



AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION
COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY

Activating Teachers and Leaders in Agriculture through Intentional Career Recruitment

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Introduction

The Challenge

- In 2023, 14% (out of 50) of SBAE positions went unfilled in Colorado (E. Fickbohm, personal communication, November 27, 2023)
- 8% (out of 50) were filled by teachers trained in an SBAE teacher preparation program (E. Fickbohm, personal communication, November 27, 2023)
- Our approach must evolve to address this gap in Colorado SBAE
- Our approach must also evolve to address the breadth of agricultural education careers

Our Solution

- cATALyst: Activating Teachers and Leaders
- Aimed to activate high school-aged students interested in agricultural education careers by providing professional learning opportunities and plug-and-play instructional materials
- Increase self-efficacy toward career-relevant competencies
- Positively inform outcome expectations toward careers in agricultural education
- Compliment and support Tagged to Teach Ag programming while creating opportunity for non-SBAE students



CSU graduate student, Brooke Carlson, demonstrating her lesson, *That Bugs Me* to Tagged to Teach Ag participants.

How It Works

- Development of professional learning opportunities designed for high school-aged participants.
- Delivery at youth events throughout the state and throughout the year.
 - Including National Western Stock Show, State FFA Convention, and State 4-H Conference.
- Participants build competency and practice a lesson using the CSU CAM's Ag Academy I teach, we teach, you teach model.
- Participants leave with instructional materials needed to facilitate the lesson in their community.



CSU faculty, Jenny Bennett, facilitating discussion with 4-H State Officers and Shooting Sports Ambassadors.

Results to Date

- 2025 National Western Stock Show, CSU's Agricultural Education program hosted a cATALyst professional learning engagement for the 4-H State Officers and Shooting Sports Ambassadors
- Participants evaluated how and where they could be teachers and leaders in their communities, identified the qualities of great teachers and leaders, and identified the teaching and leading skills they possess.
- Finally, they practiced teaching and leading an agricultural lesson designed for elementary-aged youth.



CSU faculty, Katharine Eshelman, facilitating a cATALyst professional learning lesson at Colorado State FFA Convention.

Pilot Phase Highlights

- 4 cATALyst Professional Learning Engagements
- 126 Future Teachers and Leaders
- 4-H State Officers utilized the provided lesson in their outreach

Future Plans

Moving forward, cATALyst will develop in the following ways:

- Development of a suite of professional learning lessons in line with core competencies relevant to careers in agricultural education.
- Delivery of cATALyst programming in conjunction with Tagged to Teach Ag.
- Development and delivery of agricultural education career pathway planning resources.
- Finalize instrument development utilizing the Social Cognitive Career Theory (Lent et al., 1994).

Cost

Costs involved workshop materials, which included a notebook, lesson materials, and miscellaneous event materials. The average cost for each professional learning experience is **\$125 and included about 4 hours of preparation by faculty.**

Access References Here

