**SAE Information**

**Your child will be responsible for maintaining an SAE project with records during the semester that is 20% of his/her final grade. The type of SAE is student chosen based on likes, interest and/or ability. Below is some information on the SAE portion of the Agricultural Education Program as well as a grading sheet attached. This project should be neat and organized upon completion before turning in. If you and your child need assistance or have questions please contact me. (See syllabus)**

**Definition of SAE**

The SAE is a supervised agricultural experience that is conducted outside of the regular agricultural education class time. The SAE is designed to help a student develop and apply agricultural knowledge and skills that are taught in the agricultural education class and/or laboratory. The SAE is conducted with direct supervision of the agricultural education teacher. The SAE may be a relatively short one-time educational experience, or it may be a series of educational experiences that are completed over one or more years during the student’s enrollment in agricultural education.

**Types of SAEs**

There are seven types of SAEs:

1. Exploratory

2. Entrepreneur

3. Placement

4. Experimental Research

5. Non-Experimental Research

6. Improvement

7. Supplemental

Exploratory SAE activities are designed to help students become more knowledgeable in areas of agriculture and/or become more aware of possible careers in agriculture. Exploratory SAEs are especially appropriate for middle school students or other beginning agricultural students. However, these SAE activities are not restricted to beginning students.

Entrepreneur SAE programs involve the student planning, implementing and operating a production agriculture activity or agricultural business. The student assumes financial risks since he/she may make a profit for may have a loss. In entrepreneur SAEs, the student owns animals, crops, equipment and other required inputs and keeps financial records to determine return to investments. Examples of entrepreneur SAEs include livestock projects, a lawn care business and growing bedding plants in the school greenhouse.

Placement SAE programs involve the placement of students on farms, in agribusinesses, in school facilities or in community facilities to provide a learning by doing environment. The activities are conducted outside of normal classroom hours and may be paid or non-paid. Examples of placement SAEs include working in the produce department of a grocery store, working at a garden center and working on a farm.

Experimental research SAEs involve an extensive activity in which the student plans and conducts an agricultural experiment using the scientific process. The purpose of the experiment is to provide students hands-on experiences in verifying, learning or demonstrating scientific principles in agriculture. Experimental activities are especially suited for students in agricultural classes with a strong emphasis on agriscience. However, these activities can provide students in any type of agricultural class with valuable learning experiences. Examples include comparing effects of various planting media on plant growth and determining the impact of different types of feed on fish growth.

Non-experimental research SAEs involve designing a plan to investigate and analyze a problem or situation that does not require scientific research. The students gather and evaluate data from a variety of sources, then produce some type of finished product. Developing a school recycling plan or developing a land use map for a farm are examples of a non-experimental research SAE.

Improvement SAEs include a series of learning activities designed to improve the value or appearance of the student’s home, school, community or place of employment. These activities may also improve the efficiency of an enterprise or business. Improvement SAEs may also be designed to improve the living conditions of the student’s family. An improvement SAE activity involves a series of steps and generally require more than one day to complete. Landscaping the home or overhauling an engine are examples of improvement SAEs.

Supplemental SAEs involve the student performing one specific agricultural skills outside of normal class time. This skill is not related to the student’s major SAE. The skill is normally taught in an agricultural education program, involves experiential learning and does contribute to the development of agricultural skills and knowledge for the student. The activity is usually accomplished in less than a day since it does not require a series of steps. Pruning a fruit tree or performing maintenance jobs on equipment are examples of supplemental SAEs.