

2026-2027

Agriscience and Natural Resources

Course Syllabus

Ms. Courtade – Instructor

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231-796-5805

Welcome to Agriscience and Natural Resources!

This syllabus is your guidebook for the year at the **Mecosta-Osceola Career Center**.

✚ **Please keep this document for your records.** It will help answer questions you may have about class expectations, policies, and opportunities.

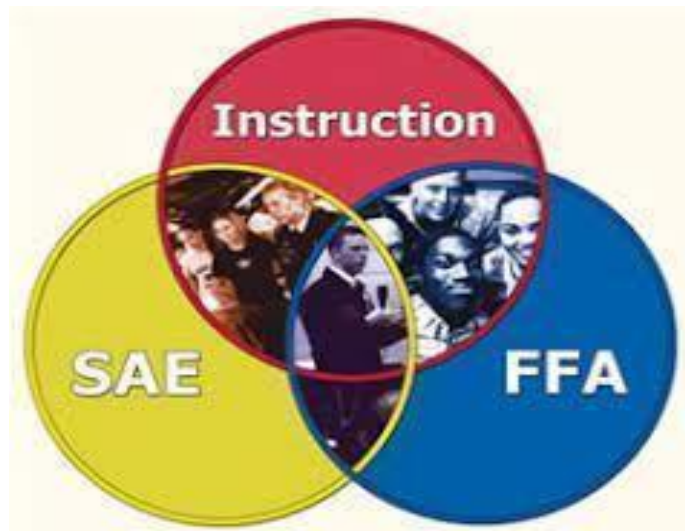
Throughout the year, you'll take part in many exciting experiences that will help you:

- Explore potential careers
- Gain hands-on skills in agriculture and natural resources
- Build leadership and teamwork
- Meet new friends and connections

This program is built around **four key areas**:

1. **Classroom Instruction** – Developing knowledge and understanding of agriscience and natural resources.
2. **Laboratory Learning** – Hands-on projects, experiments, and skill-building activities.
3. **FFA Involvement** – Opportunities for leadership, competitions, and personal growth through our student organization.
4. **Supervised Agricultural Experiences (SAE)** – Real-world experiences that let you apply what you've learned.

Together, these areas provide a **well-rounded education** designed to prepare you for success in school, work, and life.



Course Syllabus - Agriscience and Natural Resources

Mission:

Agricultural Education prepares students for successful careers and a lifetime of informed choices in the global agricultural food, fiber and natural resources systems.

Prerequisite: - None - One Year Program - Grade Level 11-12

Time: Monday - Friday, AM Session: 8:30 - 10:45 a.m. & PM Session: 12:40 - 2:55 p.m.

Course Description/Objectives: Agriscience covers a wide area of study. Units of instruction include twelve different areas:

- Safety
- Animal Anatomy and Physiology
- Animal Genetics and Reproductions
- Domestic Animal Production
- Animal Health and Nutrition
- Plant Anatomy and Physiology
- Soils and Plant Nutrition
- Plant Culture and Propagation
- Natural Resources Systems
- Environmental Services Systems
- Agriculture Business and Marketing
- Career Readiness and Leadership

Safety

Students will be instructed regarding the following:

- Greenhouse Safety
- Barn Safety
- Animal Safety and Proper Handling
- Biosecurity

Career Options

This class will offer training that can be used for many different career options. Some examples are as follows:

Arborist	Beekeeper
Botanist	Pet Groomer
Florist	Veterinarian
Gardener	Veterinary Technician
Horticulturist	Zookeeper
Landscaper	Zoologist
Nursery / Greenhouse Grower	Animal Services Worker
Animal Breeder	Wildlife Technician
Animal Caretaker	And Many More!
Animal Trainer	
Aquaculturist	

CTSO - FFA Membership

FFA

The **FFA** is the youth organization for students enrolled in the **Agriculture Education program**. Because it is an integral part of the program, FFA activities and leadership training are incorporated into the class curriculum.

All students are **strongly encouraged** to actively participate in FFA activities.

Joining FFA provides opportunities to:

- Attend camps, conferences, and conventions
- Compete in contests and competitions
- Participate in banquets and special events
- Develop leadership, teamwork, and personal skills

✓ **Automatic Membership:** Every student enrolled in an Agriscience class is automatically a member of FFA.

For more information, visit: www.ffa.org

Chapter Number: MI0440

Mecosta-Osceola Career Center FFA activities include (but are not limited to)

Fall Semester	Spring Semester	Summer Activities
Chapter Meetings (monthly)	Chapter Meetings (monthly)	County Fair
Leadership Development Event Contests	Annual Awards Banquet (April)	Washington Leadership Conference
National FFA Convention (Indianapolis, IN)	Ag Skills Contests (MSU)	Ag Skills Contests (MSU)
Community Service Projects	State FFA Convention (MSU)	
Poultry Contest (Fowlerville, MI)	Regional Leadership Camp	
Farm Bureau Speak Ag MI	Rabbit Contest (Fowlerville, MI)	
Service Projects	Service Projects	

Supervised Agricultural Experience Program (SAE)

The **SAE (Supervised Agricultural Experience)** is a **key part of your learning in Agriculture Education**. It is a project that you complete **outside of the classroom** to apply what you are learning in a real-world setting.

Record Keeping

Students are required to **keep records of their SAE** using the **Agricultural Experience Tracker (AET)**.

- Online access: <https://theaet.com>
- Students will be **graded periodically** for their journals and reports in AET.

SAE Types

SAEs must have an **agricultural focus** and fall into one of four categories:

1. **Entrepreneurship (Ownership)** – Running your own agricultural business.
2. **Placement** – Working for someone else in an agricultural or natural resources job.
3. **Research** – Conducting an experiment or study related to agriculture.
4. **Foundational** – Introductory experiences to explore agricultural knowledge and skills.

SAE Requirements

- **Yearlong SAE:** Each student must maintain **one yearlong SAE**, which can be **Entrepreneurship, Placement, or Research**.
 - **End-of-year report due:** April 30, 2027
- **Foundational SAE:** Each student must complete **one Foundational SAE**.
 - **Report due:** End of whichever semester you complete the project.

The SAE program helps students **develop skills, gain hands-on experience, and explore career paths** in agriculture and natural resources.

Grading Procedures:

This course combines lecture, in-class exercises, hands-on activities, projects, Supervised Agricultural Experience projects, and career readiness. There will also be individual written assignments, group assignments and formal presentations by the students. The formula to determine each student's grade is calculated by 70% of the grade in coursework and 30% on career readiness.

Grading Scale

A	100 -93	C	76.99 – 73
A-	92.99 – 90	C-	72.99 - 70
B+	89.99 – 87	D+	69.99 – 67
B	86.99 – 83	D	66.99 – 63
B-	82.99 – 80	D-	62.99 – 60
C+	79.99 – 77	F	59.99 – 0

Career Readiness Rating Scale

Daily participation scores are based on how ready you are for employment. **Are you R.E.A.D.Y.?**

→ RESPONSIBILITY

- Are you dressed appropriately?
- Do you have your safety glasses?
- Are you swearing?
- Are you following the class rules?
- Are you being safe?
- Are you using tools/equipment properly?

→ EFFORT

- Are you working on class/lab worksheets?
- Are you completing work on time?

→ ATTITUDE

- Do you have a good attitude?
- Negative all the time?
- Are you following directions?

→ DEPENDABILITY

- Are you absent a lot?
- Do you prearrange or call in?

→ YOU

- Are you making sure YOU are a good employee (student)?
- Are YOU trying to participate in class/lab? Or do you copy off of other students and not do any work yourself?

*This grade will go in the Career Readiness category (30% of your grade)

Attendance Policy

Attendance is a **MUST!**

You need to be present to complete the program.

Reporting Absences

If you are going to be absent, you **must call/Remind text or e-mail Ms. Courtade to let her know you are going to be absent..**

Daily Attendance Points

- **Present:** 5 points per day
- **School-Related (SR) Absence:** 5 points per day
- **Prearranged Absence (communicated with teacher):** 2 points per day
- **Absence (let the teacher know that day):** 0 Points per day
- **No Call/No Show:** -5 points per day

Tardies

A **tardy** is defined as **not being in your seat at the start of class.**

- Example: If attendance is taken at 8:30 a.m. or 12:40 p.m., and you are not in your seat, you are considered tardy.

Missing Assignments / Make-Up Work

- Missing assignments or make-up work will be accepted **up until one week before grades are submitted.**
- Once grades are submitted, **no missing assignments or make-up work will be accepted.**
- After an absence, it is the **student's responsibility** to get make-up work from the teacher.

Communication

Remind

To access class Remind please use the following codes:

AM: @kcourtade

PM: @agpm2

Google Classroom:

Communication will take place through Google Classroom. It is your responsibility to check Google Classroom DAILY for assignments, announcements, and other important information.

Class Operations

Cell Phones

Cell Phones, Earbuds, Smart Watches, and Laser Pointers

Districtwide, students are prohibited from using or possessing active (i.e., turned on) electronic communication devices (Cell Phones) in restrooms, locker rooms, offices, and other locations where students and staff have a reasonable expectation of privacy. Separately, all students are prohibited from possessing or using laser pointers on school premises and at school-related activities without the express permission of school administration. Students may not use or possess active electronic communication devices.

1st Offense – Verbal/written warning

2nd Offense – Confiscation of cell-phone until the end of class or until reclaimed by parent/guardian depending on circumstances

3rd Offense- See Insubordination 2nd and 3rd offenses

Agriscience policy: All students will place their cell phone in the lock box on the chrome cart at the beginning of class. If you do not own a cell phone, please see your instructor. Earbuds and smart watches will not be allowed in class! Should a parent/guardian need to contact the student during class, they may contact the main office at the Mecosta-Osceola Career Center.

Leaving The Room During Class Time

Whenever a student needs to leave the room (e.g. to use the bathroom) they are expected to first ask permission from the teacher. Use the restroom during work time not while the teacher is giving directions or explanations of an activity or assignment.

Animals

Animals are a part of our classroom and our curriculum. Always treat the animal with care and respect. Never take an animal out of its enclosure without permission. Animals will not be handled unless you have specific instructions from Ms. Courtade.

Food and Drink

Food and drink will be allowed in the classroom as long as the following guidelines are followed.

Failure to comply with the rules will result in a no food policy

- All wrappers, bottles, spills are cleaned up.
- It does not distract from the activity at hand.
- No food or drink is allowed when we are working in the lab, greenhouse, or barn.

Dress Code

Students are required to wear long pants and closed toe shoes in the Agriscience and Natural Resources Program. Must wear socks with the boots provided.

Field Trips

Our class goes on many field trips. Students must adhere to the school dress code and dress appropriately for the field trip we are attending. Many trips will take place outdoors so please dress appropriately. Students must follow all school guidelines while on the field trip.

Start of Class

Students will need their binder, assigned Chromebook, put their cell phone in the lock box, and then head to their assigned seat.

End of Class

Clean-up will begin 5-10 mins before class ends. PM session students will need to put their stools on the desk for night cleaning.

Articulation

Michigan State University College Articulation Credits:

To earn six MSU articulation credits a student needs to earn their State FFA Degree and complete two years of Agriscience at the career center.

2nd Year Program Option

The **2nd Year Agriscience Program** is designed for students who have demonstrated **high success during their first year** and want to further enhance their learning through a **work-based learning opportunity** with local industry professionals. Students will also work on state approved credentials.

This program emphasizes:

- Real-world work experience
- Certification opportunities
- Independent learning for students who have shown the skills and initiative to succeed

Program Structure

- Students will work at a **specific job site a maximum of 4 days a week** instead of attending the Career Center. Students can also do a combination of work based learning and earning credentials. Students can also do projects at the career center and complete credentials.
- Students will **report to the Career Center one day a week** for instruction.
- Maintain a **Career Ready score of an 85% or higher.**
- **Transportation to and from the work site is the student's responsibility.**

- Students will be **monitored and held accountable** by the Work-Based Learning Coordinator and the Agriscience Program staff.

Eligibility Criteria

Students must:

1. **Secure an Agriculture and Natural Resources placement** with a local employer.
2. Meet the following standards:

1. Attendance

- Maintain **excellent attendance** at the placement and Career Center.
- Attend **mandatory meeting days** at the Career Center.
- Have **no school suspensions**.

2. Performance Standards

- Successfully complete both semesters.
- Maintain **appropriate dress and appearance** for the work site.
- Be **punctual**.
- Complete all **class work** assigned at the Career Center.
- Earn a **2.0 GPA or higher**.

3. Attitude

- Demonstrate **teamwork**.
- Stay **on task** and show **initiative**.
- Follow all **safety requirements**.
- Be **personally accountable** for self, work site, and classroom environment.

4. Transportation

- Have **reliable transportation** to and from the work site.

Consequences

Failure to maintain **attendance, performance, or attitude standards** may result in:

- Reduction of work experience privileges
- Termination from the program

Students must be present at either the work site or Career Center during scheduled times. Any school breaks or absences must be communicated to the employer in advance.

Credentials students can earn:

Michigan Farm Bureau AET Credential

Certified Green Industry Professional

Pesticide Applicators Certification

MSU FFA Degree

Applied Horticulture

Production Agriculture

Floriculture Greenhouse

Horticulture Landscape

Ducks Unlimited Ecology Conservation & Management Certification

Benz School of Floral Design Principles of Floral Design Certification

BASF Plant Science

Elanco Fundamentals of Animal Science

Elanco Veterinary Medical Applications

Student Certified Florist

National Horse Judging Team Coaches' Association (NHJTCA) Equine Management & Evaluation Certification

Disclaimer: The Agriscience syllabus is subject to change. The instructor will notify the students of any changes in writing.



Mecosta-Osceola Career Center

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Agriscience and Natural Resources Program

Ms. Courtade

I, _____, have read and understand the syllabus for the Agriscience Program. I agree to abide by the program requirements.

Print Student Name

Date

Student Signature

Date

Parent Signature

Date