

# Tracking Success: *Leveraging AET for Preservice*



FERGUSON COLLEGE  
OF AGRICULTURE

## *Teachers' Early Field Experiences*

Shane Wetzel, Katie Honeyman, Ryan Best, Jon W Ramsey

### Introduction

**Early Field Experiences (EFEs) are essential for preparing preservice teachers by helping them understand the teaching process and reduce anxiety before entering the profession (Scherer, 1997). These experiences expose future educators to the roles of in-service teachers. The Agricultural Experience Tracker (AET), a digital record-keeping system widely adopted in agricultural education, offers a structured way to enhance EFEs (Ferand et al., 2020; Price et al., 2023; Sorensen et al., 2014; Toombs et al., 2022). Despite its popularity, many educators report challenges using AET, highlighting a need for improved training and integration in teacher preparation programs (Hanagriff, 2023).**



### How It Works

**Preservice teachers use two AET accounts—one as a student and one as a teacher—to log activities and track observations. This dual approach builds familiarity with AET and strengthens their professional skills.**

### Future Plans

**Future cohorts of preservice teachers will continue using AET to manage their EFEs, with an emphasis on teacher-facing applications. This ongoing integration aims to ensure that future educators are proficient in using AET not only as a student tool but also as a professional resource. By embedding AET into teacher preparation, institutions can better equip educators to support student achievement and participation in agricultural education and FFA activities.**

### Results

**Students participating in this initiative reported increased confidence in using AET and teaching SAE concepts. They recognized the importance of mastering AET for their future students' success and felt more prepared to integrate the system into their classrooms. Feedback indicated that students gained a clearer understanding of AET's dual functionality and expressed comfort in teaching its use to others, marking a significant step forward in their professional readiness.**

### Cost

**The implementation of this initiative is cost-effective and accessible. AET access is free for teacher preparation programs, and faculty support requires only four to five hours per week during the course. This minimal investment makes the program scalable and adaptable for institutions seeking to enhance preservice teacher training through digital tools.**