

Agriculture: Course Study Guide

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Unit 1: The National FFA Organization

Key Terms:

FFA - Future Farmers of America

Agriculture - The science or practice of farming, including cultivation of the soil for the growing of crops and the rearing of animals to provide food, wool, and other products.

Agriscience - The application of science to agriculture.

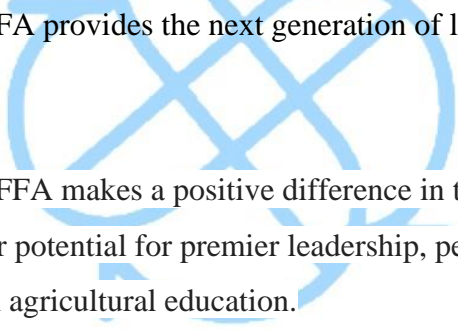
Chapter - The local branch of society

Advisor - A teacher or staff counselor who helps a student plan a course of study.

CDE - Career Development Events

LDE - Leadership Development Events

FFA is a national youth organization to promote agriculture and agricultural education.

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- **FFA Vision** - FFA provides the next generation of leaders who will change the world.
 - **FFA Mission** - FFA makes a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education.
 - **FFA Motto** - The FFA Motto was adopted in 1952.
Learning to Do, Doing to Learn, Earning to Live, Living to Serve.

The National FFA Organization (continued)

- **FFA Creed** -

I believe in the future of agriculture, with a faith born not of words but of deeds – achievements won by the present and past generations of agriculturists; in the promise of better days through better ways, even as the better things we now enjoy have come to us from the struggles of former years.

I believe that to live and work on a good farm, or to be engaged in other agricultural pursuits, is pleasant as well as challenging; for I know the joys and discomforts of agricultural life and hold an inborn fondness for those associations which, even in hours of discouragement, I cannot deny.

I believe in leadership from ourselves and respect from others. I believe in my own ability to work efficiently and think clearly, with such knowledge and skill as I can secure, and in the ability of progressive agriculturists to serve our own and the public interest in producing and marketing the product of our toil.

I believe in less dependence on begging and more power in bargaining; in the life abundant and enough honest wealth to help make it so—for others as well as myself; in less need for charity and more of it when needed; in being happy myself and playing square with those whose happiness depends upon me.

I believe that American agriculture can and will hold true to the best traditions of our national life and that I can exert an influence in my home and community which will stand solid for my part in that inspiring task.

The National FFA Organization (continued)

FFA History: - <https://www.ffa.org/ffa-history/>

- FFA Creed - Written by E.M. Tiffany in 1928 and officially adopted in 1930 at the 3rd National Convention.
- FFA Motto - The FFA Motto was adopted in 1952.
- FFA Vision - The FFA Vision was adopted in 1952 also.

Above FFA Information: <https://www.ffa.org/about/ffa-creed/#:~:text=The%20FFA%20Creed,the%20struggles%20of%20former%20years.>

FFA Membership:

- Members: 760,113
- Chapters: 8,739

- Advisors: 13,000 +

Competitive Events:

- Agricultural Communications
- Agricultural Issues Forum
- Agricultural Sales
- Agricultural Technology & Mechanical Systems
- Agronomy
- Conduct of Chapter Meetings
- Creed Speaking
- Dairy Cattle Evaluation and Management
- Dairy Cattle Handlers Activity
- Employment Skills
- Environmental & Natural Resources
- Extemporaneous Public Speaking
- Farm and Agribusiness Management
- Floriculture
- Food Science & Technology
- Forestry
- Horse Evaluation
- Livestock Evaluation
- Marketing Plan
- Meats Evaluation & Technology
- Milk Quality & Products
- Nursery/Landscape
- Parliamentary Procedure
- Poultry Evaluation
- Prepared Public Speaking
- Veterinary Science

Source: <https://www.ffa.org/>

Unit 2: Sheep Management

Key Terms:

- **Ewe** - Female sheep

- **Wether** - Castrated male sheep
- **Ram** - Uncastrated male sheep

Purpose of Sheep:

- Wool - The most common sheep used for wool are American Cormos.
- Meat - The most common sheep used for meat are Suffolk and Hampshires.
- Multi-purpose - the most common sheep used for multi-purposes are Columbias.
- Specialty - The most common specialty sheep is Black Welsh Mountains.

Management:

- Every sheep needs a way to find shelter. The best options are barns or a sort of building.
- Make sure your sheep are up to date on any sort of medication/vaccine they need
- Parasite/Bug control.
- Hoof care. If your sheep's hooves grow and are not cared for, they can get hoof diseases and can delay growing.
- Exercise. Exercise is especially important if you are trying to raise show/market lambs. They need to have a healthy diet with plenty of exercise if they want to compete amongst the rest of the sheep.

Nutrition:

- She should have a balanced, healthy diet. For most sheep, any sort of grain/ lamb feed will work.
- If you are planning raising show market lambs, show lamb feed is recommended. This feed is better because it has more nutrients and proteins so it produces more muscle.
- You can also buy supplements to speed up the muscle-growing process

Unit 3: Cattle Management

Key Terms:

Heifer - Female Cow

Steer - Castrated male cow

Bull - Male cow

Purpose of Cattle:

- Dairy - Their main purpose is to produce milk.
- Meat - Their most common type of meat cattle are Angus, Herefords, Maine, and Anjou. Their main purpose is to produce meat.
- The most popular types of cattle are Black Angus and Herfords.

Management:

- Cattle are one of the most complex animals there are.
- In order to take care of them, you need to have basic necessities.
- You need shelter, feed, and water.
- Cattles hoof care isn't as important as most sheep, but it still could get infected.
- Cattle need to be given wormer, and all their routine vaccines in order to stay healthy.
- As cows are intended, they need to be able to graze on grass.
- If you are trying to raise show cattle, you will need to halter break them, so you can walk and exercise them.

Nutrition:

- Cattle need to be able to have grass at all times.
- Any sort of grain/feed is fine if you are just trying to raise them to sell.
- You should also make sure they have plenty of hay and water besides their daily grain.
- If you are raising show cattle, you might want to invest in show cattle feed to give them more nutrients and proteins in their diet.
- You could also give them supplements to speed that process up

Unit 4: Goat Management

Key Terms:

Doe- Female goat

Wether- Castrated male goat

Buck- Uncastrated male goat

Purpose of Goats:

- **Meat:** The most common type of meat goat is a Boer Goat.
- **Dairy:** The most common type of dairy goat is an Alpine Goat.

Management:

- Goats are a relatively easy animal to raise.
- In order to take care of them, you need to have basic necessities.
- You need shelter, feed, exercise, and water.
- Goats hooves can grow out longer than most animals. I recommend getting them clipped every 4 - 6 weeks.
- Goats will need to be given wormer, and all their routine vaccines in order to stay healthy.
- Goats are made to be able to graze, but it is not as important to them as it is to other animals
- If you are trying to raise show goats, you will need to work and exercise them, way more than most animals. Goats are way easier to halter break than other animals also, making them an easier animal to raise.

Goat Management (continued)

Nutrition:

- Goats should be able to graze, but not as important as their normal diet.
- Any sort of grain/feed is fine if you are just trying to raise them to grow and sell.
- You should also make sure they have plenty of hay and water besides their daily grain.

- If you are raising show goats, you might want to invest in show goat feed to give them more nutrients and proteins in their diet.
- You could also give them supplements to speed that process up.
- I would highly recommend walking them and exercising before they get their normal feed.



Unit 5: Equine Management

Key Terms:

Stud/Stallion- Uncastrated male horse

Mare- Female horse

Foal- Young horse

Gelding- Castrated male horse

Most Popular Type of Breeds:

- American Quarter Horse
- Arabian
- Paint
- Appaloosa
- Thoroughbred
- Tennessee Walker
- Morgan

Management:

- Horses are one of the most complicated animals to raise and show.
- You need a lot of land for them to be raised properly
- You need shelter, feed, water, grass, and a lot of space.
- Horses hooves grow a lot faster and need to be clipped and fixed every so often.
- Horses also need to have shoes put on them for them to be at the best of their abilities.
- Horses will need to be given wormer, and all their routine vaccines in order to stay healthy.
- Horses need to be able to graze at almost all times.
- If you are trying to raise show horses you will need to work with them almost everyday and they will need to be exercised a lot. They need this because they are the most complex and hardest animal to show.

Equine Management (continued)

Nutrition:

- Horses should be able to graze at almost all times
- Any kind of grain would be fine for a horse, but you might want to invest in specialty feeds if you have a horse you are going to be competing with, have a certain problem, or just reach a certain age.
- You should also make sure they have plenty of hay and water besides their daily grain.
- You could also give them supplements to help with any problem they have like, mane/tail growth, ulcers, etc.

Western Events:

- Horsemanship

- Western Pleasure
- Reining
- Cutting
- Roping
- Working Cow Horse
- Western Riding
- Trail
- Gymkhana
- Team Penning
- Rodeo
- Bareback Riding
- Saddle Bronc Riding
- Bull Riding
- Tie-down Roping
- Steer Wrestling
- Team Roping
- Barrel Racing
- Pole Bending
- Goat Tying
- Flag Racing
- Breakaway Roping

English Events:

- Classical Dressage
- Dressage
- English pleasure
- Eventing
- Field Hunter
- Foxhunting
- Hunt Seat
- Saddle Seat
- Show hunter
- Show Jumping
- Show Hack
- Team Chasing
- Cross Country



Unit 6: Poultry Management

Key Terms:

Hen- Female chicken 1 year or older

Pullet- Female chicken under 1 year older

Cockerel- Male chicken under 1 year

Rooster- Male chicken 1 year or older

Chick- Newly born chicken

Types of Poultry:

- Chickens
- Turkey
- Pheasants
- Geese
- Ducks
- Quail

Purpose of Different Breeds:

- Chickens - Meat & Eggs
- Turkey - Meat
- Pheasants - Meat
- Geese - Meat & Feathers
- Ducks - Meat & Feathers
- Quail - Meat & Eggs

Poultry Management (continued)

Candling:

- Candling is used when testing the fertility of eggs.
- How to candle an egg:
 1. Go to a dark room.
 2. Get a flashlight.
 3. Place the larger side of the egg on the flashlight.
 4. Look for signs of a fertile egg. (Blood Vessels & Dark Spots)

Management:

- Poultry animals are probably one of the easiest animals to take care of.
- In order to take care of them, you need to have basic necessities.
- You need shelter, feed, and water.
- You might need to clip their nails, but that isn't as important.
- Poultry animals will need a source of heat. I recommend a heat lamp.
- They will also need a place to lay eggs.

Nutrition:

- Chickens feed will vary depending on age
- Chicks will need chick feed.
- Pullets will need grower feed.
- Once chickens reach time to lay, they will need layer feed.

Unit 7: Careers in Agriculture:

- **Livestock Careers**

- Veterinarian
- Veterinarian Technician
- Cattle Feedlot Manager
- Dairy Farmer
- Dairy Inspector
- Animal Control Officer
- Professional Rodeo Athlete
- Pickup Man
- Ranch Manager
- Poultry Farmer

- **Horticulture Careers**

- Floriculturist
- Gardener
- Greenhouse Manager
- Horticultural Product Manager
- Horticulturist
- Hydrologist
- Crop Buyer
- Crop Farmer

- **Agricultural Chemistry Careers**

- Agricultural Chemists
- Animal Scientists
- Flavor Chemists
- Food Chemists
- Nutritional Chemists
- Molecular Gastronomist
- Soil and Plant Chemists