



The Final Four – Agricultural Leadership Opportunities

Middle School Food and Agricultural Literacy Curriculum

Precepts

- C. Vision
 - C1. Contemplate the Future.
- F. Continuous Improvement
 - F1. Implement a leadership and personal growth plan.
- E. Awareness
 - E2. Perform Leadership tasks associated with citizenship.

National Standards

- CS.01.03.01.b.CS.01.03.01.b. Utilize visioning skills to develop a plan.
- CS.01.06.01.b. Develop a plan that includes specific goals for leadership and personal growth.
- CS.02.03.01.a. Explore various career interests/options.
- NL-ENG.K-12.4 – Communication Skills
- NL-ENG.K-12.12 – Applying Language Skills
- NT.K-12.5 – Technology Research Tools

Student Learning Objectives

- As a result of this **unit** the student will...
- Apply foundational and life skills learned through **agriculture** in the school and community setting.
- As a result of this **lesson**, the student will ...
- Describe three agricultural leadership opportunities.

Content Outline

Objective 1. Describe three **agricultural leadership** opportunities.

I. What is **agricultural leadership**?

- A. Break the words down
 - 1. **Agricultural**: relating to the food, fiber, and natural resource systems.
 - 2. **Leadership: Influence**: an act or instance of leading; guidance; direction.

Time

Instruction time for this lesson: 45 minutes.

Resources

Kolb, David. (1984). *Experiential Learning: Experience As the Source of Learning and Development*. Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice-Hall, Inc.
Frank, L.S. (2004). *Journey Toward the Caring Classroom*. Oklahoma City, OK: Wood 'N' Barnes Publishing & Distribution.

Tools, Equipment and Supplies

Overhead projector/transparencies
FFA Manuals
FFA Student Handbooks
Computers with Internet Access
Any FFA Educational Materials
MS.IAS.3.5.TM.A – one per teacher
MS.IAS.3.5.TM.B – one per teacher
MS.IAS.3.5.AS.A – one per student
MS.IAS.3.5.ASSESS.A – one per student

Key Terms

The following terms are presented in this lesson and appear in **bold italics**:

Agriculture
Leadership
Influence

- 3. ***Agricultural Leadership*** is the act of influencing those involved with food, fiber, and natural resource systems.

II. **Agricultural Leadership Opportunities**

- Chapter FFA officer
- Creed Speaking Competition
- Being on a committee
- Teaching children about ***agriculture*** – Food for America
- Teaching adults about ***agriculture***
- Giving a speech on ***agriculture***
- Being a State or National FFA Officer
- Helping with a trash pickup day
- Helping others with their FFA projects
- Parliamentary Procedure Contest
- Extemporaneous speaking



- Mentoring young students – PALS
- Helping with National FFA Week
- Creating a booth at the local fair
- Competing in the Agricultural Issues Contest
- Researching an agricultural issue
- Completing an agriscience project
- Starting a recycling team
- Doing a short radio announcement
- Writing a letter to your local congressman or woman

Interest Approach

Welcome Back!

As students walk in have them sit down.

Today, we will be exploring how you can be a **leader** in the world of **agriculture**. When I say LEAD, you have 30 seconds to think of a person that you believe is a leader. Also think of why you chose that person. LEAD!

While students are thinking, write on any writing surface the word "Leaders." When 30 seconds is up begin asking for the students' responses.

Before we begin, who will be our scribe to capture all the ideas on the board around "**leaders**." Thank You _____. Your job is to capture both the leader and reasons in any format you would like.

Who will share their leader and reasons first?

Allow as many students as you have time for to share. Capture the ideas on the board.

Those individuals have shaped our world today and we all did a great job explaining why. We call these people leaders because they have **influenced** our world, the United States, and maybe even you and me specifically. **Leadership** is all about influencing others to do something or support something.

You and I can be leaders as well. We can **influence** people to believe in and act for **agriculture**. All of us in this class are studying the huge world of **agriculture**. Many people misunderstand what **agriculture** is and how important it is to all of us.

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So it is important that there are **agricultural leaders** to support the industry.

By the end of today, you will be able to describe three different ways that you can be an **agricultural leader**. You may not be able to be the Secretary of **Agriculture** just yet, but as a middle school student there are many things you can do!

Objective 1. Describe three **agricultural leadership** opportunities.

Utilize **MS.IAS.3.5.TM.A** as an overview of content

I. What is **Agricultural Leadership**?

Before any of us can become **agricultural leaders**, we must first learn what an agricultural leader is. Let's start with some examples.

Does anyone know who George Washington Carver is?

Elicit student responses. Allow student to share what they know.

George Washington Carver was an **agricultural leader** for a number of reasons. First, he was one of the first African American Agricultural Scientists. Second, he did very valuable research that helped improve peanut production and also developed many ways peanuts can be used. He **influenced** the field of **agriculture** through his research.

What about Leslie Applegate? Has anyone heard that name?

Elicit responses. Students may not know this one, which is OK.

Leslie Applegate was the first student National FFA Officer. He worked with 33 farm boys that met in Kansas City, Missouri, to create the National FFA Organization that has over half a million members today. His **leadership** or **influence** affects each of us here today.

Tom Vilsack is the Secretary of **Agriculture**. His job is to manage all of the agencies and processes associated with **agriculture** in the United States. His **influence** affects the entire world as we trade and produce food.



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Your resources are:

The Internet – www.ffa.org
The Official FFA Manual
The FFA Student Handbook
Your Teacher or Advisor
Other Students
Classroom Posters or Materials
Textbooks

At the end of 15 minutes you should have your **leadership** opportunities narrowed down to your final four. Be ready to share your favorite opportunity and why. Remember the go word is LEAD AWAY. What questions are there? LEAD AWAY.

Assist students during this period. This is a chance for students to choose the opportunities they are interested in and to learn more about those opportunities. If you choose, you could play some type of athletic music to add to the Final Four theme. Students would know to stop when the music stopped.

Give students a two-minute warning and have them sit down when time is up.

Great job! That sounded like an intense tournament. Who will share first their favorite agricultural **leadership** opportunity and why? Remember to keep it brief. Tell us the opportunity and why you chose it.

Allow students to share. This process helps all students develop an awareness of leadership opportunities.

Review/Summary

Eye Witness News e-Moment@:

There were some great ideas out there about how we can influence the world of agriculture through becoming leaders. To wrap up the day, we are going to be live on the news sharing the stories of how you plan to be a leader in agriculture. So, be ready to share when this mic (eraser, marker, fake microphone, etc.) comes to you.

Use the following questions. Have fun with and create questions as students respond.

All of these people are **agricultural leaders** because they have an influence on the field of **agriculture**. They have a what? *Student's respond.*
Influence.

Let's define what **agricultural leadership** is by breaking the words up.

Agricultural: relating to the food, fiber, and natural resource systems.

Leadership: Influence: an act or instance of leading; guidance; direction.

So when we put these together, we get:
Agricultural Leadership is the act of influencing those involved with food, fiber, and natural resource systems.

You may not be inventing uses for the peanut or serving the President of the United States, but you can be an agricultural leader as a middle school student. Let's figure out some ways you can **influence** the world of **agriculture**.

II. The Leadership Final Four.

Give each student one copy of **MS.IAS.3.5.AS.A.**

Utilize **MS.IAS.3.5.TM.B** as an overview of content

In front of you is a tournament bracket of **leadership** opportunities that you could be a part of right now. When I say LEAD AWAY, you will begin completing your **leadership** bracket just as you would with a sports bracket. You choose between each pair until you have your final four opportunities.

Some of you may not know what all these activities are. It is your job to research the ones you do not know. You have a number of resources you can use to learn more about each **leadership** opportunity. Also there are spots for four opportunities of your own choice if you want to add those.

Choose resources that you have for the students. Below is a list of suggested resources that you can change or adjust in a way that supports your resources. You can also add to the four open spots in the bracket if there are specific opportunities within your community.



Yes ma'am/sir, how do you plan on leading **agriculture?**

What exactly is **leadership?**

Who is a great agricultural leader in your mind?

Can you be an agricultural leader as a middle school member?

And this is KFFA News, signing off.

Any industry, club, or group needs **leaders** who want to have a positive impact on others. We need positive news stories about you becoming a **leader for agriculture.**

Today we have chosen opportunities that would allow you to be those **leaders** in the future! Now it is time to begin acting on that choice!

Application

Extended classroom activity:

This concept of agricultural leadership could be extended by having students do profile studies on various agricultural leaders prior to the lesson. Students would be grouped and assigned a famous agricultural leader. The students would prepare an expert report to give to the class. This would set the context for students to identify ways they could become leaders personally.

FFA activity:

Once students have chosen their top four leadership opportunities, they can research and begin the process of moving forward on their goals within the classroom/FFA setting. For middle school students, they could attend or shadow a chapter officer, watch a contest, or be a part of the activity they were interested in.

SAE activity:

If students have exposure to adults and agricultural leaders through their SAE, each student could interview that adult to research what an agricultural leader is and what opportunities there are for a middle school student.

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Evaluation

To evaluate students' understanding you have the option of collecting the tournament sheets or utilizing **MS.IAS.3.5.ASSESS.A**

Answers to Evaluation

For **MS.IAS.3.5.ASSESS.A** use the following answers:

1. Answers may vary. Possible answer is: the act of influencing those involved with food, fiber, and natural resource systems.
2. Answer should include three agricultural leadership opportunities and what that opportunity includes.



What is agricultural leadership?

- **Agricultural: relating to the food, fiber, and natural resource systems.**
- **Leadership: Influence: an act or instance of leading; guidance; direction.**
- **Agricultural Leadership is the act of influencing those involved with food, fiber, and natural resource systems.**

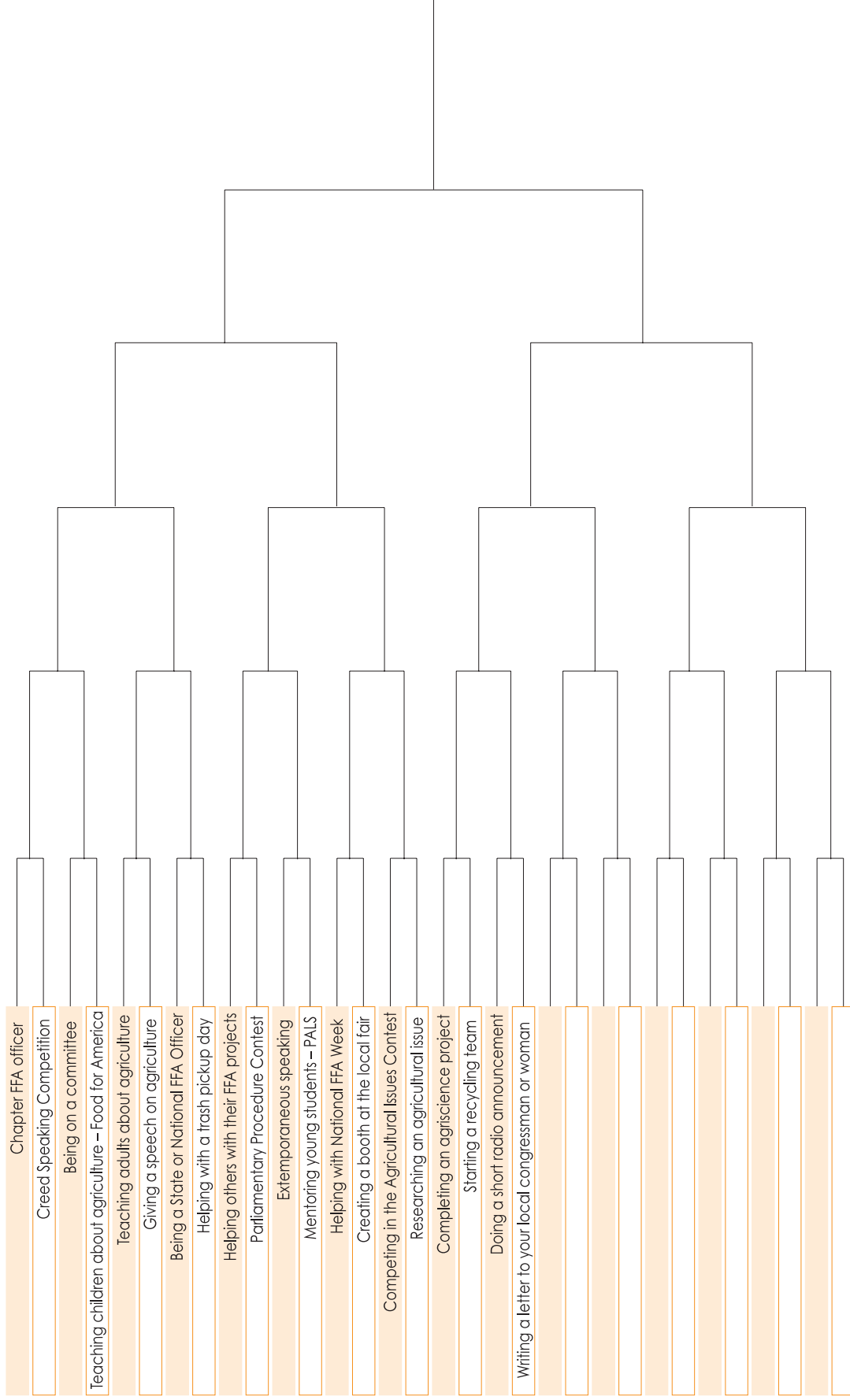


Agricultural Leadership Opportunities

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- Completing an agriscience project
- Starting a recycling team
- Doing a short radio announcement
- Writing a letter to your local congressman or woman
- Other options?



The opportunities are...





Name: _____

1. In your own words, what does it mean to be an agricultural leader?

2. List and describe three ways you can be an agricultural leader.
