

East Limestone FFA



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Welcome to the East Limestone FFA Handbook

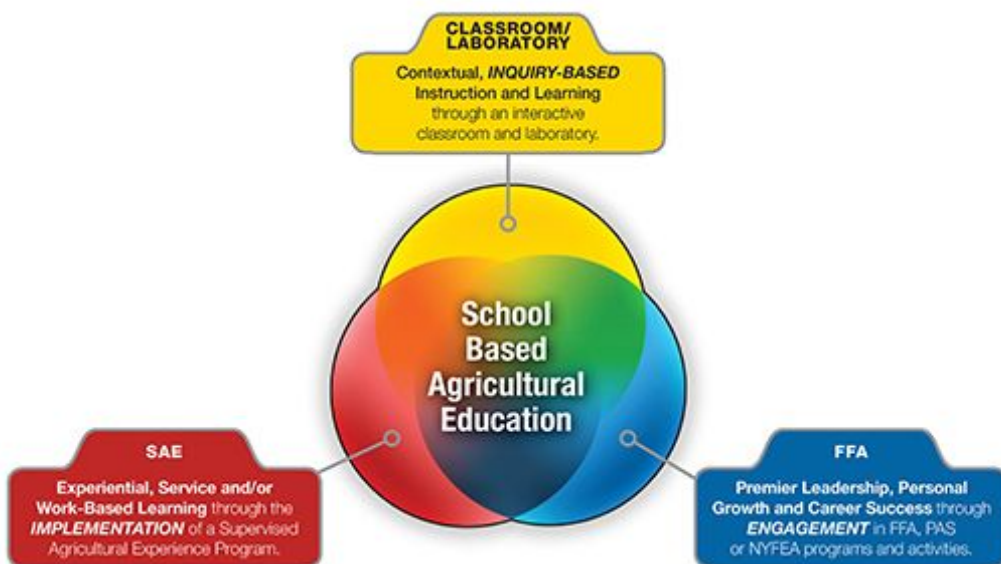
Welcome to the East Limestone FFA Parent-Student Handbook. You will notice that it is not just a handbook for the FFA, but for the entire Agriscience Education Program, including Agriscience Education Classes, FFA, and Supervised Agricultural Experiences – these are integral components of the program that really cannot be separated.

This handbook should answer any questions you have about our program and all of the opportunities that we have planned for the coming school year. If you have any questions that are not addressed in the handbook, always feel free to contact our FFA Advisor and Agriscience teacher, Morgan Lambard, by email at morgan.lambard@lcsk12.org. All of this information can be overwhelming and a lot to take in all at once, but once your child becomes more involved in Agriscience a lot of the things in this handbook will begin to make more sense.

Program Description

The Agriscience Education Program is much more than a class. Classroom instruction gives students the knowledge and skills they need for success in today's world, and students get a chance to practice and apply these knowledge and skills in their Supervised Agricultural Experience Projects (SAE) and through the National FFA Organization. When the three parts are properly integrated, student education is maximized. Students learn important academic, career, technical, and life skills when all types of instruction are used.

This program is to help students discover and develop their passions in life and give them authentic experiences to prepare them for the future.



What is an SAE?

An SAE, or Supervised Agricultural Experience, is the actual, hands-on application of agricultural skills outside the classroom. Students are supervised by agricultural education teachers, parents, employers, and other adults who assist them in the development and achievement of their educational and career goals.

SAE is a time honored and tested form of work-based learning. An SAE program can be whatever the student wants it to be—an agricultural business of his/her own, a job shadowing experience, a placement in a paid or unpaid job using agriculturally-related skills and competencies, an experiment, or any other activity that helps the student gain hands on learning. It is a program designed cooperatively by the student, advisor and parents.

Students should have at least one SAE each year that they are enrolled in the Ag Ed/FFA program. This can be the same or different experience. Students are required to keep records on their SAE – the records are graded and included in their class grades. SAEs can sometimes incorporate things students are already doing in their normal routine, the recordkeeping would just be added to it.

Students keep records (including pictures) for each SAE, and these records are submitted using the website TheAET.com (see “The AET Website” section) as part of the Ag Education class grade. We will go through the process of choosing an SAE during class and Ms. Lambard will work with each student to help develop an SAE tailored to their interests. Once an SAE is chosen, students will develop a plan for their SAE that both the parents and the teacher will have to sign off on before beginning (so no surprise animal projects coming home!)

Livestock-based projects may be entered and exhibited at the county and state fairs, but this is not required. Students can also be rewarded for successful SAE projects through the FFA’s Proficiency Award Program. (See “Proficiency Awards” section) SAEs are also one component of selection to the various levels of FFA membership, also known as Degrees. (See “Degrees of Membership” Section.) Grants are available through FFA to help fund certain SAEs. Some SAEs can be part of projects at the school, though the student is still fully responsible for any care or management the project needs. (Ex: gardens, fish tank, animals)

Examples of SAE’s:

- Lawn Mowing Business
- Raising and Showing Beef Cattle
- Alternative Pest Management
- Testing Alternative Ingredients in Cooking
- Trapping Nuisance Animals
- Working on ATV’s
- Helping on Family Farm
- 4H projects
- Kennel Technician
- Job Shadowing
- Raising Goats
- Building a Greenhouse
- Building a Big Green Egg Table
- Volunteering at Animal Shelter
- Growing Bait Crickets/Worms
- Jobs already held by the student
- Animal Sitting/Baby Sitting

What is FFA?

All Agriculture students are members of the FFA (formerly Future Farmers of America, now known as “ The National FFA Organization”). FFA is an INTRA-curricular activity - not extracurricular like sports or clubs. This means that it is a part of the class students are taking and that students are expected to be in FFA.

This expectation is similar to what is expected of students enrolled in vocal or instrumental music classes --participation in performances is required and is a part of the students' grades. The difference is that in Ag Ed classes you are not required to participate in all activities, just certain activities which are assigned. Therefore, your participation in FFA will never reduce your grade, but can increase your grade.

East Limestone FFA offers a multitude of opportunities for leadership development, community service, competitive events, scholarships, and skill development. A brief overview of some of these will be discussed in this packet. Visit ffa.org or alabamaffa.org for more information from the National and State FFA Organizations.

TheAET.com will also be used to record students' participation in FFA events that will be used for grading, as well as tracking for awards available through the National FFA Organization.

Opportunities in FFA

Degrees

FFA is structured into a degree program which rewards the active FFA member for progress in all phases of leadership, skill, and SAE development. Students are encouraged to earn and apply for FFA Degrees. The degrees are listed below in chronological order. Ask an ag teacher or visit www.ffa.org for requirements.

- Greenhand FFA Degree (awarded at local level)
- Chapter FFA Degree (awarded at local level)
- State FFA Degree (awarded at state level)
- American FFA Degree (awarded at national level)

Every member should earn at least their Greenhand FFA Degree. Every degree after that is completely up to the member to pursue, though they are strongly recommended and asking for help with the process is encouraged. These degrees can be used to apply for scholarships and look great on a resume.

Career Development Events (CDE)

Career opportunities abound within today's agriculture industry. Career Development Events (CDE) help students develop the abilities to think critically, communicate clearly, and perform effectively in a competitive job market. Career Development Events encourage members to put classroom knowledge into practice and allow students to compete in areas they are passionate about.

There are several CDEs, covering job skills in everything from communications to mechanics. Some events allow students to compete as individuals, while others allow them to compete in teams. These include, but are not limited to:

- Creed Speaking
- Extemporaneous Speaking
- Prepared Public Speaking
- Parliamentary Procedure
- Conduct of Chapter Meetings
- Dairy Cattle
- Horse Evaluation
- Livestock Evaluation
- Poultry Evaluation
- Meats Evaluation
- Veterinary Science
- Floriculture
- Nursery/Landscape
- Environmental Science
- Forestry
- Aquaculture
- Agricultural Mechanics
- Safe Tractor Driving
- Agricultural Construction
- Agricultural Education
- Land Evaluation
- Small Engines
- Quartet
- String Band

There will be sign up sheets for each of these CDE's. If your student is interested in a competition they are encouraged to talk to Ms. Lambard for more information and to look over a handbook for that competition. Most CDE's have a competition at the district, state, and national level.

Proficiency Awards

The Agricultural Proficiency Awards program helps students set goals and gain skills. The program rewards FFA members at the local, state and national levels for exceptional accomplishments and excellence in a Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE) program. Awards are available to all FFA members enrolled in high school agriculture. Visit www.ffa.org for more information.

Proficiency award areas may include, but are not limited to:

- Agricultural Communications
- Agricultural Education
- Agricultural Mechanics Design & Fabrication

- Agricultural Mechanics Repair & Maintenance
- Agricultural Mechanics Energy Systems
- Agricultural Processing
- Agricultural Sales
- Agricultural Services
- Aquaculture Beef Production
- Dairy Production
- Diversified Agricultural Production
- Diversified Crop Production
- Diversified Horticulture
- Diversified Livestock Production
- Emerging Agricultural Technology
- Environmental Science & Natural Resource
- Equine Science
- Floriculture
- Food Science & Tech
- Forage Production
- Forest Management & Products
- Fruit Production
- Goat Production
- Grain Production
- Home or Community Development
- Landscape Management
- Nursery Operations
- Outdoor Recreation
- Poultry Production
- Sheep Production
- Small Animal Production & Care
- Specialty Animal Production
- Specialty Crop Production
- Swine Production
- Turf Grass Management
- Vegetable Production
- Wildlife Management

Office and Committees:

Students can apply in the Spring to be an FFA Officer for the next year. After experiencing one year as a Chapter Officer, they may apply as an Alabama District or State Officer if they would like. More information on Officer responsibilities will be given out during the second semester.

Any FFA member may be on a committee. Committees are subject to change every year depending on the needs of the chapter. If there are any students that would like to suggest or be on a specific committee, they are encouraged to talk to Ms. Lambard about it.

The AET

The AET (Agriculture Experience Tracker) is to help keep track of all of the experiences students have while in Agriscience and FFA. Students will go over how to log on with their usernames and passwords during class, as well as learn how to navigate the website.

This website will be where students will journal about their SAE's. Keeping a record for their SAE's is very important, as it is part of their grade. If the student's SAE is one that cannot be journaled throughout the year (Ex: only able to job shadow during Spring Break, or building a project that takes a week) then we will arrange for something appropriate for the student to do to receive their grade throughout the year. This is also a FANTASTIC way to keep up with financials if they are part of a student's SAE. We will also go over that aspect of the website in class, and if needed Ms. Lambard will send information to the parents on how to best utilize this feature.

Another use for this website is to keep track of membership and events attended. As mentioned earlier, participation in FFA events can help increase a grade and provide opportunities for Degrees and awards. Students will each have a barcode that can be saved on the website's app or in a physical copy. When attending events Ms. Lambard just needs to scan the barcode to ensure the student's attendance is recorded.

Why is it so awesome that the AET can keep all of this information in one place? Because when students fill out application from FFA - such as degree applications, proficiency awards, and scholarship awards - the AET website automatically populates the correct spaces! All of those records are right there and put into the application where they are supposed to go. This cuts down on time and trouble needed to fill out an application.

Not only does it help students with their applications, it helps Ms. Lambard keep up with students' membership and contact information and is very important to keeping Ms. Lambard's records accurate and in order.

Conclusion

Hopefully this packet has helped answer some of the many questions there are about the Ag Education classes and FFA. If you have any further questions, concerns, or need clarification on anything do not hesitate to contact Ms. Lambard at morgan.lambard@lcsk12.org.