

Using Real-World Challenges to Prepare Future Agriculture Teachers

"What Would the Ag Department Do?"

FRESNOSTATE

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Sciences and Technology

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1 INTRODUCTION/NEED FOR INNOVATION

- Beginning SBAE teachers often lack experience managing departmental challenges and professional expectations (Lemons et al., 2015).
- Practice-based experiences strengthen preservice teachers' self-efficacy through authentic professional practice (Rouse et al., 2023).
- Authentic, collaborative builds confidence and prepares candidates for the realities of SBAE teaching (Toombs et al., 2022).

Engage Students 🌾 Develop Leaders 🌾 Strengthen Agriculture



54



40
Female
(74.07%)



14
Male
(25.93%)



Fresno State's Introduction
to Agricultural Education
Course

Students were organized into simulated agriculture departments of 4 to 7 members with a DEPARTMENT CHAIR and FFA Advisor.

3 How it Works



Teams analyze one scenario at a time using department meeting protocols.



Members discuss, debate, and make programmatic decisions together.

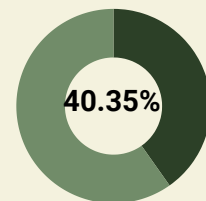


Teams submit a written rationale for their decisions and reflect on outcomes.



Role-play and reflection build confidence, professional judgment, and decision-making self-efficacy.

4 Results / Implications



of respondents felt quite a bit of influence in overall programmatic decision-making within their department.

Student Quote

Scenario three. "We should also explain to the new teacher how FFA/SAE performance links to program funding and shows the district how well our Ag Department performs"

5 Future Plans / Costs Needed



Pre & Post Test to measure changes in Self-Efficacy.



Expand scenarios with an SAE Survivor Courses (e.g., broken tetrarch, animal health, issue grand initiative).



Facilitate conference-style discussion with local teachers to bridge theory and real-world practice.



Costs are limited to instructor time for scenario development; student materials are provided at no cost.

2 SEVEN REAL-WORLD SCENARIOS

1



Department Responsibilities

2



Department Resources

3



FFA and SAE Participation

4



Inclusive Agricultural Mechanics

5



Department Conflict

6



School Farm Crisis

7



Supporting a Colleague



Deep Roots. Bright Futures.

References

