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🔆 Activity 1.2.3 Learning Beyond the Classroom

Purpose

Open up the world of agriculture beyond the classroom with a Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE) project. SAE projects allow you to take the knowledge and skills you learn in the classroom and apply them to a real-life project of your choice. A SAE program gives you a chance to "test drive" potential careers while earning money and gaining experience in the process.

Having a project to apply things learned in school reinforces the skills and knowledge you will need to be successful in future endeavors. In many cases, student SAE programs emerge into successful businesses, even before students finish high school. SAE programs are like a head start on your future.

Six types of SAE programs await you. When you begin searching for an agricultural career of interest, you can start an exploratory SAE. If you are invested in, own, and operate a business then an entrepreneurship SAE might be right for you. If you plan to work for an agricultural business, you would have a placement SAE program. Agriscience research projects are part of the research SAE program. Some schools employ students to operate a school farm or greenhouse for a school-based SAE. Finally, community service programs organized by you could be a service learning SAE.

This course will provide you countless opportunities to explore SAE projects. With some help from your teacher and persistence on your part to develop a strong project, you will have great success. A starting point for SAE success is planning. How can you develop a SAE that meets your needs and interests?

Materials

Per class:

- SAE Idea Cards
- SAE Wall Chart
- Dry erase pen

Per student:

- Pencil
- *Agriscience Notebook*

Procedure

Develop an exploratory SAE program to experience a career pathway of your choice.

1. Use your personal information collected in *Activity 1.2.2 Agriscience Careers and Me* to choose one of the following AFNR career pathways interesting to you and record the career pathway on the *Exploratory Worksheet*.

   - Agribusiness Systems
   - Animal Systems
   - Environmental Service Systems
   - Food Products and Processing Systems
   - Natural Resource Systems
   - Plant Systems
   - Power, Structural and Technical Systems

2. Use the SAE Idea Cards to identify three entrepreneurial, placement, and agriscience/research based SAEs interesting to you and related to your chosen career pathway.

3. Record each SAE idea in the proper category in Table 1 on the *Exploratory Worksheet*.

4. Identify a career you could have in the local area related to each SAE. Record the career in Table 1 on the *Exploratory Worksheet*. You should have nine careers recorded.

5. For each SAE category, circle a career you would like to explore. You should have three circled.

6. Work with your instructor to identify people in your community who work in each career field you circled.

For your Exploratory SAE, visit with and interview individuals who work in each of the three career fields you circled. You must meet personally with at least one of the individuals. With teacher approval, you may be able to converse via phone or email with up to two. Complete the following during your interviews.
- Use the *Exploratory Worksheet* to ask each individual about his or her career.
- Record their answers in Table 2 on the worksheet
- For at least one interview:
    o Take one or more photos of the individual working at their job
    o If possible, assist or work with him or her at their job site
- Document your activities in your record book

Your teacher will tell you the due date for completion of the interview. After you have visited with three people working in your chosen pathway, use what you have learned to plan your own SAE destiny by completing Table 3. Place your completed *Exploratory Worksheet* into Section V. SAE of your *Career Portfolio*.

Conclusion

1. What are the different types of SAE projects that interest you?

2. Why do you think SAE programs are valuable to your future career?

3. How will you learn the necessary knowledge and skills you will need to be successful with your SAE program?

Activity 1.2.3 Exploratory Worksheet

Table 1. SAE Descriptions

Pathway:	
Entrepreneurship SAE Descriptions	**Entrepreneurship Careers**
1.raise snakes	Conservationist, Zoologist, and Restoration Specialist
2.Pet sitting	Animal Physical Therapist, Small Animal Veterinarian, and Customer Service OWNERSHIP/ ENTREPRENEURSHIP Representative
3.Hikikng services	Extension Agent, Ecologist, and Conservationist
Placement SAE Descriptions	**Placement Careers**
1.horse stable	Bloodstock Agent, Horse Trainer/Instructor, and Penrider
2. Work as a wildlife outfitter or guide.	Conservationist, Environmental Compliance Officer, and Game Warden
3. predator control service	Environmental Compliance Officer, Restoration Specialist and Game Warden
Research SAE Descriptions	**Agriscience/Research Careers**
1. Assist at a local animal shelter	Veterinary Assistant, Administrative Assistant, and Animal Physical Therapist
2. Research methods of predator control and trapping	Bioinformatics Scientist, Environmental Compliance Officer, and Game Warden
3. Conduct surveys of wildlife populations	Game Warden, Zoologist, and Bioinformatics Scientist

Table 2. *Destiny Interview Responses*

Career Planning Questions	Entrepreneurship Response	Placement Response	Agriscience/Research Response
D irection What direction did you take to get to this career?			
E mploy Who helped you along the way?			
S trategy What actions did you take to get to your career you have now?			
T imeline When did you start preparing for this career?			
I nitiate How did you get started?			
N otion Why do you work in this career field?			
Y ield What have you gained from your experiences in this career?			

Table 3. *Personal Destiny Questions*

Planning Questions for Consideration:	Your Response
SAE interesting to you:	
Description of your chosen SAE Program:	
D irection What direction will this program take me in terms of a career? Where can I go?	
E mploy Who should I employ to help me? Who are my resources?	
S trategy What is my strategy or action plan? How do I get there?	
T imeline What is my timeline? When do I need to start preparing?	
I nitiate What must be initiated first? How do I get started?	
N otion What is the notion behind choosing this SAE? Why do I want to do this?	
Y ield What will this project yield in the short-term? What exactly do I expect from this experience?	