



# 2023-24 AGRICULTURAL PROFICIENCY AWARD AREA DESCRIPTIONS

Created 10/2023

## What Agricultural Proficiency Awards Are

Agricultural Proficiency awards are based on a member's Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE). They recognize individual skills and career-based competencies developed through multiple years of participation in Immersion type SAE projects. To be eligible to compete for an agricultural proficiency award SAEs must be agricultural in nature, fit into at least one nationally recognized [agriculture, food and natural resource \(AFNR\) pathway](#) and meet the description of the award area in which they apply (See the *Agricultural Proficiency Award Handbook* for all rules and procedures.).

Proficiency Award area descriptions are not meant to define SAE, they are areas in which members exploring and/or becoming established in specific agricultural career pathways can receive recognition. Not all SAEs will have an award area available.

## Agricultural Proficiency Award Resources

The agricultural proficiency award handbooks, rules, FAQs and tips to help complete a competitive application can all be found on the National FFA Organization website at: <https://www.FFA.org/participate/awards/proficiencies>

## Agricultural Proficiency Award Application Types

**Entrepreneurship:** For members who own an enterprise through which he/she plans, implements, operates and assumes financial risks to produce products or provide services in one or more agriculture, food and natural resource (AFNR) pathways. Members who have Immersion SAEs that are Ownership/Entrepreneurship should use this application type. Members who own a share/portion/percentage of a School-Based Enterprise should use this application type. A member with a Service-Learning SAE type may use this application type if ownership is involved.

**Placement:** For members who are employed by or serving an internship with an agriculture, food or natural resources (AFNR) related business, individual, or non-profit organization. These experiences may be paid or un-paid. Members with Immersion SAEs that are Placement/Internship should use this application type. Members who are employees of School-Based Enterprises should use this application type. Members with Service-Learning SAE types which are not owned by themselves should use this application type.

**Combined:** For the proficiency award areas that are not split into separate entrepreneurship and placement areas (example: *Agricultural Communications-Entrepreneurship/Placement*) applicants may enter both placement and entrepreneurship records using the Combined application if the qualifying SAE includes both entrepreneurship and placement activities. If the SAE is in a combined (*un-split*) area but includes only entrepreneurship or only placement activities, apply using the

entrepreneurship or placement application type, not a combined application type. Check this award area list to see combined (*un-split*) areas (*this list changes annually*).

**Research:** Members with agriculture, food or natural resource (AFNR) related Experimental, Analytical and/or Invention Research SAE types (*see SAE for All Guide for full definitions*) who are testing an AFNR related hypothesis, analyzing an AFNR related real-world problem or inventing an AFNR related new product or service.

### **Assistance with award area determinations**

When choosing the appropriate proficiency award area to apply in, review ALL of the proficiency area descriptions. If you are in doubt or have questions regarding the correct area, please contact your state staff and/or the National FFA Organization SAE Education Specialist. Please email a detailed description of the SAE to: [proficiency@ffa.org](mailto:proficiency@ffa.org) to request a determination.

Many members engage in SAE enterprises or activities of multiple types, which may qualify in different proficiency award areas. When a member's SAE qualifies in multiple proficiency areas only the activities, goals, descriptions, earnings/hours, duties and accomplishments that qualify in the proficiency area in which they are applying can be included in the application. For example: A member with an SAE which includes raising fish to sell to pet stores and employment by a landscape installation company has one enterprise that will qualify in the Specialty Animal Production award area and one that qualifies in the Landscape Management award area. When applying for an agricultural proficiency award in the Landscape Management area nothing about the fish raising enterprise should be included in the application. Do not discuss the fish raising enterprise in answers to questions, do not include inventory, earnings, skills, etc., from the fish enterprise in the landscape management application.

### **Agricultural Proficiency Award Area List**

1. Agricultural Communications – Entrepreneurship/Placement
2. Agricultural Education – Entrepreneurship/Placement
3. Agricultural Mechanics Design and Fabrication – Entrepreneurship/Placement
4. Agricultural Mechanics Repair and Maintenance – Entrepreneurship
5. Agricultural Mechanics Repair and Maintenance – Placement
6. Agricultural Processing – Entrepreneurship/Placement
7. Agricultural Sales – Entrepreneurship
8. Agricultural Sales – Placement
9. Agricultural Services – Entrepreneurship/Placement
10. Agriscience Research – Animal Systems
11. Agriscience Research – Integrated Systems
12. Agriscience Research – Plant Systems
13. Beef Production – Entrepreneurship
14. Beef Production – Placement
15. Dairy Production – Entrepreneurship
16. Dairy Production – Placement
17. Diversified Agricultural Production – Entrepreneurship/Placement
18. Diversified Crop Production – Entrepreneurship
19. Diversified Crop Production – Placement
20. Diversified Horticulture – Entrepreneurship/Placement
21. Diversified Livestock Production – Entrepreneurship/Placement
22. Environmental Science and Natural Resources – Entrepreneurship/Placement
23. Equine Science – Entrepreneurship
24. Equine Science – Placement
25. Fiber and/or Oil Crop Production – Entrepreneurship/Placement
26. Forage Production – Entrepreneurship/Placement
27. Forest Management and Products – Entrepreneurship/Placement
28. Fruit & Nut Production – Entrepreneurship/Placement
29. Goat Production – Entrepreneurship/Placement

30. Grain Production – Entrepreneurship/Placement
31. Landscape Management – Entrepreneurship/Placement
32. Nursery Operations – Entrepreneurship/Placement
33. Outdoor Recreation – Entrepreneurship/Placement
34. Poultry Production – Entrepreneurship/Placement
35. Service-Learning – Entrepreneurship/Placement
36. Sheep Production – Entrepreneurship/Placement
37. Small Animal Production and Care – Entrepreneurship/Placement
38. Specialty Animal Production – Entrepreneurship/Placement
39. Specialty Crop Production – Entrepreneurship/Placement
40. Swine Production – Entrepreneurship
41. Swine Production – Placement
42. Turf Grass Management – Entrepreneurship/Placement
43. Vegetable Production – Entrepreneurship/Placement
44. Veterinary Science – Entrepreneurship/Placement
45. Wildlife Production and Management – Entrepreneurship/Placement

