



**Texas Tech University**  
Department of  
Agricultural Education  
and Communications

# An Examination of School-Based Agricultural Education Teacher Job Demand in Texas

Evelyn Starich, William Doss, and Dr. John Rayfield

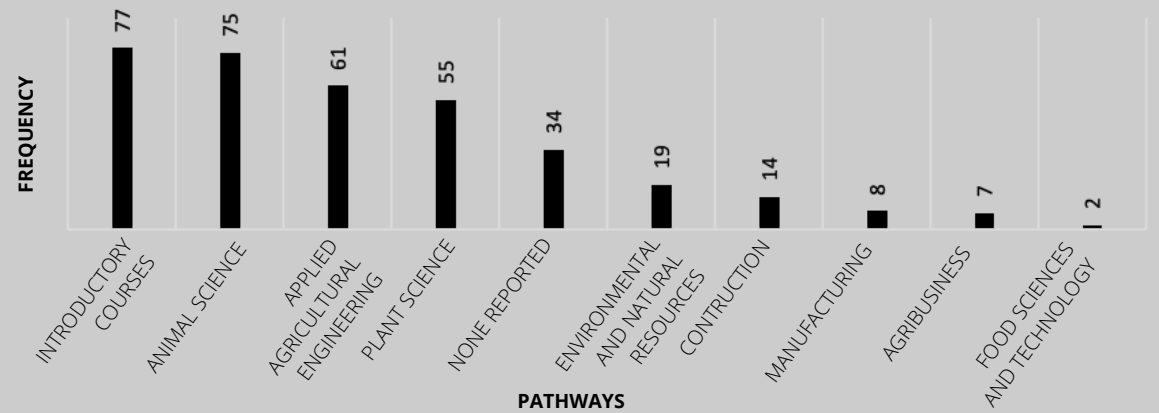
## Introduction/Framework

- The number of school-based agricultural education (SBAE) teachers is increasing nationally, as is the number of positions that go unfilled each year (Foster et al., 2020).
- SBAE teacher shortage has been documented since the 1960s and continues today (Eck & Edwards, 2019).
- Sparse research has been conducted on what is driving the increase in demand for SBAE teachers.
- This study is grounded in the building teacher human capital framework proposed by the U.S. Department of Education (2017).
- Within the framework, four systems were outlined to achieve a stronger teacher workforce: acquire, develop, sustain, and evaluate (Myung et al., 2013).
- To accomplish the acquire portion, teacher preparation programs need to know what the needed skill sets are in order to more efficiently produce a supply of teachers to meet the demand.
- The purpose of this study was to determine programs of study required for posted SBAE teaching job positions and grade levels for those positions.

## Methods

- A quantitative content analysis was conducted for all SBAE teacher job positions posted to the Agriculture Teachers Association of Texas website from April 1, 2020 through August 30, 2020 (Ary et al., 2014).
- For each job posting, potential courses that would be taught are listed on the website. Courses were categorized under the corresponding program of study and recorded by the principal researcher, along with the grade levels to be taught.
- All frequencies and percentages were calculated in Microsoft Excel for this data set.

**PROGRAMS OF STUDY LISTED TO BE TAUGHT IN TEXAS SBAE TEACHER JOB POSTINGS (N = 192)**



## POSITION TYPES

Middle School Only: 14

High School Only: 172

Both Middle and High School: 5

## References

- Ary, D., Jacobs, L. C., Sorensen, C. K., & Walker, D. A. (2014). Introduction to research in education (9th ed.). Wadsworth Cengage Learning.
- Eck, C. J., & Edwards, M. C. (2019). Teacher shortage in school-based, agricultural education(SBAE): A historical review. *Journal of Agricultural Education*, 60(4), 223-239. <https://doi.org/10.5032/jae.2019.04223>
- Foster, D. D., Lawver, R. G., & Smith, A. R. (2019). National Agricultural Education Supply and Demand Study, 2019 Executive Summary. <http://aaaeonline.org/Resources/Documents/NSD2016Summary.pdf>
- Myung, J., Martinez, K., & Nordstrum, L. (2013). A human capital framework for a stronger teacher workforce (pp. 1-44, Rep.). Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching.
- Texas Education Agency. (2020). Approved CTE programs of study. <https://tea.texas.gov/academics/college-career-and-military-prep/career-and-technical-education/approved-cte-programs-of-study>
- U.S. Department of Education. (2017). Improving human capital. <https://www.ed.gov/oii-news/improving-human-capital>

## Conclusions/Implications/Recommendations

Demand for SBAE teachers is expanding beyond high school programs into middle schools in Texas

Job openings most commonly needed a teacher to teach introductory, animal science, applied agricultural engineering, and plant science courses.

Teacher preparation programs in Texas will need to expand their curriculum to include instruction at the middle school level.

Additional research could determine the success of newly hired college graduates in middle school SBAE programs and in specific programs of study to assess current teacher preparation programs.