

**A**n important component of the agricultural education curriculum is the Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE) program. SAE is the basis upon which agricultural education is built. It provides students with the opportunity to apply the knowledge and skills required in the classroom to real-life agricultural situations.

Through work-based experience, students earn income, acquire skills and develop a sense of responsibility. According to figures from the West Virginia Department of Education, students annually earn from \$3.5 million to \$5 million from their SAE programs.

The agricultural education curriculum is challenging and diverse. Some of the courses offered in West Virginia include: Agribusiness, Agricultural Mechanics, Aquaculture, Biotechnology, Computers in Agriculture and Greenhouse Production.

FFA prepares members for advanced training in more than 300 diverse careers in agriculture, from biotechnology and genetics to marketing and communications.

Major state FFA activities include:

- State FFA Officer chapter visits
- Chapter parent and member banquets
- State FFA convention
- Winter Leadership Conference
- FFA Ham, Bacon and Egg Show & Sale
- State FFA Goodwill Tour
- Participation in the national FFA convention and State Fair.

These activities are showcased throughout the year in the **West Virginia FFA News** and the state FFA website, [www.wvffa.org](http://www.wvffa.org).