Taking the Next Step: Academic Standards in Agricultural Education; 
A Model for Acceptance in the Academic Arena

Balschweid, M.A. Taking the Next Step: Academic Standards in Agricultural Education; 
a Model for Acceptance in the Academic Arena. Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN

PURPOSE

The purpose of this article was to communicate a model for acceptance of rigorous, science based Agricultural Science and Business (ASB) curriculum as academic courses as utilized in Indiana.

ABSTRACT

This article examined one Midwest state’s model for creating three new advanced science agricultural education courses. The standards for the three courses in animal science, plant science, and food science were developed by biology professors, chemistry professors, plant geneticists, animal scientists, business and industry representatives and high school agricultural science and business teachers. In addition, an external review was conducted by the Council for Agricultural Science and Technology that benchmarked the standards that were developed to the best in the world. Once completed, the standards were then placed on the Department of Education website for review and comment by the general public and others with an interest in agricultural education. Upon final synthesis of all recommendations, the three course standards have been proposed to the State Board of Education and the State’s Commission for Higher Education. Once approved the courses will be accepted as advanced science credit for graduation from high school, including the honors diploma option, and will be accepted as advanced science credit at the state’s public institutions for higher education. These courses are the first career and technical education courses proposed and considered for such distinction.