
Adult Agricultural Education

Adult Agricultural Education in Missouri

Adult agricultural education classes and activities have been an important component of agricultural education in Missouri since the program's beginning. Adult education is offered as an extension of the high school agricultural education program and is supervised by the local school board in each community. Funding comes from the State of Missouri, local school districts, fees and other means of local support. More than 3,000 adults enrolled in DESE (Department of Elementary and Secondary Education)-reimbursed agriculture classes in 2009-2010.

Why do we have Adult Education in Agriculture?

1. Serves Agriculture in the Community
 - Increases income and stability of local producers.
 - Provides a forum for agricultural issues that affect local producers and consumers
 - Develops agricultural leaders.
 - Educates the public about agriculture.
 - Provides worthwhile educational opportunities for community patrons.
2. Establishes an important tie between the local agriculture program and –
 - Producers and school patrons, both ag. and non-ag.
 - Agricultural businesses
 - Agricultural agencies (e.g. Lenders, Commodity Groups, FSA)
 - Community organizations (e.g. Chamber of Commerce, Garden Clubs, Farmer's Markets, Fairs and Festivals)

How Does the Agriculture Instructor and the Agriculture Education Program Benefit?

- Earns strong community support for the program and the instructor.
- Maintains and develops technical expertise of instructor.
- Earns the respect of those adults you work with.
- Brings patrons into your program and school - positive effect.
- Salary enhancement.

Local adult agricultural education programs take various forms and are designed to be of specific benefit to producers and patrons of the community. Most adult agricultural education programs include one or more of three major components: (a) adult education classes, (b) a Farm Business Management Analysis program and (c) a chapter of the Missouri Young Farmers organization.

Adult Education Classes

"Topics" classes long have been, and still are, a popular and viable part of adult education in agriculture. The classes tend to be one-session long and address current problems and issues, update enrollees about new technologies, and explore subjects of general interest to a fairly diverse audience. Currently, they are the most common type of adult class offered. "Topics" classes typically include eight to 12 sessions and meet weekly, biweekly or monthly – primarily

during the winter. The classes usually are often offered in conjunction with a local Young Farmer chapter that is affiliated with the Missouri Young Farmers Association.

"In-depth" classes are becoming a popular way of providing agricultural education to adults. An "in-depth" class is a series of sessions about the same topic (for example, a two- to eight-session series about horticulture, marketing, forestry or agricultural mechanics). Because content is specialized, enrollment sometimes is more limited. Traditionally, "topic" and "in-depth" classes are offered as part of local programs, and instructors are paid an hourly rate based on instructional time.

Teachers oftentimes worry about whether or not they 'are expert enough' to teach adults. That should never be the reason not to have an adult class. Many times, the role of the agriculture teacher is as a facilitator of the learning process, inviting other folks with specific expertise to come and teach the class sessions. And, adult students don't expect the local agriculture instructor to know everything. Teachers should be encouraged to view themselves as partners with adult participants in the learning process. Most adult students appreciate the fact that you as a teacher are willing to spend extra time to offer adult education opportunities and will be helpful and eager learners.

Farm Business Management Analysis Program

The Farm Business Management Analysis (FBMA) program is another type of adult education in agriculture. Sometimes we say that FBMA provides the "SAE" circle in adult agriculture education, since much of it is done one-on-one with producers on-farm or on-site. The program involves class work, on-site visits and farm-record analysis – all designed to improve farm management and help farmers achieve their personal, financial and farm business goals. Most FBMA instruction is coordinated by full-time funded adult agriculture instructors. However, secondary agriculture instructors can be involved by working with a small number of FBMA enrollees and can request 25 hours of hourly adult reimbursement for each enrollee that completes farm analysis to be included in the annual Missouri FBMA Record Summary.

Missouri Young Farmers Organization

A significant development in adult leadership training was the formation of the Missouri Young Farmers/Young Farm Wives organizations in 1972. The organizations involve adults in educational and leadership activities at the local, district, state and national levels. The local agriculture teacher usually serves as the advisor of the local chapter. Local chapter officers frequently serve in an advisory capacity to assist in planning monthly educational programs, business meetings, and recreational or social activities. Many Young Farmers/Young Farm Wives chapters also conduct service or community service projects in the local community each year.

Membership in the organizations is open to persons of any age. State activities include a two-day convention in February, a 2½-day agricultural tour in August and participation in numerous other state and national agricultural events. There were 44 active Young Farmers chapters in 2009-2010. State membership totaled 1,033.

Charter information for starting or re-activating a chapter of the Missouri Young Farmers may be found by contacting Lisa Evans, Missouri Young Farmer Executive Secretary, DESE.

Starting an Adult Agriculture Program in Your School and Community

The catalysts behind any good adult agriculture program are the agriculture instructors in the local school and the farmers and other agricultural professionals in the community who are interested in initiating opportunities to improve the viability and profitability of their own farming enterprises and agricultural businesses. They also see the overall benefit of adult education in terms of what it can do to increase agriculture's contribution and influence in the local economy. When the agriculture instructor and a group of interested patrons decide to start a program, the steps are simple. Adult programs are funded either as "hourly" programs or "full-time" programs.

Starting a Short-Term or 'Hourly' Adult Program

Step 1: Identify Classes and Activities

Get a group of three to eight interested persons together to identify what types of classes and adult activities will fit the community's needs and will attract sufficient enrollment. Use the topics list (Appendix A) as a resource to get some ideas on the table. In addition, don't hesitate to use neighboring agriculture instructors, the district agricultural education supervisor and the state Farm Business Management Analysis (FBMA) coordinator as resources.

Step 2: Prepare a Budget

Make a list of the class sessions and activities your group selected, and prepare a simple budget of how much it will cost to operate the program and from where the funds will come. Present the written plan and budget to your primary school administrator (in most cases, the principal or career/technical school director) for approval. (Use the sample form found at the adultaged.missouri.edu web site for your written plan and budget.) A sample completed form is included in this chapter as Appendix B. It is key that the local school determines how much the instructor will be paid for coordinating the adult class. The school might decide to pay \$20 per hour of adult instruction, but the maximum state reimbursement is \$10 per hour. Classes also must enroll at least 10 students to qualify for reimbursement. Typically, a secondary teacher would request three hours of reimbursement for each adult class session or 25 hours of reimbursement for each FBMA enrollee who completes the analysis program.

Step 3: Report the Adult Program and Request Salary Reimbursement from DESE by April 1 on MOSIS

The agriculture instructor can plan and complete adult classes at any time during the school year. After the completion of the class(es), the agriculture instructor should provide the necessary information to report the classes and request salary reimbursement to the school's data clerk. Instructions and examples of how the MOSIS form should be completed for different types of adult classes can be found at <http://dese.mo.gov/MOSIS/>. The MOSIS form must be completed and submitted to the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) by April 1 and cannot be submitted past that date. Salary reimbursement for the adult class(es) will be made by DESE to your school district, which will - in turn - pay the instructor for the class.

Starting a 'Full-Time' Adult Program

Starting a full-time adult program (hiring a full-time adult teacher) in a local school district involves basically the same steps as an hourly program. The requirements for funding reimbursement are structured differently, however, because full-time adult programs are required to complete a minimum level of work in each of the three adult components: Farm Business Management Analysis, classroom instruction and leadership development (Young Farmer chapter). The requirements are outlined in the Administrative Guidelines for Farm Business Management Analysis which can be accessed on the adult education web page <http://www.adultaged.missouri.edu/>

State funds through DESE currently are not available for full-time-instructor salary reimbursements for the startup of additional full-time adult agricultural education programs in Missouri. Any new full-time programs would have to be funded from other sources secured by the local school district.

Adult Agriculture Education Resources

The best help in conducting a good adult education program is found by collaborating with successful teachers. The DESE district supervisors, state FBMA office and agriculture and extension personnel at the state colleges and universities are always willing to help. Most of these folks welcome the opportunity to get out and interact with producers and local community people. Don't hesitate to invite them to come and make presentations and assist with your adult classes.

The Missouri Adult Agriculture web site (<http://www.adultaged.missouri.edu/>) hosts nearly all of the information presented in this chapter and much more. The 'Management on the Web' link, listing many of the best production agriculture web sites, is popular with both agriculture instructors and producers. Explore the site and publicize it with the adults in your program!

Appendix A: Topics for Adult Agriculture Classes*

AG MECHANICS

- Ag Construction
- Alternative Energy Systems-Wind Power
- Alternative Fuels-Ethanol / Biodiesel
- Blacksmithing
- Electrical Generators for Farm & Home
- Electrical Wiring / Safety
- Engine Maintenance
- Farm Shops
- Machine Sheds
- MIG Welding/TIG Welding
- Oxy-Acetylene Welding
- Plasma Cutting
- Precision Agriculture Systems
- Small Gas Engines
- Tractor Restoration
- Woodworking

AG POLICY / LEADERSHIP

- Ag Assessment/Property Tax Issues
- Agriculture Laws on MO Highways
- Bioterrorism
- County Issues-Health, Roads, Taxes
- Eminent Domain/Zoning
- Fence Laws & Legal Issues
- GMO-Genetically Modified Organisms
- Legislative Updates/Issues
- River Commerce in Missouri
- School Finance & Bond Issues
- Transportation Regulations

AGRONOMY / CROP PRODUCTION

- Aerial Spraying
- Ag Chemicals & Updates
- Cool and Warm Season Grasses
- Corn Production Techniques
- Crop Scouting w/IPM Scope
- Fertilizer Management
- Fescue Management
- Forage Improvement/Analysis
- Grid Sampling / Fertilization
- GPS Monitors & Mapping
- Grass Management
- Herbicide Resistance
- New Seed Technologies
- No-Till/Minimum Till
- Nutrient (Manure) Management
- Pasture Renovation
- Pest Control
- Pesticide Applicator Certification
- Prescribed Burning
- Soybean Production Techniques
- Weed Control/Management

COMPUTERS IN AGRICULTURE

- Computers-Managing Windows
- Computerized Farm Record Keeping
- Excel Spreadsheets
- Farm Accounting with PcMars™
- Farm Accounting with Quicken™
- Farm Business Analysis w/Finpack™
- FSA e-gov
- Herd Management Software
- Internet for Farmers
- PDAs/Handheld Computers
- Using BERM (Business Environmental Resource Management)
- Using FastTools
- Website Design & Management

FARM MANAGEMENT / PLANNING

- Farm Service Programs-FSA
- Ag Outlook
- Agricultural Financing & Loans
- Building Balance Sheets
- Conservation Security Program
- Crop Insurance Strategies
- CRP and Conservation Planning
- Custom Farming Rates-Update
- Enterprise Budgeting
- Estate Planning
- Financing Options
- Income Tax Management
- Investing & Finance/Basics
- Land Investment Evaluation
- Livestock Risk Protection (Price Insurance)
- Machinery Leasing
- NRCS Programs
- Risk Management

GENERAL INTEREST

- Agriculture History
- Bee Keeping (Apiculture)
- CDL Licensing Requirements
- Community Development
- Composting Ag Products
- Cooperative Agricultural Ventures
- Disaster Preparation
- Farm Liabilities, Legal Concerns & Trespassing
- Farm Business Analysis w/FinPack
- Farm Property Insurance Issues
- Farm Safety/Electrical Safety
- First Aid & CPR
- Grow Native MDC
- Home Butchering
- Home Curing Meats/Handling
- Hunter Education
- Identity Theft
- International Agriculture
- Managing for Fish/Wildlife
- MO Dept of Ag Programs for Farmers
- MO Drug Task Force
- Pond/Aquatic Management
- Quail Management
- Stress Management
- Sustainable Agriculture
- Taxidermy
- Using the Stock Market
- Value Added Agriculture
- Value Added Marketing
- Varmint Control
- Water Quality & Aquaculture
- Weather/Climate Change
- Wine Production
- Women as Landowners

HORTICULTURE / FORESTRY

- Bedding Plant Production
- Floral Arranging
- Forest Management (Logging & Lumber)
- Grape Production
- Greenhouse Growing
- Greenhouse Management / Maintenance
- Hoop Houses & Cold Frames
- Home Horticulture
- Home Landscaping
- Managing MO Timber
- Perennial Gardens

- Plant Propagation Techniques
- Raised Bed Gardening
- Straw Gardens
- Vegetable Gardening

LIVESTOCK

- Animal Health-New Products
- Animal Identification Programs
- Animal Rights/Animal Welfare
- Beef Carcass Evaluation
- Beef Production/Breeding
- Beef Production/Grass Finishing
- Beef Production/Low Input
- Beef Ration Balancing
- Bull Selection
- By-Products Feeds-Nutrition, Handling & Economics
- Chicken Tractors
- Equine Care
- Feeding Your Own Cattle
- Feeder Calf Production
- Feedlots-Retained Ownership
- Genetic Technology Utilization
- Handling Cattle w/Horses or ATVs
- Hoop Systems for Livestock
- Increasing Profits w/Ultrasound
- Livestock Health Issues
- Livestock Ration Programs
- Managed Grazing Programs
- Meat Goat Production
- Meat Grading/Quality
- Nutrient (Manure) Management
- Pasture/Grazing/Seasonal Dairy
- Pork Quality Assurance
- Poultry Nutrition
- Premier Beef-Evaluation of Carcass Data
- Producing Meat, Milk & Eggs for Home Use
- QSA - Beef Source and Age Verification
- Radio Frequency Identification Tags
- Selecting & Caring for Show Animals
- Showmanship for Cattle / Swine / Sheep / Goats
- Swine Contract Feeding Options
- Using EPDs to Improve the Herd
- Vet Medicine/Technologies & Animal Health

MARKETING

- Ag Marketing & Risk Management
- Developing a Marketing Plan
- Futures & Options Market Strategies
- Grid Marketing of Beef
- How to Market Timber

TOURS & ACTIVITIES

- Farm Shows
- Feedlot/Packing Plant Tour
- Garden Tour
- Grazing Tour
- Livestock Production Tour
- Local Agribusiness Tour
- Local Farm Tour
- Pasture Walks
- Variety Plot Tour

* Use this as idea list for an adult class planning session. Many of these topics are suitable as a 'on-session' topic, and most would be appropriate for an 'in-depth series' class.

