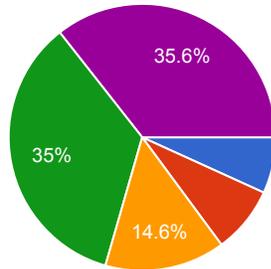


309 responses

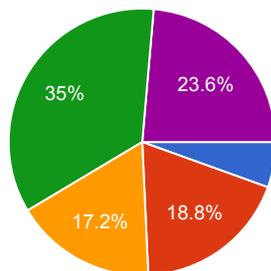
Summary

Georgia Agricultural Education should expand to include elementary school students.



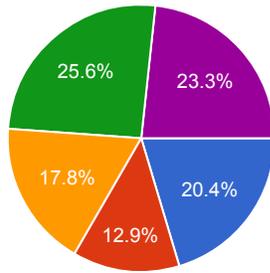
Strongly Disagree	21	6.8%
Disagree	25	8.1%
Neutral	45	14.6%
Agree	108	35%
Strongly Agree	110	35.6%

The 3-component model of Ag Ed has been proven successful in middle and high school Ag Ed programs and would be effective for elementary school students.



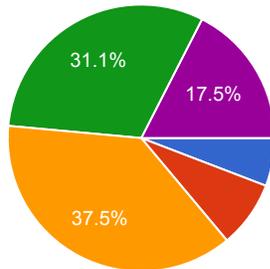
Strongly Disagree	17	5.5%
Disagree	58	18.8%
Neutral	53	17.2%
Agree	108	35%
Strongly Agree	73	23.6%

I would be interested in teaching Ag Ed at the elementary school level.



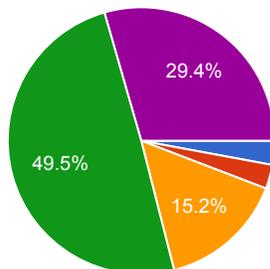
Strongly Disagree	63	20.4%
Disagree	40	12.9%
Neutral	55	17.8%
Agree	79	25.6%
Strongly Agree	72	23.3%

My LOCAL SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION would be supportive of expanding AgEd into the elementary school level.



Strongly Disagree	18	5.8%
Disagree	25	8.1%
Neutral	116	37.5%
Agree	96	31.1%
Strongly Agree	54	17.5%

My local COMMUNITY would be supportive of expanding AgEd into the elementary school level.



Strongly Disagree	9	2.9%
Disagree	9	2.9%

Neutral	47	15.2%
Agree	153	49.5%
Strongly Agree	91	29.4%

Please provide your greatest concern with an expansion of agricultural education into the elementary school level.

Funding

lack of individuals to teach

I think that a better idea would be for individual chapters interested in this to start Ag Clubs at their local elementary schools to meet the needs of communities that are requesting these programs.

I would image that SAE would be the most difficult segment of agricultural education to expand to the elementary school level. I think our definition of SAE would have to shift to allow many more on campus opportunities for students.

All high schools and middle schools should be filled and fully funded first.

funding (local or state)

Will they be competing with older students? Will this take away from my high school students?

Will my high school students get burned out on FFA if they start in ELEM school? I think it should be an introductory deal to get them started - not necessarily the full 3 circle model.

Realistically I see ag in the elementary school as a supplemental program where a teacher could go from school to school in the county and teach very basic lessons

From a 3 ring model perspective, it just isn't viable without an FFA component

SAE would be a difficult thing to implement in an elementary setting.

Being able to tailor curriculum to the lower levels, especially being able to understand and comprehend the FFA

This subject can be covered by the teachers and from the FFA chapters

Funding, standards, and burn-out

Finding teachers may be challenging. SAE projects may be difficult for younger children.

The amount of students and how to keep them engaged.

CDE

How would (home projects) be handled? Or would it be a school based project? What would the curriculum look like? How would expanding effect our existing budget, The existing programs can't continue to work more and get paid less.

available teachers

Early Childhood education is very different than Middle and High school education. I am not sure how you would prepare teachers for early childhood lesson plans and classroom management. I think the curriculum design and implementation is very interesting and exciting. I don't think I would allow systems to implement this in elementary schools unless they have middle school programs. This will allow the correct scaffolding and prevent curriculum gaps.

What's that look like? A weekly class similar to chorus? A separate teacher for the elementary schools?

Funding and how would we connect with FFA? Would it look more like 4H DPA? Where come and do all sorts of contests on the same day?

Instituting FFA and SAE at that age

The FFA aspect is my only concern. Would we truly still have a three circle model.

My only concern would be students losing interest in agriculture classes by the time they reach middle and high school grade levels.

Late hours- If students participate in after school activities (CDEs) they would be arriving late and that student would lose those hours of sleep.

We already have a shortage of quality Agriculture Educators. If we expand in the elementary schools do we do an injustice by putting poor quality teachers into a program.

Meeting the POW and the standards, these students cannot be FFA members and their SAE's would not be comparable, so concessions need to be made for that.

funding for ag ed.

Schools being able or even wanting to add additional Teacher standards not being able to support their level of knowledge

How would this be funded would be a concern. My suggestion would be to have these positions primarily funded on the local level---maybe with initial state money to get them going.

My concern would be with the implementation of the FFA component of the 3 circle model. Would they have any FFA participation opportunities? I think the cost to the school system would be a huge factor. Our system currently has 9 elementary schools.

Cutting into the already restricted budget that we work with in our school systems and the state. This would also include if they were offered extended day and extended year.

Funding

Expanding Ag Ed into the middle school would be a great recruitment tool for our program. My only concern is who would teach these programs. Only certified Ag Education teachers should be allowed to run these programs otherwise we may have teachers who don't understand our program and its purpose and integrity.

Restructuring the FFA to fit them in

our 4 H has meeting and activities in our elementary schools. Would we be moving into an area that is) already served. Also FFA (SAE, CDE) are not things I feel that this age student could handle.

of teachers needed

Funding and extended year/day

Lack of local district for agricultural education as a whole.

My biggest concern is it fitting in with all of the elementary curriculum requirements that are in place today.

The time to plan and prepare the model and then leaving the program atleast 3 to 5 years so that you would have a true outcome of the successes or failures of the program

At our school, ag ed would probably end up as a "specials" like music and PE. If that happens then students would receive no grade, just meeting a standard.

Activities appropriate for elementary students.

I strongly believe agriculture should be taught at the elementary age. The only concern I have is including FFA and SAE's at that age. I feel that SAE's and FFA could overload students at that age. If it is included, it should be for education purposes and used as an entry way to middle and high school full ag ed programs.

facilities, FFA membership opportunities available, having to float between two schools

We do not have middle school ag, so I believe that it would be hard to convince them for elementary ag. Also, we can't find teachers that can fill current job needs.

Finding competent teachers who know agriculture and not pop culture.+

My greatest concern would be the duplication of services of 4-H or competing with the 4-H program. I hope that it would not minimize the important working relationship between Ag Ed and Extension. However, I feel that Ag Ed would help to meet several CCRPI indicators for elementary schools.

Having enough financial resources to keep the current middle-high school programs going, as well as provide funds for the elementary level.

SAE Component at a young age- availability of resources

the participation in FFA on the 5th grade level.

Program of Work

Funding & FFA Activities that are appropriate for this age group of students.

Lack of qualified teachers.

Proper education and certification as degree only reaches from 6th to 12th

I feel that it would need to be handled carefully to not overshadow 4-H and its mission.

Requirements for extended day/year. Would there be any requirements, or would those teachers agree to work for 10 month contracts similar to regular ed teachers?

Funding for program/teacher

Money for extended day worries me. It just seems that somehow this would make it harder to keep everyone fully funded. I know the leadership at the state level has this covered, but still concerns me somewhat.

teachers

having enough teachers to fill the positions; FFA- It will be a lot of work for the FFA events to be modified for Elem school students to be able to perform well. It would be a lot of work if Elem school teachers had the same POA because they would not be able to help the teacher fill out record books, proficiency applications, compose secretary book or write minuets

My greatest concern would be funding. Would we cut other programs to fund this?

My greatest concern with Ag in elementary is already happening with Ag in middle schools. We only have a high school program and there is an advantage held by schools that have middle and high school programs in many of the CDE's such as creed speaking. This advantage would grow with the addition of elementary Ag classes.

My greatest concern is fitting the program into the already crammed elementary day. I would love to see this be implemented in the school, however. With work with administration, this would definitely be possible and extremely beneficial.

The FFA component and students competing in CDE's and having officers.

How would CDE's and extended day/year work?

SAE projects and FFA activities aimed at elementary kids

For our community it is important for us to get Ag in middle schools prior to elementary schools.

My biggest concern is that I have a whole lot more questions than information at this time. I am concerned that we will be seen as duplicating the role of 4-H in the elementary schools. I know that what we have is different, but I fear many others do not and would not. Doing this will take a HUGE push in PR. I also worry about the availability of teachers to fill these positions- teachers that will adhere to the Three Component Model of the Ag Ed Program are in short supply already. Additionally, I am concerned about certification issues as we are only certified 7-12. Would we need additional certification and Education? Will there be two certification levels?

Becoming certified to teach elementary-aged students and having the necessary resources and support.

Scheduling concerns, would be difficult to have as a daily class.

How would FFA competitions be incorporated.

School district funding and scheduling concerns.

just curious at how in depth the curriculum would be

Teacher certification

Budgets for county - already at a low point based on expanding county programs.

My biggest concern would be having students with quality SAE programs. Students in middle school already struggle to have a successful and the quality it should be.

no concerns

While I feel that it is a great idea to incorporate more agriculture into the elementary grade curriculum, I do not know if teaching an agriculture or agriscience class would be beneficial at that level. If a full time teaching position was not opened up and a middle school teacher had to cover elementary ag classes, I feel it would take away time 6th-8th students that could actively participate in contests and events for FFA. With the emphasis put on teachers meeting all of our standards, I think this would keep us from presenting a quality learning opportunity to any student due to time constraints.

Shortage of agriculture teacher already on the high school and middle school levels.

As a middle school teacher, I already feel that there are fewer opportunities for middle schoolers as far as CDEs and contests are concerned. Additionally, if you bring in elementary school children you also bring in a whole new set of liabilities (elementary and high school kids in the same setting). I also wonder how that would affect and step on the toes of our 4H programs. I think for it to work it would have to be a collaborative effort with the 4H program, with the understanding of greater expectations and involvement with 4H leaders (maybe adding them to the list of connections teachers so that they see kids every day?).

Integrating FFA

I do not see a problem other than your state livestock show numbers will increase tremendously. I am not sure what curriculum could be used for this expansion. I am afraid that the options once a student reaches the high school level would be greatly limited. I can see this causing a decline in numbers at the high school level.

The maturity of students

Expanding Ag Education into elementary schools would only add to the shortage of agriculture teachers. Some programs are already suffering from lack of needed teachers.

Elementary students will not be eligible to join the FFA since it is only available to middle and high school students. It will also be more challenging for them to have an SAE program at that age.

Curriculum restructuring - How do we spread what we already teach across 6 more grades? Does this factor into pathway completion and what pathways are offered in a district?

1) Funding for extended day. 2) Events for students outside of class. 3) How to incorporate FFA with the class.

Would FFA be a part of it? I sometimes feel like middle school is left behind. I can feel that elementary would be even more left out.

Incorporating FFA at those grade levels. I feel we would have to adjust the way we do things to incorporate them.

Will it burn students out?

Funding- our county complains about the ag education in HS (we dont even have a middle school program) and feel like funding would be a concern

Time out class.

Trying to make it look like miniature middle schools/ 4-H.

Not sure about students in the elementary grades doing an SAE.

Funding; We have 7 elementary schools in our county

Would Teachers at this level still be apart of extend day extended year and what activites would be inplace to allow for these hours to be accumulated

I currently teach in the elementary school but also middle school. I think it needs to be a full time position. It is difficult for a teacher to teach at two schools and be a great FFA Advisor.

The curriculum: Are we going to saddle the students at a young age with more "standards to master"? The curriculum should be activity based; consumables cost money - who will pay for that? Will the \$\$ come out of the teacher's pocket (like it usually does)? Will we have to submit a P.O. for every little thing used for these activities? Who will develop the curriculum - someone that's been in an elementary classroom AND has ag ed experience or some guru at the DOE?

Another concern is how our teachers are trained. Teaching younger students requires a knowledge of developmental stages and how best to appropriately work with them. It is totally different from the high school student. FINANCING: we've worked hard to reach the point that the legislature recognizes the importance of fully funding Ex. Day/Ex. Yr..... At the local level, some of us have to justify every expense for Ag Ed/FFA. Will the added program take away from funds we get now? Lots of unanswered questions.....

Lack of qualified teachers

Amount of standards to be met and CDEs

I could see FFA and SAE projects being a problem at the elementary level. Students could do small SAE projects like planting plants or caring for an animal, but I don't see FFA working out well at the elementary level.

No concerns just excited that this item is open for discussion!! I feel it would be a great move for Agricultural Education.

I think the class would be great, but I don't think that a regional FFA would be a good idea. I think they could just do local chapter events - like after school meetings. I see this as being more like a music or art class in elementary school.

It will be difficult for students to stay after school for FFA events and activities. I'm not sure how extended day would work in elementary schools. Perhaps they could have FFA but not be on extended day and extended year.

No concerns

We are currently in a shortage of teachers for middle and high school. Will this take away from those programs? Also, how would the FFA aspect of the three circle model be used if it was recognized?

I think elementary teachers are already so overwhelmed with what they have to teach, I'm not sure that it would work. Although I think it is a great idea to incorporate it into younger grades.

Willingness of systems to implement the program and continue to fund the program. I don't think the programs would be like the MS and HS programs... But I can see them being WILDLY popular and helpful. We had a similar program/ partnership with a nearby elementary school... it was so rewarding for both sides.

Number of teachers available to teach elementary agriculture education

Finding enough teachers!!!

I do not think taking FFA and SAE down to that level would work out too well. As far as teaching them about agriculture and getting them interested in FFA I think it is great!

Development of teaching materials, including workbooks, for teachers.

There should be a middle school program in place before starting an elementary program.

Adding additional teachers when we have not been producing enough to fill the high school and middle school positions for the past 20+ years.

Standards, cde's, SAE's, membership and dues

I have two main concerns about expanding into the elementary school. First would be finding enough qualified teachers to fill the positions. Second would be how to conduct FFA events for a younger crowd. It would be difficult for them to travel to events because of parent concerns and time.

My biggest concern is that it will be turned into who has the best FFA (because bylaws can be amended) instead of being a "real", "practical" agricultural learning experience.

Expansion is great, but the SAE component and home visits would be more difficult. I teach high school and my admin does not support me going to student homes for SAE visits.

Shortage of teachers to fill positions

Extended Day Extended Year Pay

Administration may be not be supportive of activities and missing of class time for events since a strong emphasis is placed on math and especially reading scores.

Teachers to be placed in Elementary schools

Would there be a Program of Work for elementary school level teachers? What would be the difference between the POW for middle school and elementary? Would elementary students compete in CDEs, SAEs, livestock shows, etc. that make our current programs such a success?

Having teachers certified for younger kids

Conflicts with the local 4-H program

Keeping the integrity of the Three Ring Model.

How the curriculum would be formatted

I do not think FFA would work at the elementary level. 6th grade students aren't even recognized on the national level, so I don't think it is appropriate to think that we could call elementary school students FFA members...ever.

No concerns

I think it would be a great addition, but I am not sure how much emphasis my county would place on an elementary program. There are three high schools and four middle schools that do not have ag programs in our county. I think it will be great for those counties with great support of Ag Ed.

Creating new positions without an appropriate increase in funding at the state level.

Not enough funding for current programs

There are still systems without middle school programs that need to be filled.

conflict with 4 h, large number of elementary schools would need more teachers, curriculum. An advantage would be that it would possibly better feed our programs

I am actually a principal at Gilmer Middle School in Ellijay Ga. We currently need a State of Ga Course # in 5th grade to expand our 5th grade program and keep our 6-8 program' Larry Walker 706-276-5030 please call

Local support for some counties or communities

Killing 4H

Maturity level of students participating in FFA and with SAE...

CDEs and SAEs

Our county doesn't want ag in the middle school classroom, much less elementary school. I think Ag in the Classroom and high school students visiting the elementary students is fine with the exception of magnet or charter schools with a focus on AFNR.

FUnding and support

Parents are not particularly supportive of SAE in Middle School, I believe in our community they would fight any SAE requirement in elementary school. The "specials" classes in elementary school do not require work outside of their class time.

Being able to take young children places without the amount of adult supervision needed.

How long would it take for ag ed in elementary school take to go national.

none

Budget to cover the cost

What kind of standards would elementary ag teachers have to meet?

school systems wanting to make the high school or middle school teacher teach classes at the elementary school while hendering there other program

The Required POA

Would it include extended day and year?

I feel that if Agriculture Education would expand into the elementary levels, it needs to be offered to the older students (4th and 5th graders).

SAE projects. How will they be apart of FFA

Not sure how the 3 ring model would work for younger students. Would worry about taking funding from other programs.

I am not sure how FFA will look at the elementary level.

keeping them involved and interested in different activities

Would elementary school AG Ed be as involved as middle and high school AG Ed. Would there be competitions, SAE apportunities, and would there be extended day/ year for those teachers as well. Where would that money come from? How would they be evaluated? Same criteria a middle school/ high school teacher? These are some questions I have.

The liability of some of the hands on components of agricultural education

Who's going to teach it, time restrains

not enough ag teachers

Providing meaningful SAE and FFA experiences for elementary school students is unrealistic

Maintaining a true 3-circle model

Paying the teacher salary. We are already concerned with paying the teachers we have.

SAEs

lots of elementary schools per county, lots of new positions to fill, will this affect the amount of State Funding on current AG ED teachers.

n/a

How many ag teachers were short in the state of GA last year? Added programs are no good if they can't be taught by an ag teacher.

There are no FFA membership or participatory opportunities available at the elementary level.

Therefore the three component model would be a two-legged stool toppling over.

having enough curriculum to teach. how indepth could a teacher actually get

How assigning SAE Projects work at the elementary school level, and will there be enough teachers to fill these positions.

CDEs, Extended Day/Extended Year, & FFA Membership

Not meeting the 3 circle model needs. FFA involvement at the elementary level.

I worry that our students will be "burnt out" on AgEd material and FFA activities by the time they are in high school, if they started in Elementary. I would also be concerned with the teacher educator programs could properly prepare young agricultural education instructors to understand the needs of elementary aged students.

Cost effectiveness based on extended day/extended year. There is already a shortage of qualified Ag. teachers in our state, already.

My concern would be funding and would students be able to compete in competitions local systems not buying into the value of Elementary programs.

I'm not sure how to incorporate the SAE aspect of 3 component model to students at the elementary school level.

Lack of qualified teachers or change in certification

the availability of funds!! also, would it really need to be extended day-extended year??

An SAE project might not be difficult to implement; however, I am not sure if National FFA would be on board with having elementary school members or if these students could participate beyond the local level. If not, how would these teachers earn ext. day and year?

This is just not financially feasible for local school systems, let alone the state.

My greatest concern with expansion is having enough teacher to teach and going back to school to get certified.

lack of funding

Qualified educators able to meet the agricultural needs and the elementary student needs.

Having enough teachers to fill the positions

I'm afraid FFA would turn out like 4H, very few high school students participating relative to the elementary and middle level kids. Students may see Ag as a "kid thing" and not show interest in high school.

My concern is the sometimes limited amount of funds for extended day and extended year would be even more stretched because we have added potentially a huge number of ag teachers.

100% membership of all elementary school students because parents do not understand and what a CDE would look like for this age student.

Support from local administration

Students need to get the basics in the lower grades. I know aged teaches a lot but it is more career based and that is not what elementary students need.

Teachers to teach elementary, expanding FFA to elementary schools (more competitions, more time from area teachers, more supplies etc.

I don't think elementary could do the SAE as we know it. It would have to be an in class project with the whole group. POW would have to be strongly modified because there would be very little after school FFA participation.

Funding and additional curriculum added to elementary education

If we were to have the FFA CDEs without modifications for elementary level learners, it would be unfair to them as it is unfair for a 6th grade FFA junior to compete against a 9th grade FFA junior.

Completing SAEs

Not enough Ag teachers for Middle/High teachers. Where are we going to get enough for elementary programs?

Funding and support staff to also aid elementary Ag program succes

The funding and not interfering with other curriculum.

My biggest concern is pulling middle or high school teachers away from their current schools/programs to teach at elementary school.

Other Comments.

the potential for AgEd at the elementary school level is interesting.

This is part of the FFA POW

My only concern is having enough teachers to fill all of the needed positions that this would take.

If there is actual funding for this that doesn't interfere with existing programs, go for it. How would extended day/extended year be handled?

I am very excited and interested in being a part of this. If I can help in any way, then please let me know. Susan Jones sjones@bullochschools.org

I do think expanding into elementary schools is a valid point and worthwhile effort. However, I would like to see a stronger push to implement more middle school programs prior to expanding into elementary schools. The larger ag ed programs will likely be the ones that make a push for elementary school, furthering the gap between chapters. There are many systems currently without middle school programs.

I am so excited about this possibility!

I feel that this is a wonderful idea! Several of my Farm Bureau ladies that do Ag in the Classroom activities in our local school system already have lots of support. The Farm Bureau Ag in the Classroom program already has a lot of curriculum for K-5 education.

Support of local administration in my county is not adequate. The principals have authority to suggest and implement courses in their schools based on what they see as the "need". Most are strongly swayed towards Fine Arts here.

Very good idea for Pre K-8 schools

The National FFA already does not recognize 6th graders into the FFA. If we go into the elementary school how would we treat these younger students in regard to their FFA membership.

Worry about our relationship with 4H because they are in the elementary school

I think this is a wonderful possibility! Kids want to learn, and about agriculture. Why not start them early by trained professionals! I do farm days for elementary kids, and they CRAVE what we(me and my students) teach.

Many schools cut music and art in the elementary schools a few years ago because of budget shortfalls. This may be a good time to push for this as systems look to add programs back.

Making the push for the need to educate all students about our food supply and its production could be a strong argument.

I could see elementary ag. ed. as an option without extended day and year.

I think this would be a great addition to agriculture and possibly open the door to teaching more advanced classes at the high school level if the basic information was covered before students enter the 9th grade.

I think students could greatly benefit from Ag Ed at the Elementary school level. It could be a great recruitment tool for our program IF it is run properly.

we would have to separate convention to a elem. and middle school and high school would be separate

This would assist with the changes to the grant that funds extended day/extended year. Those teachers like myself that teach an out-of-field class would be covered.

Ag Ed at the elementary level should be focused on where our food comes from, activities should be educational and above all fun!!

While I support this idea, I wonder if the 3 circle model would be effective with this age group. I could see an ag awareness approach with an agriscience fair project as an SAE. Other activities would seem to be the make or break point of this idea.

I feel like the 3 model component would be overwhelming for elementary students. But I believe that the classroom component would be a great addition.

I believe this would spark an interest at an earlier age and prove to strengthen ag education at the middle and high school level since the students would already be familiar with it. Students have the potential for being more active within the program.

This is a way we can combat Move on When Ready, but at the same time more than 7 years of FFA & Agriculture Education may cause some students to "finish" with our program early if there is not a "different" enough experience in Elementary, Middle & High School

I think that this is a GREAT idea! the earlier we can implement ag into these kids the better!

Concerns with push back from 4-H as they reach students starting in 5th grade or if a compromise can be reached.

We are having trouble expanding to the middle schools in our county due to funding issues. Elementary expansion is a pipe dream.

I believe this could be a good way for younger generations to learn about the source of their food. So many do not understand the importance of agriculture in their daily lives.

This is an excellent way gain/maintain our FFA membership, train the next generation of agriculturalist, and it goes hand-in-hand with the STEM/STEAM program.

I would love to see this happen! My personal children are not being served by the county 4h and this would allow for 13 years of leadership and personal growth and I think we would see some tremendous students develop out of this program.

Sounds like a good idea and I strongly feel that Elem school students need to know where their food comes from, but it will be a lot of work for the state staff and curriculum department to modify everything

I am not saying that I disagree with elementary Ag, just stating my concerns!

I have personally benefitted from AgEd in my learning career. I would love to share this with my elementary students. Not to mention, I teach in a very farming-based community. The children would love this program and its' benefits.

I feel like there would be more parent involvement.

Back in the day, when I was in college, I had a course in Ed Research with several Extension Agents. They were concerned with the number of students that left the 4-H after elementary school, never to return. If I remember correctly, one of the issues dealt with the kids thinking it was a program for "little kids". I don't want to see us get into similar issues and hope that we'll

look at the research that 4-H agents have done to see about the root cause of that issue before we go too much further.

This could expand the Farm to School program greatly.

No middle school programs are supported in county. High School programs can participate in ag days or ag in the classroom to broadcast agriculture to elementary schools.

I think these programs would help students in developing leadership skills at a young age. I also believe it would help students better their science education. I would be extremely happy to help start these programs.

If we are going to expand into the elementary schools, can we at least first get the National FFA to recognize 6th graders? They do pay National FFA Dues after all.

Any district that looks to offer elementary ag classes must have a middle school program as well.

I think that ag ed in elementary schools would be a great way to spread to districts that don't have ag ed.

How would their standards differ/ What type of SAE would they be able to do? What would their extended day/extended year look like because many can't stay after school.

I think Teacher Prep Programs HAVE to be on board- there is already a shortage. I think it should be taught in elementary schools, but I don't think it can be real similar to middle/ high school. I think we would need to go at it with a fresh perspective and an attitude of we have just as much right as "robotics" and other things. We can help students grow just as much as the ever-present "STEM"... I am an advocate for STEAM in all grades. I do think that it would help expand Teacher Prep Programs because we could formulate a certificate program for early childhood teachers (lots were FFA members). I don't think there would be a need for traditional extended day/year for elementary school teachers from a school psychology/pedagogy standpoint. Granted, they will do extra activities designed to "hook" the kids early on, but it will not be to the extent of middle/high. Also, it will give larger numbers of "ag teachers" which is always a good thing... the programming is happening already, but not necessarily formally. 4-H and Farm Bureau are trying. This seems logical to progress this idea. If it was important and functional in the teens, 20's, and 30's, I can see a need for it now... people are much further removed from their food now than then. I do wonder what the long term effects might be for middle and high programs... will it cause a lack of interest?? I don't know. But I do know, our numbers are going to eventually start to decline the more students get opportunities (parent supported/initiated) off campus. I know it would fly here in my county... we have even discussed it, previously.

I think adding ag education in the elementary grades is a great idea!! We need to promote agriculture!

I think it should be more of a consumer based education of agriculture. Students can learn where their food comes from and we can let them experience hands on their science standards to reinforce them. This will help feed our middle school programs and educate all students of the importance of agriculture in their everyday lives.

I agree that our younger students need to be exposed to and learn about the importance of agriculture. Some of the science standards for elementary grades include some aspects of agriculture and environmental sciences. Before teachers were burdened with teaching to test, many early childhood/elementary teachers taught farm units. It is one of the more fun units to

teach. A Connections teacher can expose their students to agriculture, but elementary rotation through those classes only allow an exposure, every 6-7 weeks.

I think it would be great for elementary school students to grow gardens and have small greenhouses where they could plant plants. We could start students off right knowing how important agriculture is in our daily lives.

This is an immediate need!!

I myself have a child in elementary school and I would absolutely love for him to be involved in an agriculture program! The elementary schools already seek out ways to include agriculture in their curriculum, so adding an agriculture teacher would be a natural next step.

This would be an amazing opportunity for students.

I WOULD LOVE TO DO THIS!!!!!!!!!!!!!! OMG! I'D LOVE TO SEE THIS HAPPEN!!!

Will these students be allowed to be FFA members? How will that work since they are not allowed to be members at the National level?

Great idea!!! Count me in to help. J. Cargle

I believe this is a good idea. Elementary students are receptive and eager to do hands on activities. This will also give students more opportunities to learn about agriculture before they advance to middle school where time is very limited, and before high school where they might be pursuing a different pathway. There should not be any FFA membership. There should not be any required home SAE projects.

This should be an open and fun experience for the kids!

Lack of teachers that want to do elementary school

We do not currently have agriculture education in the middle schools. I am not sure of the reception by others for elementary.

I would love to do this. This is truly my passion, and I wish I could start this now. This could be a wonderful thing.

I feel there are other things in place (STEM, Ag. in the Classroom, FFA mentoring) that we could support that would be more effective in reaching elementary students. I do not feel that all three aspects of the three ring model could be held together at the elementary level. We are not fully funded now. Where would funding come from? We are already searching for qualified teachers, where would they come from? The teacher education program is designed for Middle and High School, working with elementary students would require additional/different training.

How would one be certified to teach agriculture to elementary school students?

Jessica Bearden would be a great person to help with this. She was an active FFA member at her high school and is teaching elementary school in Effingham.

I think it would be most beneficial at an upper elementary level

If we push this too much, the kids will know it all before they get to high school and then what are we supposed to do?

I think it would be great, they could have "Pee-Wee" degrees before Discovery Degrees.

awesome

Are there CDE's at this level?

N.A.

I think it would be a great way to build the Ag program.

I know there are schools in my community who would do this!

Our Mission in Ag Education has focused on High and Middle school students for 100 years. We do not need to dilute our strengths by trying to be everything for everybody. We need to focus on our mission and do it well. This distracts from real issues that need addressing.

Are we going to have nap time at state convention for the first graders?

n/a

Since there is no FFA in elementary school, extended day funds would be inappropriate.

Another concern is that local BOE and state BOE would not want to provide additional funding for AG teachers

Additionally, it takes away from the Ag Ed and Young Farmer Programs on activities and programs like Ag Awareness Days, Farm Safety Days, or any other activities that those local chapters provide and put on for elementary schools. This would also cause conflict with 4-H which is already in elementary schools. I do not think that this should even be an option, especially since our on state livestock show will not allow anyone under the age of 9 years old and in the 4th grade to participate in the show. Leave the elementary schools to the 4-H since that is their purpose.

Expansion of agriculture in the elementary school would give the children knowledge early of where there food comes from.

expand to all middle schools first

I feel a once a week special to enhance the science and math components of the curriculum.

Also, an accelerated program of study for those high achieving students - the ones we need in the agriculture industry to fill jobs lacking of qualified people.

I believe this is a great idea for retainment of female agricultural educators.

A great way to teach Agriculture and Science principles. A lot of elementary has gotten a way from teaching a lot of Science so this might catch those students and give them a background before middle school.

I firmly believe the expansion of our program into elementary schools will provide an even greater asset to our K-5th grade teachers. The school garden is by far the most popular learning experience for students at our elementary school. The teachers there always welcome our ag awareness program, and even ask for lessons from the Ag Ed Curriculum to supplement their own.

I think we need to focus more on making 6-12 Agricultural Education better by helping our teachers develop better teaching skills and strategies. We already have an Ag teacher shortage and until we get that under control then adding more positions will only put more stress on that situation.

I think it would be great to begin teaching kids at that age the value of agriculture and what it means to them and their family.

At one point in my career I was split between two schools, expected to have two separate FFA Chapters with seperate schedules and expectations. Then, I was held to the same state standards as all other teachers who didn't have to travel. If a teacher has to split time to make

these elementary programs work then their state standards should be adjusted and allowed more flexibility.

I think a continuation of Ag in the Classroom should be adopted by Georgia AgEd. However, I do not feel that the total 3-ring model of AgEd should reign supreme in the elementary edition of Ag Education. I think elementary ag education should focus primarily on the classroom while providing SAE opportunities through on-campus hands-on activities such as raised garden beds, aquaculture setups, etc.

Wonderful Opportunity for Teachers with Families who need less demanding schedules

Love the idea!

Additional funds for the amount of ag jobs that can be added.

I further believe that AgEd has a unique, unmatched, and proven delivery system that could prove to make all disciplines more effective in the learning process. I see our profession continuing to grow, which must mean that others are seeing it as a viable program with proven benefits. With our continued growth, we are faced with challenges within our current areas of middle and high school programs. I think at this time we should focus our energy and efforts on ways for prospective programs to secure funds for new programs in a manner that the communities receiving new programs must garner funding through their respective legislators. The growth of GA AgEd is coming at the expense of our own "established" programs.

Number of daily responses

