

5. AGRICULTURAL AND VOCATIONAL EDUCATION

We support:

1. Continuation of agricultural education programs with emphasis placed on the recruitment and training of qualified agricultural instructors.
2. Efforts by county Farm Bureaus working closely with their local school districts to establish and ensure the maintenance, improvement and continuation of agricultural education programs and FFA. High school agricultural education and the FFA are vital programs for development of the talent and leadership needed in farming and agricultural service industries.
3. Vocational and technical programs including post high school training and retraining.
4. Retention of primary administrative responsibility for vocational programs at the state and local levels.
5. Efforts by county Farm Bureaus to work with their school districts to implement an updated agricultural education curriculum to meet the needs of today's agriculture. The curriculum should include agricultural science courses or other classes that would meet the criteria needed to receive credit for a college prep course.
6. The inclusion of agricultural projects in school science fairs.
7. The restoration of state level funding for agricultural education programs.
8. The recognition of agricultural education as a Teaching Shortage Area by the Illinois State Board of Education and/or Illinois General Assembly.
9. Encouraging colleges and universities to offer an internship program as part of their curriculum for students studying to become vo-ag instructors. The purpose of the internship would be to gain real world experience by providing hands-on experience working on a farm, at an agriculture business or for agriculture related organizations. To provide a variety of opportunities the internship should not be limited to any one type of farm operation.