

# A Proposed Model for Providing Elementary Agriculture Teachers with Ongoing Professional Development

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## Introduction

### Elementary Agriculture Education

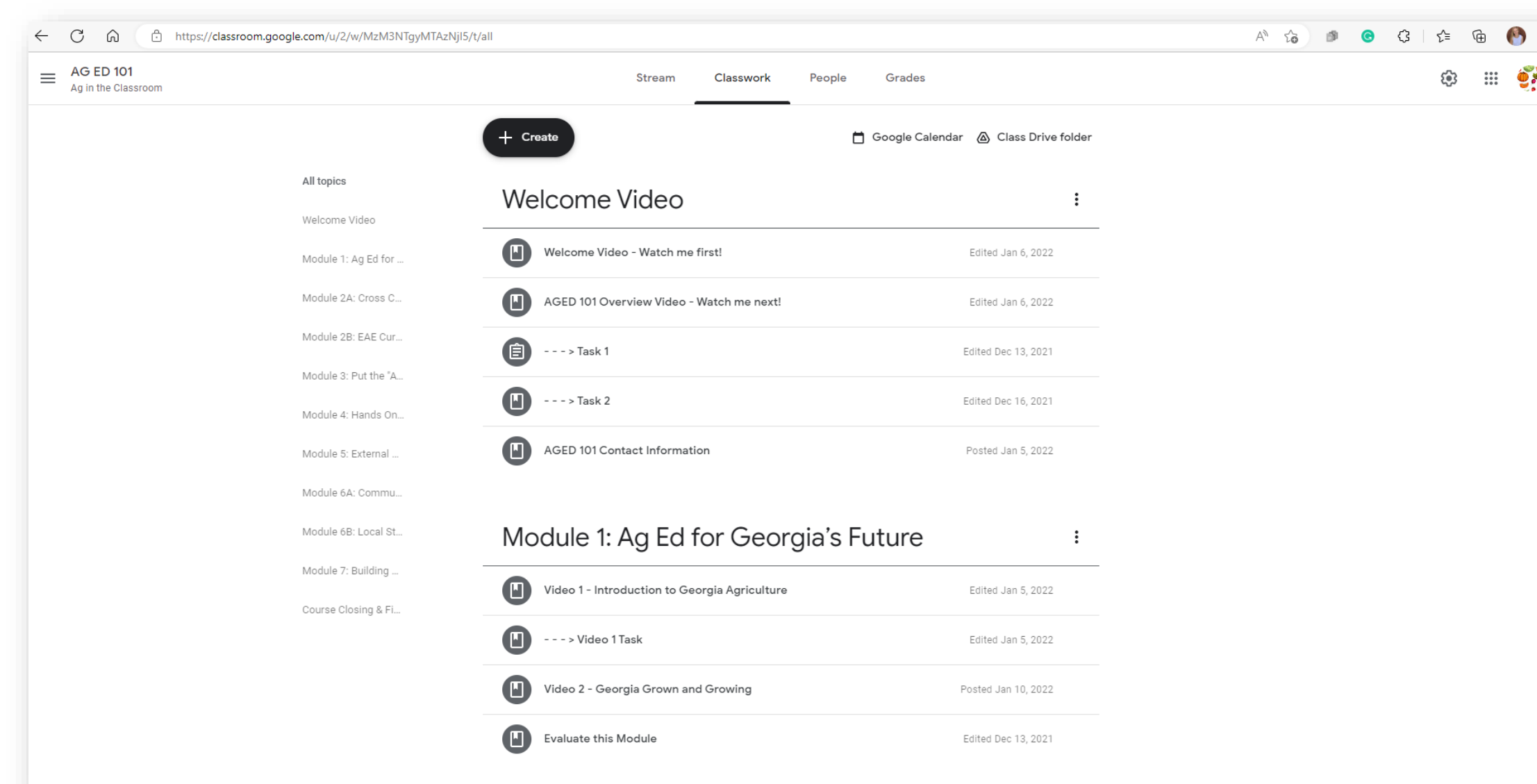
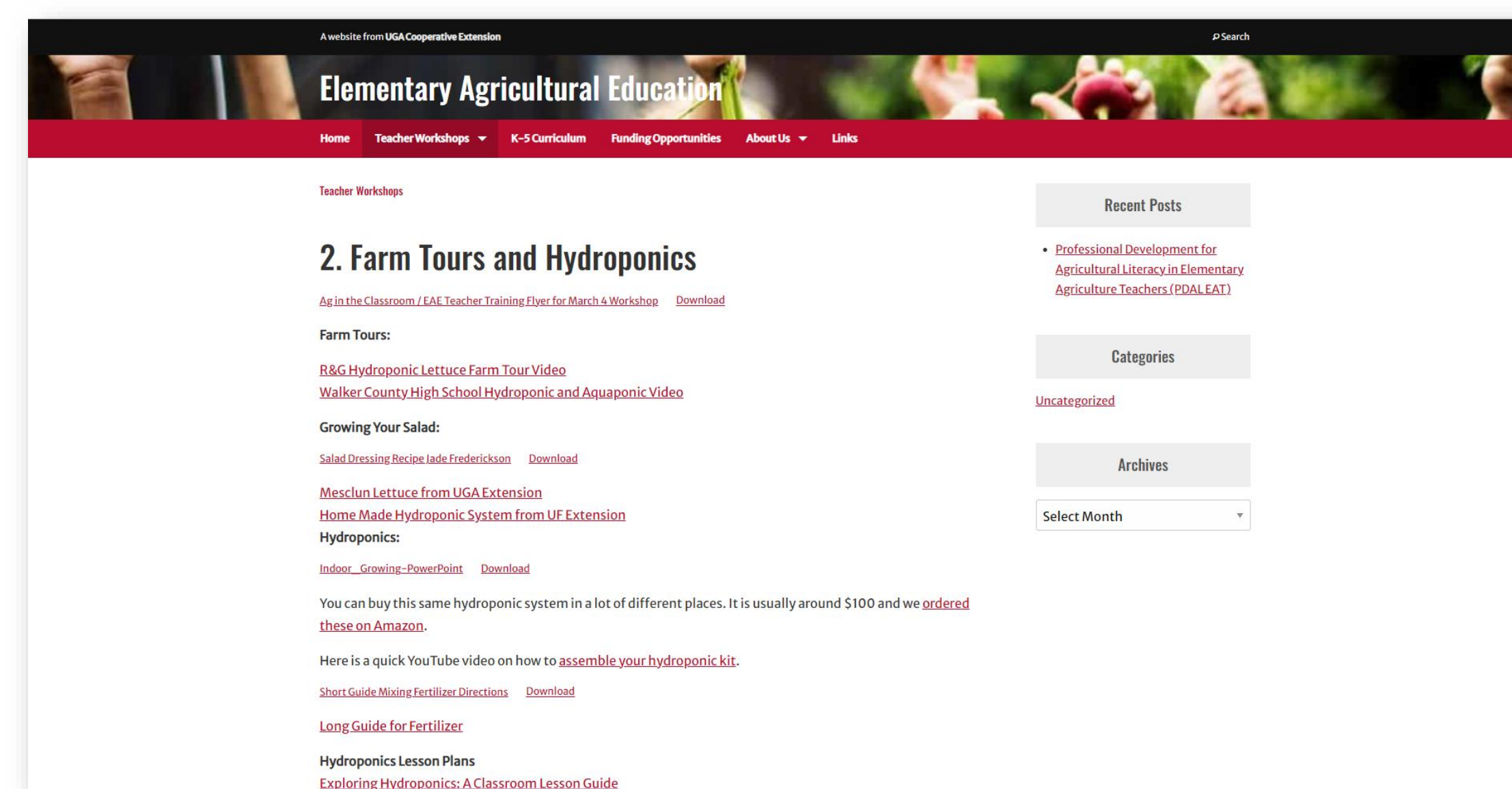
- Program piloted in Georgia in 2019 in public elementary schools serving grades K-5 (Georgia Senate Bill 330, 2018)
- Included 30 elementary agriculture education (EAE) teachers, all of whom needed professional development to increase pedagogical content knowledge (PCK)
- **Goal:** Develop agricultural literacy among current and future students in K-5 agricultural education
- **Challenges:** Current EAE teachers require hands-on professional development synchronously while future EAE teachers need similar/same training each subsequent year

## Purpose

To share one proposed model for providing EAE teachers with professional development

Meets AAAE's National Research Agenda Research Priority 5, "Efficient and Effective Agricultural Education Programs"

## Examples of Website and Online Classroom



## How it Works

Three components work together:

### Asynchronous Repository Website

- Serves as a central-point of information for the EAE teacher
- Includes relevant materials such as recordings from professional development workshops, garden and agriculture-based curriculum, funding opportunities, and other related resources

### Asynchronous Online Teaching Platform

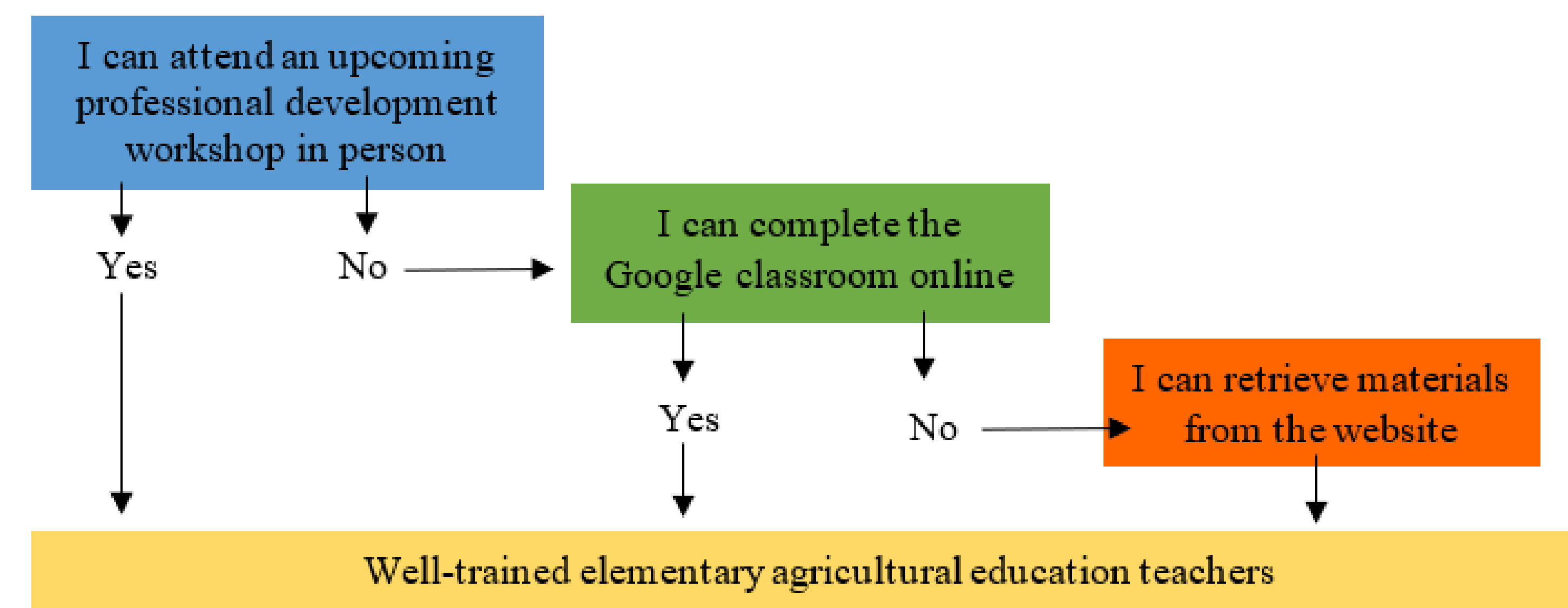
- Housed in a Google "classroom"
- Focuses on providing online workshops that teachers can continually attend or reference

### Synchronous Face-to Face Instruction

- Takes the form of professional development workshops
- Designed and led by the Department of Agricultural Leadership, Education and Communication at the University of Georgia, Georgia Farm Bureau, and the Georgia Foundation for Agriculture

## Proposed Model for Accessing EAE PCK Professional Development Material

The model suggests that the teacher first assesses whether they can attend the professional development workshop. Corresponding yes and no answers guide them through the model.



## Costs

### Hosting Professional Development Workshops totals ~ \$6,000 - \$8,000

- Includes travel reimbursements (e.g., gas mileage, hotel if applicable, etc.), workshop materials, and meals

### Mini-grants total varies

- Depends on grant stipulations and coordinator
- For example, 5 mini-grant awardees X \$2,500 each = \$12,500 total

### Google Classroom and Repository Website are free to use

- Must consider time to upkeep Classroom/website and provide feedback to teachers.

## Future Plans

- Expand model to other states
- Host future workshops (e.g., integrating experiential learning into the EAE classroom)
- Use future workshops to scale model to a national level

## Results to Date

### Asynchronous Repository Website

- The website grows as new teachers adopt elementary agriculture education practices
- **Challenge:** Identifying new EAE teachers who need training because no there is no formal EAE reporting entity

### Asynchronous Online Teaching Platform

- Workshop 1 served as the Google "classroom"
- Five EAE teachers received \$2,500 mini-grant for completing all modules
- **Challenge:** Providing timely feedback because there are no daily support personnel

### Synchronous Face-to Face Instruction

- Ten EAE teachers participated in a day-long event consisting of an EAE tour, lunch and learn, and 2 farm tours

## Lunch and Learn



## References

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