

**Congratulations on your acceptance into the
CTE Agriscience: Animals and Plants program
for the 2023-2024 school year!**

Kalamazoo RESA Career and Technical Education (CTE) invite you and your parent/guardian to attend an orientation highlighting next year's CTE Agriscience: Animals and Plants experience. This orientation is important, and we encourage a parent/guardian to attend with the student. Please join us on **Wednesday, May 17, at 6:00 pm** in the AgriScience Building at Vicksburg High School. The classroom is located next to the greenhouse building to the east of the high school. Park in the lot on the east side of the high school (corner of East Highway and South Wilson Street).

In this meeting, you will have the opportunity to:

- Meet the instructors
- Learn about the program's year-long expectations and logistics
- Learn how successful completion of the course can lead to future opportunities
- Ask questions

The attached program guidelines will be discussed in detail during the orientation. Please have this packet with you.

Special Note: You are receiving this packet because your name was provided to us by your school counselor as enrolling in a CTE program. If in doubt, check with your counselor. We apologize if this packet was sent to you in error.

Instructors:

Dr. Noreen Heikes

nheikes@vicksburgschools.org

269-321-1232

Megan Schlabach

mschlabach@vicksburgschools.org

269-321-1132

For more information, contact:

Diane Fort

Program Coordinator

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269-250-9316

KRESA Career and Technical Education

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AGRISCIENCE: ANIMALS AND PLANTS

OVERVIEW

Agriscience: Animals and Plants is a full-year course that **meets at Vicksburg High School**, Monday through Friday from 7:45 - 9:15 a.m. The Agriscience building is located next to the school's greenhouse. This class has met in a hybrid format for several years. Students will meet 4 days in-person with 1 day as required online instruction.

This course will give students the opportunity to spend half of the year exploring career options in both animal and plant related fields. Students will be divided into two sections, with Dr. Noreen Heikes and Ms. Megan Schlabach to teach animals and plants, respectively. Students will switch instructors at the semester to learn the remaining content.

One semester: Animal Science

A study of animal species, their management, behavior, selection, and breed characteristics and the relationships between animals and society are the core focus of this portion of the course. Students will practice hands-on applications of these principles while exploring career opportunities and pursuing employment readiness. As much as possible, Project-Based Learning is utilized as the format for student learning.

Anatomy and Physiology

Students will explore the varieties and commonalities of anatomy and physiology among many species through study, dissection, demonstration and the use of hands-on activities and simulations. An understanding of basic mammalian physiology will be emphasized.

Animal Handling

Students will learn to correctly handle various species of animals, through the use of videos, simulations, and live animal handling. Safety of both animal and handler will be emphasized, along with correct techniques.

Animal Production

Students will raise chickens or rabbits for the state FFA contest. They will make selection decisions, plan and carry out optimal care and feeding, keep records and participate in showing the animals. Additional opportunities to care for animals in the classroom may also be provided.

One semester: Plant Science

A study of plant physiology, the principles of plant propagation, and the responses of plants to environmental conditions are the core focus of this portion of the course. Students will experience the practical applications of these horticultural principles while receiving career and pre-employment opportunities.

Agronomy

Students will experience the identification of agronomic crops, weeds, and pests as well as understand the principles of plants, soils, and nutrition. An in-depth study of integrated pest management and the growing of each major crop will also be studied. Students will complete projects in weeds, pests, crop identification, fertilization program, and the production of two agronomic crops from start to finish.

Greenhouse Management

Students will experience the identification, care and handling of greenhouse plants. Students will assist and receive hands-on experience in the 60' X 30' greenhouse including scheduling, production management, plant nutrition, integrated pest management, and retail sales of plants possibly including bedding, geraniums, poinsettias, Easter lilies, foliage and flowering plants.

Nursery/Landscape

Students will experience the identification, care and handling of trees, shrubs, perennials, and annuals. Students will receive hands-on experience in landscape maintenance including pruning, fertilizing, irrigation, lawn care, and integrated pest management. Students will enhance their drafting abilities by designing a residential or commercial landscape site including plant material, lawn and construction materials while developing a proposed bid. Students will also study the installation of landscape materials and nursery operations.

ATTENDANCE

Kalamazoo Career and Technical Education believes that attendance should be treated as if students were in an employment situation. Students are required to maintain regular attendance.

EVALUATION

Students will be evaluated based on technical knowledge and work skills. This grade will be based on the instructor and assistant's evaluation of assigned projects, classroom (job) behavior, and work skills.

SCHOOL AND CLASSROOM POLICIES

All school rules apply to our classroom as outlined in the Student/Parent Handbook to be accessed online at the start of the school year. Students are expected to follow them. Please refer to the handbook for information regarding: attendance, school calendar, and driving policy and procedures. **DRESS:** Students must dress appropriately for both the class and seasonal weather. Students must be prepared to work in a **variety of conditions** such as outdoors in various weather patterns and with plants, animals and water. The school is a simulation for the working world and due to safety standards students **must wear clothes appropriate for the workplace. No open-toed shoes.**

STUDENT EXPECTATIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Show respect for the worth and dignity of all individuals in the school and community.
2. Show respect for school or other property. Treat this property as intended and with care.
3. Be punctual and attend daily
4. Complete assignments on time and to the best of their ability
5. Follow the rules/directions
6. Keep the room clean and free of clutter
7. Clear away all materials used during class
8. Maintain a Daily Log of your activities
9. BE PREPARED – with all books, assignments, proper dress and writing equipment
10. Keep track of assignments, lessons and due dates
11. Collect all returned coursework and keep in a 3-ring binder.
12. Call on the instructor and paraprofessionals for help when needed
13. RESPECT OTHER STUDENTS, STAFF AND VISITORS and keep a peaceful and cooperative learning environment
14. Develop a professional resume and portfolio
15. Engage and take an active role in your learning and professional development
16. Make up any work that is missing or labs that have not been completed due to a verifiable absence, within the same number of days as the student's absence
17. Assist and participate in **all** classroom activities assigned by the instructors and paraprofessionals
18. Report any problems to the instructors or paraprofessionals

Expect that any violation of student responsibilities, expectations, and classroom policies will be dealt with in an appropriate manner by the instructor and will be grounds for disciplinary action and/or loss of grade points.

So, You Say I'm in FFA? What does that mean?

Since you are enrolled in the Agriscience: Animals and Plants class at KRESA CTE you are automatically a member in the FFA organization, a Career and Technical Student Organization (CTSO).

What is FFA?

FFA is an organization for students who are interested in future careers in the agriscience and natural resource field.

You can participate in many activities such as:

- **Rural Education Day** (Project Red) – educating the community, especially third graders on different areas of agriculture.
- **Leadership Contests** – an opportunity for students to gain career skills in public speaking, interviewing, demonstrating and conducting meetings.
- **National FFA Convention** – a week-long trip to Indiana where you learn about FFA, your chapter, other chapters, and each other by participating and supporting others in competitions, going to concerts, site-seeing, going to career fair, talking to colleges, and having a lot of fun.
- **State FFA Convention** – the finals of leadership contests, also meet new people and receive awards.
- **Region I Camp** – work with other chapters in the region, brainstorm new ideas, and learn leadership skills.
- **Banquets and Picnics** – honor those who help us through the year.
- **Fall Leadership** – conventions to attend to learn more about certain subject areas.
- **Retreats** – travel to different places to take part in leadership, recreation, and more.
- **Agricultural Career Development Events** – all students will participate in some area of competition in April. These range from Greenhouse, Floriculture, Landscaping, Crops, Animals, Marketing, Forestry, etc.
- **FFA Official Meetings** – come help us make decisions about your chapter, your voice counts, and ideas are always welcome, be a part of each of the activities by planning and working to put them on. Win door prizes and learn about careers in agriculture, premier leadership and student success.
- **Fundraising** - of course all the fun takes finances, help us raise money by selling products that we make such as Christmas items and plants.

FFA is also...

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| • Having fun | • Help the community |
| • Getting to meet new people | • Gain self confidence |
| • Win awards | • Go on field trips |
| • Earn cash prizes | • Meet influential people |
| • Gain valuable career skills | • Make career connections |
| • Learn something new | • Dancing |
| • Try new things | • Singing |
| • Go new places | • Exciting!!!!!!!!!! |

Please take an **ACTIVE** role in **FFA**. We are always looking for new projects to take on. Any ideas about community service projects, fundraisers, and any other ideas to have fun and learn are greatly welcomed and needed.