhouse to support the program.

F. Relation of Proposed Programs to Present Offerings

Since West Platte does not currently have an agriculture program this section is not applicable. This program will, however, replace industrial arts offerings and will complement the offerings of the Northland Regional Career Center, which our students attend.

G. Proposed Date for the Program

July 1, 2013

**II. List the program goals and objectives in measurable terms.**

The programs goals and objectives will be to:

Goal 1: The West Platte School District will provide a broader curriculum base for the students by creating an Agricultural Program.	
Objective 1.1	All West Platte High School students will increase by 50% their knowledge of the agriculture, food, fiber and natural resource related businesses and the relationship between agriculture and society.
Objective 1.2	100% of students enrolled in the agricultural program will increase their leadership, personal, and communication skills necessary in agriculture, food, fiber and natural resource careers.
Objective 1.3	80% of students enrolled in the agricultural program will increase student achievement in core academics, including math, science, communication arts, and social studies.
Objective 1.4	50% of students enrolled in the agricultural program will pursue careers in the agriculture, food, fiber and natural resource industry or advanced study at the post-secondary level.

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Goal 2: Develop a closer working relationship between the school and the agriculture, food, fiber and natural resource business community.	
Objective 2.1	100% of students enrolled in the agricultural program will participate in the Supervised Agricultural Experience.
Objective 2.2	80% of students enrolled in the agricultural program will participate in service learning opportunities through the student organization, FFA.

**III. Provide a topical outline of major units of instruction in the proposed program.**

For the proposed agriculture program, the West Platte School District Curriculum Director and AG instructor will work together to plan the major units of instruction using the curriculum competencies provided by DESE. Below is a sample of major units of study that may be used for Agriculture I and II.

Agriculture I	Agriculture II
Introduction to Animal Nutrition	Crop Science
Introduction to Animal Products	SAE
Introduction to Beef Production	Entomology
Introduction to Dairy Production	Entomology Identification
Introduction to Poultry Production	Plant Science
Introduction to Sheep Production	Soil Science
Introduction to Swine Production	Fruit and Vegetable Production

**IV. Identify program instructional contact hours, course sequence, and grade levels (if applicable).**

The Agricultural Education curriculum will follow the guidelines developed by Agricultural Education Section, DESE. The major units will be as follows:

- Freshman Course - Agricultural Science I—176 contact hours
- Sophomore Course - Agricultural Science II—176 contact hours
- Junior & Seniors – Course offerings would be determined by student interests and needs, evaluation of community resources and input from the agriculture instructors and advisory committee.—Depending on course either 88 or 176 contact hours.

The following courses are presently being considered:

- Agricultural Structures
- Agricultural Construction
- Agricultural Communications
- Turf and Landscape Management
- Crop Science
- Nursery Operations and Management

Exploration courses for 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> grade may be offered. Additionally, adult courses may be offered as needed.

## **V. Identify major methods of instructional delivery**

Instruction for the secondary program will occur in all three components of an agriculture program: classroom/laboratory; the Supervised Agricultural Experience, and the student organization, FFA. Experiential education, using the problem-solving approach, will provide the basis for the program. Laboratory instruction will take place in the agricultural mechanics shop, with students doing hands-on projects. All students will be required to develop an individualized Supervised Agricultural Experience program. Leadership and communication skills will be encouraged through active participation in the FFA. To insure adequate delivery, the instructor(s) will be employed on a 12-month contract. Adult instruction will be provided to address the needs of and to strengthen the partnership with the community.

All new text and related materials will be selected by future Agricultural Education instructors in conjunction with all parties concerned.

## **VI. Identify the Career and Technical Student Organization and describe how it will be used to support curriculum, instruction, and assessment.**

An FFA chapter will be organized and affiliated with state and national organizations. All students enrolled in class will be eligible to participate. An annual Program of Activities will be developed in order to achieve the organization's mission statement for assisting students to achieve premier leadership, personal growth, and career success. Academic skills, which will increase student achievement on assessments, will be integrated into both individual and team activities. The West Platte Board of Education recently passed a new policy which provides District financial support for students who qualify to compete at the national and international levels. All state level competition is covered in full by the District.

## **VII. Identify postsecondary partners and/or business/apprenticeship partners. Provide a brief summary of possible postsecondary articulation agreements/dual credit agreements and/or partnership agreements that will be put in place once program/course is operational.**

Program graduates will be assisted in transition to employment, college, or technical training by the instructor and counselor. Community Colleges and Universities with agriculture programs will be contacted to develop articulation agreements or the delivery of dual credit courses.

## **VIII. Identify and describe opportunities for assisting students in transitions to the workplace or continued education through such activities as experiential education, cooperative education, internships, apprenticeships, job shadowing, and job placement.**

The instructor will provide most of the required services. The instructor will be required to guide the students in the classroom and counsel them concerning their Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE) projects. Home visitations will be an important factor in the guidance area. Additional guidance services will be provided by the high school counselor and principal.

Surveys will be utilized as a follow-up procedure to determine the effectiveness of the Agricultural Education program. Insights from former students and ideas from surrounding schools will be used to help formulate new approaches to instruction and improvement to the curriculum.

## **IX. Identify the assessment plan to measure student progress including competency achievement.**

The standards of performance and student expectations will be determined by the West Platte Curriculum Director and instructor using the competencies developed by the DESE. The individual student will be responsible for the successful completion of various projects and reports assigned by the instructor. An instructional management system will be used to monitor student mastery of competencies.

## **X. Identify the plan for evaluating the effectiveness of the program, including evaluation instrument(s) used, methods of evaluation, and how results will be used for program improvement. For secondary level programs, identify the process for including program improvements in the overall district Comprehensive School Improvement Plan (CSIP).**

An annual program evaluation will be provided the Board of Education. An evaluation plan for this program will be written by the instructor, with input from the administration and the advisory committee.

The plan will include goals, a description of the process, a list of data sources, a time line, and a description of the process for improvement. It is anticipated that data sources will include graduate follow-up surveys, student course/program evaluations, enrollment trends, placement trends, the Standards and Quality Indicators document, MSIP/CSIP reports, and other surveys or questionnaires, as needed. Evaluation will be a joint effort of the school district, the instructor, and the advisory committee. Additionally, the program will be assessed by state department officials. Our goal will be to better meet the needs and interest of the students and the agriculture, food, fiber and natural resource community. Changes to the program based on the annual program evaluation will be implemented into the CSIP.

## **XI. Other Information**

### **Budget Information:**

#### **A. Anticipated Salary Expenditure:**

The projected base expenditure for an Agricultural Education instructor would be approximately \$45,333.00 per year, 12/9ths of the base on the Certified Salary Schedule.

#### **B. Major Equipment Currently Available**

Agricultural Construction and Agricultural Structures will be able to use most of the equipment currently available in the existing shop department. (An inventory and list of supplies is available in the Superintendent's office.)

#### **C. Proposed Equipment, Teachings Aids, and Supplies Expenditures**

Decisions have not been made at this time. This area would be determined after consultation with the agriculture instructors and members of the State Department of Education. The school will follow guidelines recommended by Missouri Universities, and colleges and the state department. An Enhancement Grant application will be completed and submitted for equipment essential to instruction in high demand career areas. The District is in an excellent financial condition to provide local support as well as matching funds for grant opportunities.

D. Long Range Plans for Major Equipment Purchases:

When purchases are made, the equipment will be obtained in conjunction with the State Department of Education's support and recommendations. Long range plans include support for a highly-competitive, highly-successful, overall program.

E. Adult Education

Some discussion has taken place for the addition of an FBMA Program. The goal is to tie the school to the community through the involvement of adults. A community survey revealed a number of adult educational needs. The District is in the process of determining the comprehensive approach to adult education at this time.

## XII. Commendations

On behalf of the students of the West Platte School District and the multiple farming communities we serve, thank you for your time in reviewing this application. We believe this program can quickly develop and will reach the goal of Growing Tomorrow's Leaders in Agriculture. Thank you for your consideration, and we graciously ask for your approval and support!

