

Facilitating Coordination in Agricultural Education (FCAE) Update 3-11-22

[-FCAE Staff and Contact Information](#)

[-2021 AFNR Report downloaded here](#)

-FCAE Staff monthly reports can be accessed at www.ilaged.org/fcaemonthlyreports

-This year represents the beginning of 33 years that the Ag Ed Line Item and the FCAE Project have been in operation.

2020-21 School Year for Grades 5-12

AFNR Student Enrollment Unduplicated – **Total 32,656** (7% decrease)

4,212(5-8 grade), 28,444(9-12 grade), 214(Private Schools)

AFNR Student Enrollment Duplicated - **38,076** (8% decrease)

FFA Membership - **20,583** (.3% decrease)

preK-8 Grade (primarily) Students impacted by County Ag Literacy Partnerships – **163,981**
(64% decrease)

2019-20 - **463,441** (30% decrease)

6 New and Restart* Middle and High School Ag Programs for 2021-22

D2 - Grand Ridge Jr. High School, Rich Township STEM High School-Olympia Fields

D3 - *Liberty Middle School-Edwardsville, *Lincoln Middle School-Edwardsville,
Quincy Middle School

D4 - Home Fires Homeschool-Ridge Farm (added Jan2021)

1 Closed Middle and High School Ag Programs for 2021-22

D5 - Shawnee Hills Christian Academy-Anna Jonesboro

Total Middle and High School Programs for 2021-22 – 359

(5 year increase of 25 or 7%) (10 year increase of 38 or 12%)

Total Middle and High School Teachers for 2021-22 – 479

(5 year increase of 66 or 16%) (10 year increase of 89 or 23%)

County Ag Literacy Coalition/Partnerships for 2021-22 - 78 serving 86 counties

-Agriculture Teacher [Supply and Demand](#) - 84 openings, 80 filled for this past year. (increase of 18 openings - 27%), 7 teachers retired, 30 teachers left the teaching profession, 21 teachers were hired with an Educator License with Stipulations (ELS) formerly provisional, 27 teachers were added to departments.

-34 college seniors are in the pipeline, student teaching in the fall and spring, and will graduate in May, 2022, licensed to teach. [Teaching Candidates](#) [Teaching Vacancies](#)

-Current vacancies - TOTAL - 68

District 1 - 11

District 2 - 9

District 3 - 4

District 4 - 10

District 5 - 8

-[College ag enrollments holding ground in Illinois](#) - September 13, 2021- FarmWeek Article

-As of June 30, 2021, Julie McCleary, Database and Website Manager, retired after 31 years and 5 months with FCAE. This position with FCAE has been eliminated with job tasks spread over the existing seven staff.

-State AFNR curriculum resources have been downloaded from www.myCAERT.com and uploaded to the www.ILAgEd.org website within the teacher dashboard under curriculum. Access has been given to University Ag Ed Staff for use with pre-service teachers. Password protected to allow for the continuation of the Curriculum License Agreement with Cutting Edge Curriculum (CEC) for sales outside of the state of Illinois. Individual school annual subscription is \$1500 for the www.myCAERT.com website. Currently, a statewide access subscription is not available.

-532 professional development hours have been provided with 558 educators attended to date - [Professional Development Numbers](#). All past and future events are maintained weekly - <https://www.ilaged.org/professional-development>

-Jr. Minorities in Agriculture, Natural Resources and Related Sciences (MANRRS) Stipends to establish Jr. MANRRS Chapters.

- 20-21 - Freeport(11), Gary Comer Youth Center(25), Prosser Career Academy(26), Cahokia(36), Carbondale(27). FY 22 Stipend - \$1500 Total Students - 125
- 21-22 - Lyons Township, Lovejoy Academy Brooklyn. FY22 Stipend \$2500
- Presentations were made in October to MANRRS students at Prosser Academy, Gary Comer Youth Center, and the Chicago High School for Agricultural Sciences. All are schools in the City of Chicago.
- Planning a regional Jr. MANRRS Leadership Institute for April 22, 2022 for Illinois chapters

-Partnered with the University of Illinois with Experienced(20 2nd year teachers) June 28-29 and Beginning(32 1st year teachers) July 27-28, professional development and graduate level courses for agriculture teachers at Lincoln Land Community College in Springfield.

-Teacher Recruitment and Retention Efforts

- Elite Conference to showcase the agricultural education teacher as a career with high school students on September 17, 2021, at Heartland Community College in Normal with 97 students attending.
- Pre-service agricultural education student bus trip - September 23 & 24, 2021 with 26 students attending.

-FY22 FCAE Budget Grant was approved on August 25, 2021, allowing funding to start flowing from the State Comptroller's office. Funding has been received.

-FCAE Project was approved on December 16, 2020, by the ISBE Board allowing a one year extension to Parkland College, Fiscal Agent, to the grant contract for the FY22 grant period year. ICAE and ISBE are updating the IL Agricultural Education Grant rules to allow for more entities to apply for the FCAE grant. Current rule only allows for IL colleges and universities with an agricultural education program. FY23 RFP for the FCAE Project will be released by ISBE in early 2022.

-[New AFNR course matrix](#) is in place moving from five pathways to eight pathways with additional course offerings. Agribusiness Systems, Animal Systems, Biotechnology Systems, Environmental Service Systems, Food Products and Processing Systems, Natural Resource Systems, Plant Systems, Power, Structural and Technical Systems. FCAE staff have developed AFNR course outlines for each of the new 50+ courses

<https://www.ilaged.org/courseoutlines>.

-Agricultural Biology course is approved and added to the course matrix as of July 1, 2022, in six of the eight AFNR pathways as a group 2 course. FCAE is working with the IAVAT Curriculum Committee to assist with a Pilot Project of schools and development of curriculum.

-Revision of 80 agribusiness lessons and resources of the State AFNR curriculum Agribusiness Library completed and added to www.ILAgEd.org. Professional development for ag teachers is planned at the Ground Zero conferences.

-Program advisors are assisting schools, colleges, universities, educators, administrators, and stakeholders both in person and virtually depending upon the area of the state and school district guidelines.

-Ag Ed State Staff are meeting together quarterly in person and on alternating months with FCAE staff meetings virtually.

-Worked with [NIU Educational Systems](#) with an [AFNR Program of Study](#) Project.

-[Illinois Leadership Council for Agricultural Education](#) (ILCAE) Meetings

- Friday, February 25, 2022, 9 am - 12 pm - Virtual
- Friday, March 25, 2022, 9 am - 12 pm - Virtual

September 2, 2021, ILCAE meeting, members spent a majority of their time viewing initiatives and projects of the line item, where a motion was made to recommend a FY23 Agricultural Education Line Item amount of \$7,000,000. The IAVAT Legislative Committee has since made a final recommendation for \$7,050,000. View [FY23 ISBE Budget Book](#).

- ILCAE Secretary, Michael Zecher, assisted at the Illinois Farm Bureau Annual Conference to adopt policy in supporting an increase in the ISBE Ag Education Line Item Budget.
- Assisted schools and teachers in completing FY22 Incentive Funding Grant/Amendments and FY22 Three Circle FFA and SAE grant intent application intents.
- Three Circles FFA & SAE Extended Contract Grant - 2017-18 - 158 teachers, 2018-19 - 220 teachers. 2019-20 - 264, 2020-21 - 279, 2021-22 - 302 (63% of ag teachers have a 12 month contract)
- All-inclusive website, www.ILAgEd.org, increases efficiency for information processing, data management, and marketing/promotion.
- Online record keeping system and data management continued to be utilized by students and teachers, www.TheAET.com.
- Continued partnership with State Teach Ag Results(STAR) national program and grant to recruit and retain agriculture teachers.
- Continued partnership with IAVAT and FFA in developing a diversity and inclusion state plan.
- Program advisors have assisted 86% of schools and teachers onsite or virtually in 2020-21 for a 30+ minute time period or more on a specific topic or several topics. Program advisors have communicated with all of their district agriculture teachers. Program advisors attend ag teacher meetings by section(5) two times per year in August and January.
- Program advisors have assisted 41% of county ag in the classroom coordinators onsite or virtually in 2020-21 for a 30+ minute time period or more on a specific topic or several topics. Program advisors have communicated with all of their district county ag in the classroom coordinators. Program advisors attend two state AITC coordinator meetings and a district AITC professional development session.
- Ag In The Classroom resources, 34 lesson plans, were revised in the areas of Poultry(11), Machines(14), and Dairy(9) and aligned to state standards and uploaded to www.ILAgEd.org for K-8 teachers to use and AITC county coordinators to provide professional development.
- Dean Dittmar, Andrew Klein, John Edgar presented on Illinois Agriculture Food Natural Resources (AFNR) Education Model at the National Association of Supervisors Agricultural Education (NASAE) Conference on October 26th at their national conference in Indianapolis.
- Attended the Illinois Association of Community College Agriculture Instructors (IACCAI) at the College of DuPage in Downers Grove. Awesome cadillac facility for horticulture and urban agriculture.

- Program advisors are assisting the IAVAT resectioning committee for an equal number of schools per section for a 25 section model and a 30 section model.
- Working with Andrew Klein and ISBE communications department for layout of the 2021 Illinois AFNR report with our completion of print date of January 3, 2022.
- Preparing reports for program advisors to attend all 25 section agriculture teacher meetings in January 2022. [View common agenda.](#)
- Exhibiting at the Illinois School Board Conference in Chicago, November 18-19. Luke Allen and Andrew Klein are presenting a roundtable workshop on Advisory Councils.
- Assisting IAVAT and FFA with the BUILD Conference at ISU on November 22-23.
- Identifying Schools with [NonApproved AFNR classe](#)s and enrolled students. Plans are to contact these schools to establish an approved program.
- ILCAE members and State Ag Ed Staff plan to attend the IL Farm Bureau Legislative Roundtable with these requests:

- Maintaining and increasing the talent pool of quality and diverse individuals for agribusinesses.
- Maintaining funding for Career and Technical Education (CTE) high school and college programs through the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act.
- Maintaining and increasing the Agricultural Education Line Item in the ISBE budget currently at \$5,000,000 to \$7,050,000.
- Increasing the number of quality individuals graduating with a degree in agricultural education licensed to teach agriculture to 50 per year.
- Establishing an AFNR Teacher Preparation Degree program with a Chicago area University. Northern Illinois University and the University of Illinois - Chicago.

FCAE Assistance Stats - beginning Jul 1, 2022

- 59,483 miles traveled
- 539 onsite or virtual assistance visits to schools, institutions, county AITC
- 250 onsite or virtual assistance to 5-12 grade schools (70%)
- 623 onsite or virtual meetings
- 70 overnights
- 90 day returns after 7 pm

Unduplicated AFNR Students

- 2833 5-8 grade
- 29,430 9-12 grade
- 33,263 Total

