



Proficiency and Star Awards

FFA.OH.4.7

Time Needed:

Activity 1 – 30 min

Activity 2 – 30 min

Materials:

Public writing surface

Internet access – in pairs

FFA.OH.4.7.AS.A – one copy per student

Objective:

1. Recognize proficiency and star award opportunities.

Content Outline

1. Define FFA proficiency awards.
2. Describe the Star Awards.

Activity 1 –

1. Ask students what it means to be “proficient.”
 - a. Answers may include adept, competent, experienced, accomplished, able, finished or well-advanced in any subject; skilled.
2. Once students have discussed the meaning of “proficient” ask them to discuss in small groups what skills would make them proficient in their SAEs.
3. Share small group discussion with the class.
4. Share the following facts:
 - a. FFA awards those who have become proficient with in areas of their SAE at the local, state and national levels.
 - b. Agricultural Proficiency Awards honor FFA members who, though their SAEs, have developed specialized skills that they can apply toward their future careers.
 - c. Students can compete for awards in multiple areas covering everything from Agricultural Communications to Wildlife Management.
 - d. Most award areas have two categories: placement and entrepreneurship.

- e. Placement Proficiency Awards are given to those whose SAEs are related to employment, apprenticeships, or internships at an agribusiness or agriculture-related organization.
 - f. Entrepreneurship Proficiency Awards are given to those whose SAEs are related to ownership of an agribusiness or agriculture-related organization.
 - g. Participants in the National Agricultural Proficiency Awards program will receive a rating of National Finalist, Gold, Silver, Bronze, Participant or Disqualified.
 - h. Four “National Finalists” are selected for each award area and will go on to compete for a national proficiency award. National Agricultural Proficiency Award winners are announced onstage during the National FFA Convention.
5. After this brief lecture, instruct students to use resources around the classroom – *The National FFA Official Manual*, *The Official FFA Student Handbook*, and FFA.org – to learn about one proficiency award area.
 6. Allow students to work in pairs for this exercise.
 7. Ask students to write down six facts about their chosen proficiency award areas.
 8. Once all students have explored the resources, each pair will report the six facts to the class.

Activity 2 –

1. Review with the class the following information about the American Star Awards:
 - a. American Star Award winners represent the best of the best among thousands of American FFA Degree recipients.
 - b. Finalists for the award have mastered skills in production, finance, management and/or research.
 - c. Each state FFA association recommends four American Star Award candidates – one for each of the four award areas.
 - d. The National FFA Organization selects four finalists per award area (16 in all).



2. Describe the four areas of the American Star Awards.
 - a. American Star Farmer
 - b. American Star in Agribusiness
 - c. American Star in Agricultural Placement
 - d. American Star in Agriscience
3. Either print out or allow students to access online the press releases for this year's American Star Farmer award recipients.
4. Ask students to create their own press releases describing their SAEs and leadership experiences as if they had just won in one of the four American Star Farmer award areas.

Additional Resources:

FFA.OH.4.7. ASSESS

FFA.OH.4.7.AS.A – FFA Awards Match-Up, cards could be used as a memory game or *Go-Get-It e-Moment*®.

FFA.OH.4.7.AS.B – Using *The Official FFA Student Handbook*, allow students to explore the proficiency areas.

FFA.OH.4.7.AS.C – Take your students on an SAE/Proficiency Field Trip. Help the students to see firsthand a successful SAE and relate the program to proficiency awards.

National FFA Organization website – www.ffa.org



Name: _____

Date: _____

Class: _____

Instructions: Match the following terms with the appropriate definition.

A.Proficiency Awards

B.FFA

C.Degree Program

D.American Star Awards

E.Occupational

- _____ 1. Your SAE program should reflect these goals.
- _____ 2. The proficiency awards are the most diverse award program offered by this organization.
- _____ 3. Finalists for these awards have mastered skills in production, finance, management and/or research.
- _____ 4. This program recognizes students for excellence in SAE.
- _____ 5. Rewards active FFA members for progress in all phases of leadership, skills and occupational development.



Name: _____

Date: _____

Class: _____

Instructions: Match the following terms with the appropriate definition.

A.Proficiency Awards

B.FFA

C.Degree Program

D.American Star Awards

E.Occupational

_____ **E** 1. Your SAE program should reflect these goals.

_____ **B** 2. The proficiency awards are the most diverse award program offered by this organization.

_____ **D** 3. Finalists for these awards have mastered skills in production, finance, management and/or research.

_____ **A** 4. This program recognizes students for excellence in SAE.

_____ **C** 5. Rewards active FFA members for progress in all phases of leadership, skills and occupational development.



FFA Awards – Match-Up

Proficiency Awards	Those who excel in their SAE programs can be recognized through this award. These awards encourage members to develop specialized skills that will apply toward a future career.
FFA Scholarships	More than \$2 million is given away each year through this award program.
Agriscience Fair	This program recognizes members who excel in the science of agriculture in one of five categories.
Agriscience Student Recognition and Scholarship Program	This program challenges students who have decided to advance the science of agriculture in their career. A significant amount of money is available in scholarships for these advancing students.
Agri-Entrepreneurship Award	This program awards students monetarily to promote their own businesses.
Star Awards	By rising to the top of each degree level, students are rewarded with these awards at the chapter, state and national levels.



Proficiency Awards

Name: _____

Date: _____

Class: _____

1. What must exist in order for proficiency awards to be given?

2. How many proficiency award areas currently exist?

3. Name the two types of proficiency awards. What is the difference between the two?

A. _____

B. _____

My SAEs and Proficiency Awards:

SAE Program #1: _____

Proficiency Award Area: _____

Would your idea for an SAE qualify for an entrepreneurship or placement proficiency? Why?

SAE Program #2: _____

Proficiency Award Area: _____

Would your idea for an SAE qualify for an entrepreneurship or placement proficiency? Why?

SAE Program #3: _____

Proficiency Award Area: _____

Would your idea for an SAE qualify for an entrepreneurship or placement proficiency? Why?



SAE and Proficiency Field Trip - Reflection

Name: _____

Date: _____

Class: _____

1. Describe the SAE you saw.
2. Why did he/she choose that SAE?
3. What are some of the major skills he/she has learned?
4. What are some of the major challenges he/she has to control or balance on a regular basis?
5. Describe how he/she keeps accurate records of the program.
6. What proficiency area(s) does this program qualify for?
7. What did you find most interesting about this SAE?
8. Even though your program may be entirely different than this example, what skills or advice can you apply to your own experience?