

SUPERVISED AGRICULTURAL EXPERIENCE

Does mine qualify for State Awards?

1. Does my SAE have a clear connection to Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources?

- An SAE should have a clear connection to the National Council for Agricultural Education AFNR Content Standards.

2. Does my SAE happen outside of classtime?

- Any activity that occurs as part of an agricultural education program or for which a student receives credit, does not qualify as an Immersion SAE. These may be counted as a Foundational SAE.
 - **Foundational SAE records do not count toward State or National level awards.*

3. Do I have enough records to qualify for an award?

- Degrees and Awards may have different requirements depending on the type of program. **See the following chart for details.**

<i>Outstanding Junior</i>		<i>State Degree</i>		<i>SAE Award*</i>	
2-year program	4-year program	2-year program	4-year program	2-year program	4-year program
Supporting records for 1 calendar year	Supporting records for 1 calendar year	Supporting records for 1 calendar year	Supporting records for 2 calendar years	Supporting records for 2 calendar years*	Supporting records for 2 calendar years

**First Year Juniors and Seniors in a two-year program may apply for SAE Awards with 1 year of records but are ineligible to be named state winner.*

4. Is my SAE also listed as an FFA or Community Service activity?

- Activities may only be listed in one area of the application. If they are being counted as an FFA or Community Service activity, they can not also be counted as an SAE.

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1. WHAT TYPE OF SAE DO I HAVE?

- **Entrepreneurship SAE** - An FFA member who owns an SAE that matches currently approved AFNR Standards and that provides goods and/or services to the marketplace has an **ENTREPRENEURSHIP SAE** type. The operational and risk management decisions on how goods and/or services are provided are made by the member-owner.
- **Placement SAE** – An FFA member conducting a **PLACEMENT SAE** is employed (either paid or volunteer) by another. They perform tasks determined by the employer that are necessary for the operation of the business. The employer must fall within the currently approved AFNR Standards.
- **Research SAE** – An FFA member conducting a **RESEARCH SAE** is involved in a systematic investigation to answer questions, solve problems, or develop new solutions in agriculture and natural resource fields matching current AFRN Standards. Members apply as individuals. **There are three Research SAE categories:**

Experimental Research

Applies the scientific method by controlling certain variables while manipulating others to observe outcomes. The member must define the hypothesis, select the experimental design, conduct the research, collect the data, analyze the results, and make recommendations for further study or explain an application for the information discovered.

Analytical Research

Focuses on investigating why or how something occurs. The member must collect qualitative and/or quantitative data, analyze the information, and draw conclusions based on findings.

Invention Research

Uses the engineering design process to develop a new product or service. The member must identify a need, create a prototype, test, and refine the design to meet the intended purpose.

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1. WHAT TYPE OF SAE DO I HAVE? CONTINUED

- **School-Based Enterprise (SBE) SAE** – An **SBE** is an Entrepreneurship SAE based at the school, which fits within current AFNR Standards, and involves a group of FFA members working cooperatively. School-Based Enterprise SAEs are student-led business enterprises that provide goods or services. They are operated from the school campus, utilizing facilities, equipment, and other resources provided by the agricultural education program or the school in general. A member will work with one or more peers in the operation of the enterprise. The business itself may be “owned” by the school or FFA chapter, meaning that the organization holds the risk of the business that is led, directed, and managed by FFA members. Alternatively, the business may be structured as a partnership or cooperative between FFA members. Partnership or cooperative agreements will define how the responsibilities and profits are distributed. Members apply as individuals. Members who do not lead/manage the SBE but are employed by the SBE have Placement SAE projects, not SBE projects.
- **Service-Learning SAE** - A **SERVICE-LEARNING SAE** is conducted by one or a team of FFA member(s) who plan, conduct, and evaluate a project to provide a service to the school, public entities, or the community. It must provide a benefit to an organization, group, or individuals other than the FFA chapter. The project must be preapproved by a review committee that includes local stakeholders in addition to the agriculture teacher. The service provided must align with current AFNR Standards. Members apply as individuals.

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2. IN WHAT AWARD AREA DOES MY SAE BELONG?

- The list of available **National FFA SAE Award Program** areas is updated yearly and released each fall. Here is the current list of available award areas: **[2027 National FFA SAE Award Areas](#)**
- Carefully review the current year's Award area list to find an Award area description that matches your SAE project(s). Read all possible award areas to be certain. Some types of agriculture are specified in certain areas. If the wrong award area is selected, the application will perform poorly in the judging process or be removed from consideration.
- The current year list linked above are the only award areas eligible for National Awards. In addition to that list, Michigan has added a Food Systems category in both Entrepreneurship and Placement to better align with the Food Products and Processing Systems AFNR pathway. While a State Winner may be named in these categories, they would not be eligible to advance to the National level.

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What is SAE for all?

SAE for All was created to provide every student in agricultural education programs with access to invaluable work-based learning opportunities. This innovative delivery method ensures that no student is left behind in gaining practical, hands-on experience. Students can choose between two distinctive types of SAEs tailored to their interests and career goals: Foundational SAEs, which build essential skills and knowledge, and Immersion SAEs, which dive deeper into specialized, real-world agricultural experiences.

FOUNDATIONAL SAEs

A **Foundational SAE** is an inspiring cornerstone for every student in the agricultural education program. This immersive experience is thoughtfully designed to incorporate five essential components, each of which plays a critical role in shaping future agricultural leaders:

1. Career exploration and planning
2. Personal financial management and planning
3. Workplace safety
4. Employability skills for college and career readiness
5. Agricultural literacy and exploration

The Foundational SAE is a continuous journey that spans a student's entire enrollment in agricultural education, seamlessly integrating with the immersive experiences they will undertake.

This addition will not only deepen their expertise in Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources technical knowledge but also hone essential career readiness skills.

IMMERSION SAEs

Immersion SAEs are designed to build upon the foundational SAE experiences through real-world applications through:

1. Placement/Internship SAE
2. Ownership/Entrepreneurship SAE
3. Research: Experimental, Analysis or Invention SAE
4. School-Based Enterprise SAE
5. Service-Learning SAE

By participating in Immersion SAEs, students can significantly enhance their preparation for a successful career.