

Working Effectively with Your Local Agriculture Instructor

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The purpose of your local FFA Alumni Affiliate is to advocate for agricultural education. Whether you find yourself in a community that has had the same teacher for many years or in a community that has had several teachers in recent years, your role is to support the students and the program.

Teaching agricultural education is a challenging job. Teachers work individually with students on their Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE) programs, career goals, and training for various Career Development Events offered through the FFA. Teachers also take students to State-sponsored leadership activities, thereby encouraging them to become better community leaders and volunteers. Most of our teachers teach five to seven different classes a day. This is not the case with math, English or history teachers who might only prepare for two different classes per day. Your agriculture teacher needs all the assistance they can get!

As an Alumni member and or parent, you should know what goals your local agriculture teacher has for the program. You might ask how you can assist to meet those expectations. Traveling in the same direction makes reaching the goal so much easier for everyone.

The ideal agriculture program should function as follows:

- The Agricultural Education Advisory Committee provides the vision for the program.
- Your agriculture teacher(s) direct(s) the program.
- The local FFA Alumni supports efforts to achieve the vision.

How well does your local FFA Alumni Affiliate score? Directions: Copy this form and ask your local Alumni Executive Committee or members at your annual meeting, to evaluate your affiliate's progress. Place a check mark before all the items your affiliate is currently doing. Then add up the marks and see how you scored.

- _____ Coach students for career development events.
- _____ Assist with agricultural improvement programs for home or farm.
- _____ Assist with students' supervised agricultural experience (SAE) programs and other work-based learning.
- _____ Chaperone students on FFA trips or competitions.
- _____ Raise funds to support the agriculture program and FFA chapter projects.
- _____ Sponsor scholarships for FFA members' post-secondary education.
- _____ Judge local award applications and career development events.
- _____ Advocate for the agriculture program and FFA chapter at school board and town council meetings.
- _____ Support exchanges between other chapters or international students.
- _____ Invite administrators to participate in the Northern or Southern Foundation Golf Outings.
- _____ Transport students to agriculture-related events and tours.
- _____ Finance students' trips to Washington Leadership Conference or the National FFA Convention.
- _____ Provide opportunities for all of your Alumni members to become involved in your affiliate.
- _____ Train Alumni officers to perform their responsibilities.
- _____ Assume responsibility for Alumni mailings, and award applications.
- _____ Support an Alumni membership committee which is responsible for recruitment.
- _____ Participate in sectional, state, and national Alumni activities.
- _____ Other _____

_____ **TOTAL SCORE**

**1-3 Fair. 4-8 You are helping FFA members. 9-14 Your FFA members are fortunate!
15-17 You should be applying for State Alumni awards!**