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Accessible Agricultural Education

CAM's Agriculture Academy at
CSU Spur

Agricultural Education in Colorado

Formalized, School Based



**CLASSROOM/
LABORATORY**
Contextual, inquiry-based instruction and learning through an interactive classroom and laboratory.

SAE
Experiential service and/or work-based learning through the implementation of a *supervised* agricultural experience program.



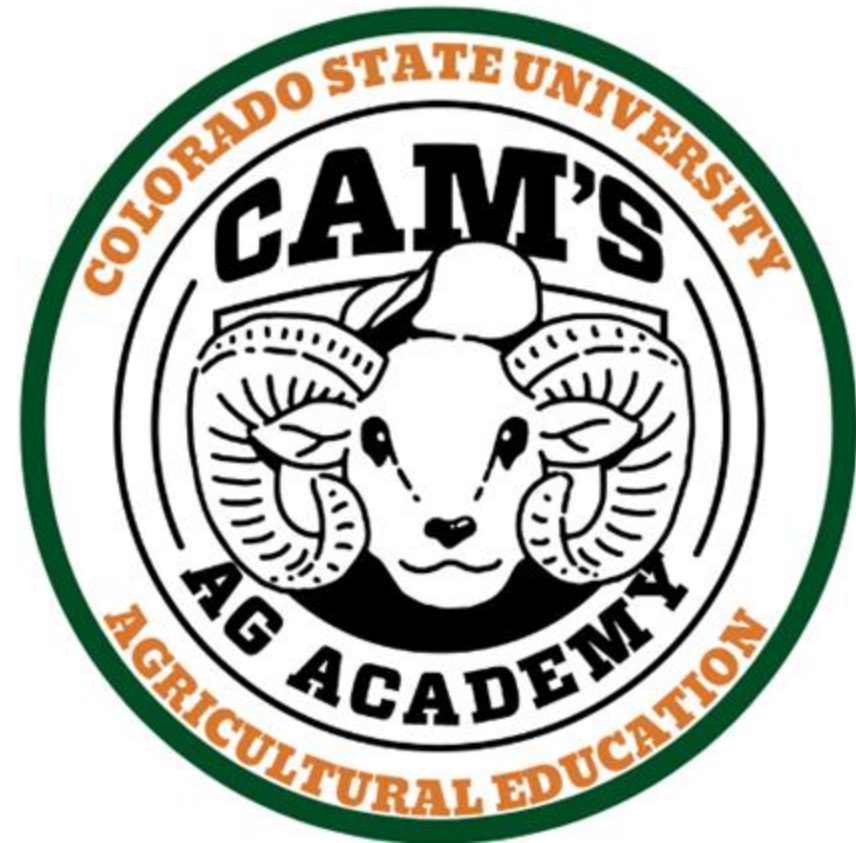
FFA
Premier leadership, personal growth and career success through *engagement* in FFA, National Postsecondary Agricultural Student Organization or National Young Farmer Education Association programs and activities.

Agricultural Education - Literacy

Definition

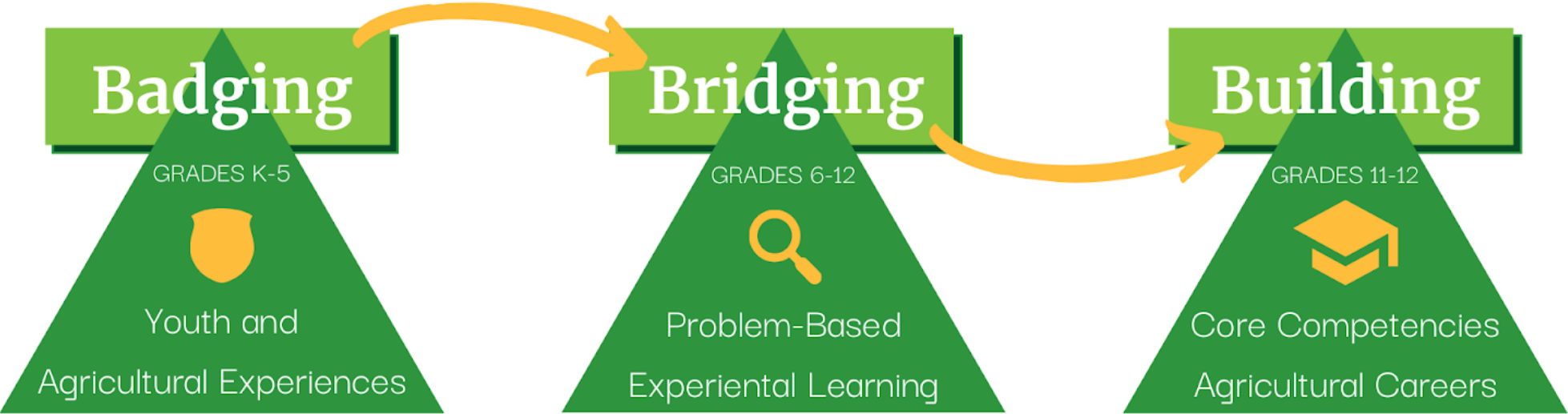
Agricultural literacy is possessing knowledge to synthesize, analyze, and communicate about agriculture

Values – Backgrounds – Experiences



CAM's Agriculture Academy

ASPIRATIONAL STATEMENT: Every school-aged student in Colorado (and beyond) should have a significant agricultural experience



CAREER PATHWAYS IN COLORADO AGRICULTURE

Continuum of experiences centered on critical research and challenges explored at Colorado State University.

Badging Engagements



Value-added Agricultural Education at fairs, festivals, and community celebrations

Provide positive interactions with youth around agriculture topics
classroom-type activities, scavenger hunts, project exploration

By the Numbers (2023):

34,854 engagements, 47 partnerships, 119 youth engaged as educators, 79 CSU student educators

Bridging Experiences

- Problem Based Learning in Agriculture
- Critical thinking curriculum focused on problems explored at Colorado State University
- Bridging urban and rural networks, schools and institutions
- Place-based learning offered at Spur in the Morgridge Learning Laboratory and throughout the state
- 8 in depth lessons with final student solution presentations as a culminating experience



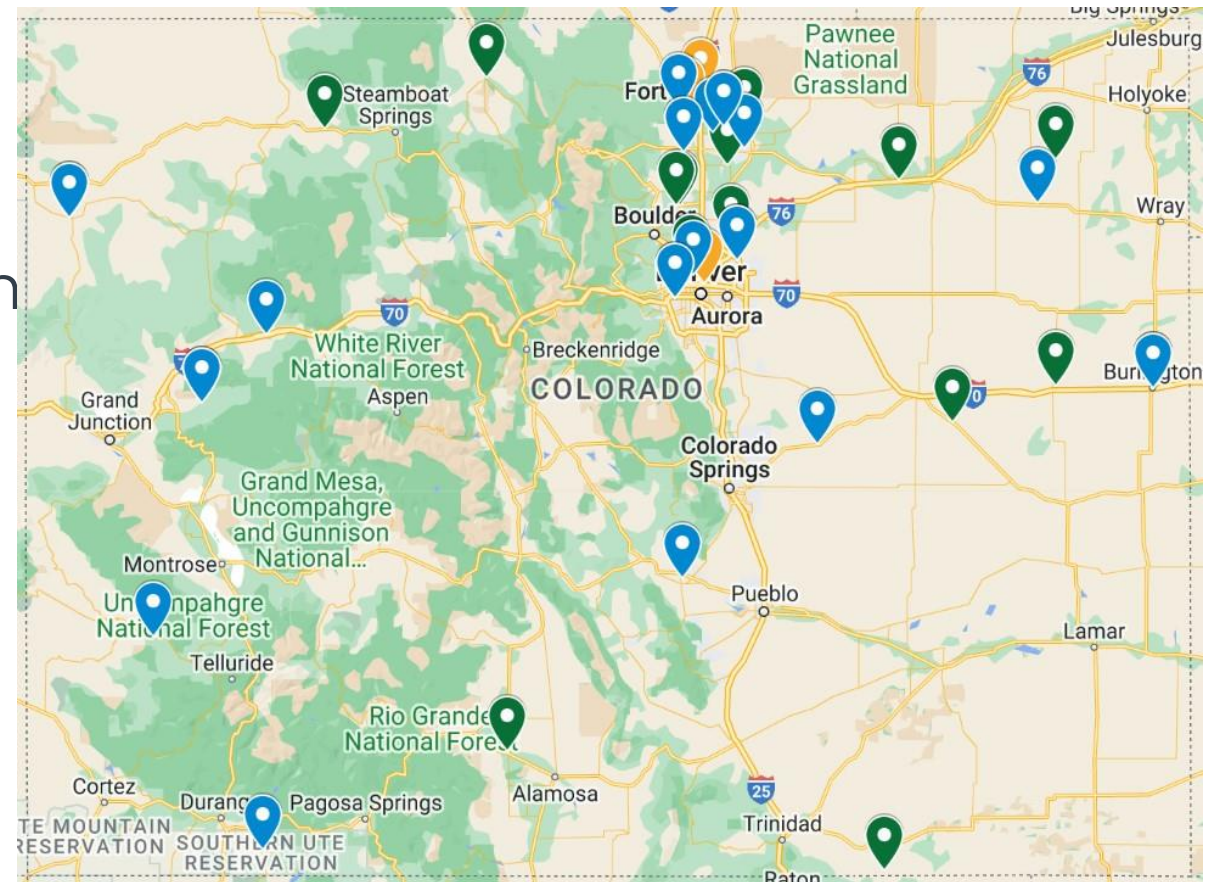
Plant Genomics PBL Critical Question:

We are experiencing ***unprecedented challenges to food and agronomic crops*** including lodging, plant pests (such as blight and insects) and changes in the growing season.

How can plant/crop diversity, selection and breeding help to solve these challenges?

By the Numbers (Fall 2023):

36 schools, over 700 students enrolled in either Plant Genomics or Food Access Curriculums



Building Next Generation Leaders

Colorado State FFA Officers – living and serving at CSU Spur and across Colorado

Intentional, weekly leadership training on personal development, networking, and teaching and communicating in agriculture

By the Numbers (2022-23):

- Completed 180 hours of professional development
- Provided over 12,060 hours of service
- Visited over 130 different programs across Colorado



Areas of Expansion

GROW Institute

Collaboration between International Agriculture, CAM's Ag Academy, 4-H, and the World Food Prize Foundation

Goal is to **GROW** global ag changemakers by:

Developing PBL curriculum examining global sustainability challenges that impact food security around the world

Engaging high school students, educators, and experts from across Colorado at the pilot Spring 2024 Colorado GROW Institute



Agricultural Education at CSU has always been about effective **educator training**

Accessible, age-appropriate information for youth educators

Online, facilitated certificates or badging

Contributing to the scholarship around these new spaces



Data and Research

Questions:

1. To what extent do agricultural literacy efforts make agriculture pathways and careers more accessible to diverse audiences?
2. Can agricultural literacy efforts improve an affinity towards agriculture?
3. What innovative pre-service teacher engagements in CAM's Agriculture Academy models are effective in improving teacher competencies?





- MFF catalyzed the work CAM's Agricultural Academy and Spur with a \$3 million philanthropic gift
- The gift helped launch CAM's Ag Academy programming, including agricultural literacy and agriculture career exploration state-wide
- The Morgridge's vision for aligning career pathways with food system and agricultural challenges has expanded CSU Agricultural Education's influence and outreach