

2026 EXPLORATORY AGRICULTURE, FOOD, AND NATURAL RESOURCE

Program Standards

CONTENT STANDARD 1.0: PRINCIPLES OF AGRICULTURE EDUCATION

Performance Standard 1.1: The Three Circles of Agriculture Education

- 1.1.1 Define the value, role, and opportunities provided through career technical student organizations (i.e., FFA).
- 1.1.2 Investigate careers exploration and skill development.
- 1.1.3 Identify opportunities to engage in school-based agricultural education and agricultural literacy.
- 1.1.4 Engage in foundational components of a Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE).

Performance Standard 1.2: Agriculture in Everyday Life

- 1.2.1 Identify primary industries and pathways in agriculture, food, and natural resources.
- 1.2.2 Describe how agriculture and natural resources contribute to local, state, national, and global economies and food supplies.
- 1.2.3 Recognize the role of technology in agriculture, food, and natural resources across industries.

CONTENT STANDARD 2.0: EXPLORING AGRICULTURE INDUSTRY SECTORS

Performance Standard 2.1: Animal Science

- 2.1.1 Explore livestock and companion animal industries.
- 2.1.2 Identify livestock species and breeds.
- 2.1.3 Determine animal roles and uses in agriculture and society.

Performance Standard 2.2: Plant Science

- 2.2.1 Identify basic plant structures and their roles within the plant.
- 2.2.2 Describe basic needs of plant growth from germination to soil fertility.
- 2.2.3 Identify common agricultural crop industries and their uses.

Performance Standard 2.3: Natural Resources/Environmental Management

- 2.3.1 Explore responsible stewardship of land, water, plants, animals, and natural resources.
- 2.3.2 Identify renewable and nonrenewable resources and how they relate to everyday life.

Performance Standard 2.4: Agriculture Power, Structural, and Mechanical Systems

- 2.4.1 Identify common agricultural tools, equipment, and technologies.
- 2.4.2 Create a project plan using appropriate engineering design processes.
- 2.4.3 Apply measurements to real-world agricultural applications.

Performance Standard 2.5: Edible Agriculture

- 2.5.1 Describe how edible agricultural products are grown, produced, and distributed within food systems.
- 2.5.2 Recognize the connection between agriculture and human nutrition.

CONTENT STANDARD 3.0: FOUNDATIONAL SKILLS IN AGRICULTURE SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Performance Standard 3.1: Agricultural Science and Laboratory Skills

- 3.1.1 Demonstrate the proper use of personal protective equipment (PPE) related to classroom labs.



- 3.1.2 Follow written and verbal lab procedures.
- 3.1.3 Describe basic lab safety rules and emergency protocols for lab activities.

Performance Standard 3.2: Emerging Technologies in Agriculture

- 3.2.1 Describe how innovation and technology improve productivity, sustainability, and resource management.
- 3.2.2 Explore the importance of biotechnology as it relates to feeding a growing world population.

IDCTE Document Control Information

Program Standard Revision: Middle School Exploratory: Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources

Date	Standard #	Original	Summary of Change	Revised By	Approved By