

Principal Professional Development at Florida FFA Convention and Expo



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Introduction

- The success of a school-based agricultural education (SBAE) program can be improved with a positive and collaborative relationship with the administrative team at that school.
- Professional development and educational opportunities focused on agricultural education programs should be made available for principals to learn more about the value of SBAE (Easterly et al., 2023).

Purpose

- Find common alignment with SBAE and administrators' goals for the school
- To implement strategies for administrators to support SBAE programs.

Methods

- Agriculture educators were asked to invite their administrators to attend the professional development during Florida FFA Convention to learn more about FFA and SBAE.
- A two-hour, one-time session offered during the convention by Agriculture Education Faculty from the University of Florida

Agenda Items:

- Major goals of agriculture education
- Three circle model of agriculture education
- Connection with a meaningful adult, practical application of concepts learned in other courses, leadership and other non-technical skills
- Group discussions (alignment between school and agricultural education)
- How agriculture education can help students accomplish goals and what can principals do to support these programs)
- Industry certification discussions

Principal Professional Development at Florida FFA Convention 2021 & 2022* n = 9

Competencies	M
I have a better sense of what agriculture teachers do at state convention	5.00
Have a better idea of the benefits of state convention for students	5.00
Know more about agricultural education	4.67
Know more about the benefits of the FFA	5.00
Feel better able to support the agricultural education program in my school	4.89
Can support agriculture teachers in my school	4.89
Can recommend professional development for teachers in my school	4.44
Know who to ask for help to support agriculture teachers in my school	4.67
I see the benefit of agricultural education for students in my school	5.00
I can support agriculture teachers in my school	5.00
I am excited about the possibility of agricultural education in my school	5.00
Overall Workshop Evaluation	4.87

Note. Scores were on a 5-point scale anchored by strongly agree- 5 to strongly disagree- 1
*Program evaluation data is for both years since the participation is lower for this program and response rate for the evaluation instrument is limited.

Results

- Delivered in 2021, 2022 and 2023.
- 32 administrators participated in the professional development at the Florida FFA Convention.
- Increase in the administrators' knowledge of SBAE programs, where to find support resources and how to support agriculture educators.

Future Plans/Advice to Others

- Suggestions included to host breakout rooms for deeper discussion in smaller groups to facilitate the needs of different types of administrators in attendance such as high school and middle school principals and assistant principals,
- Visit a model school to see parts of programs such as animal housing and welding.
- This workshop will continue to be offered at the Florida FFA Convention.
- Share resources with other state associations who would benefit from hosting similar workshops.

Resources Needed

- Time and energy to develop agenda and discussion topics.
- Materials: handouts, poster paper, writing utensils, refreshments
- 2-3 facilitators