

Teaching by Facilitation: Highlighting Non-formal Learning in a Laboratory Setting



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Innovation

Utilizing Methods of Teaching Agricultural Education to meet degree requirements for students majoring in Agricultural Leadership through a non-formal, learning-centered laboratory section

Need

Typical non-formal educational facilitation course was temporarily shelved due to limited Full Time Equivalents (FTE's) in Agricultural Leadership faculty. However, students were still required to take this course to meet graduation requirements of the Ag Lead degree.

How it Works

Agricultural leadership students were assigned to a lab section within Methods of Teaching Agriculture devoted to facilitation-based teaching methods and taught by a Graduate Teaching Assistant (GTA) with prior facilitation and classroom experience.

Advice

This innovation could be implemented by other institutions to address degree requirements for agricultural leadership students. Modified lectures, focused-labs, and appropriate facilitation methods are recommended for effective implementation of innovation.



"I felt like my assignments and workload for lab were relevant to my field of study and added value to my experience."

"I really enjoyed my lab time and felt that I learned the most during my lab time."

"I feel as though everything I truly learned that is valuable to my specific educational track was in the lab."