



LESSON PLAN

PLANTING THE SEEDS OF TEACHING AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION

Day 1 - 45 Minutes

I. Introduction

- [Watch It Starts in the Classroom Trailer](#) (2:34) - (Can also be found on [NAAE website](#))
- Begin by asking students:
 - "What do you think makes teaching agriculture unique and rewarding?"
- Share these key points:
 - As an ag teacher, you help prepare the next generation of agricultural leaders, innovators, and advocates who will feed, fuel, and sustain the world.
 - Ag teachers guide students in developing practical skills, confidence, and leadership through FFA, hands-on learning, and real-world experiences.
 - No two days are the same. Whether you're teaching animal science, managing a greenhouse, coaching a contest team, or leading a service project, the work is meaningful and diverse.
- Explain that today's lesson will explore what it takes to become an agriculture teacher, why they are in high demand, and how this career can be incredibly meaningful and impactful.

II. Exploring the Role of an Ag Teacher/FFA Advisor

- Use the projector to navigate [TeachAgTexas.org](#) and/or [NAAE.org](#) to explore "Why Teach Ag?" sections.
 - Discussion Points:
 - Ag teachers teach by doing, not just telling.
 - They share their passion for agriculture and create hands-on lessons.
 - They reach students who might not be successful in a traditional classroom.
 - They teach about cutting-edge topics like cloning, satellite mapping, biofuels, and alternative energy.
 - They advise FFA members and stay involved in FFA activities.
 - They make a positive impact on the lives of young adults.
 - They become part of the agriculture teacher family network, with over 2,500 agriculture teachers in Texas.

III. Pathways to Becoming an Ag Teacher/FFA Advisor

- **Activity:** Divide students into groups and assign each group to research one of the following topics using [TeachAgTexas.org](https://teachag.texas.gov) and/or [NAAE.org](https://naae.org). Each group presents their findings to the class.
 - Educational requirements and certification process.
 - Universities in Texas offering Ag education programs.
 - Alternative certification routes.

Day 2 - 45 Minutes

IV: The Importance of Needing Ag Teachers/FFA Advisors

- Discussion Points:
 - Across Texas and the United States, there is a shortage of qualified agriculture teachers.
 - Agricultural education is critical to preparing students for careers in farming, food production, biotechnology, environmental science, agribusiness, and more.
 - Without enough teachers, some schools are forced to reduce or eliminate agriculture programs — limiting opportunities for young people and communities.
 - Ag teachers serve rural, suburban, and urban communities by helping students understand where food, fiber, and fuel come from — and by building essential leadership, technical, and career skills.
 - The future of agriculture depends on developing skilled, passionate students — and that starts with inspiring educators.
- **Activity:** Have students brainstorm why agriculture education might be important even for those not pursuing a traditional ag career.

V. Guest Speaker or [Video Testimonial](#) (Optional)

- **Guest Speaker:** You, as their teacher/advisor, share your testimonial on why you teach ag.
- **Video Testimonial:** Alternatively, show a video from the ["Teach Ag" campaign](#) featuring ag teachers discussing their careers.

VI: Reflection and Discussion

- Reflect on the information learned.
- Discussion Points:
 - What aspects of being an ag teacher are most appealing?
 - What challenges might an ag teacher face?
 - How does this career align with your interests and skills?