Agriculture is a rapidly expanding sector, offering a multitude of career opportunities. Agriculture education programs are designed to equip students with the knowledge and skills to become effective agricultural educators. Students in these programs gain foundational knowledge in areas such as animal science, plant and soil science, agricultural business, and teaching methodologies. At graduation, students are not only equipped with teaching credentials but also prepared for roles in the agriculture industry beyond the classroom. Agricultural educators are in high demand, as indicated by the national shortage that extends to many states across the country, offering numerous positions each year. As administrative positions grow in number, there will be an even greater need for new educators. Prospective students are encouraged to explore the field of agricultural education and consider joining this rewarding profession.
Develop teaching and leadership skills through direct field experiences with passionate and skilled agricultural education teachers.

Engage in FFA events at the collegiate, state and national levels.

Collaborate with education students across disciplines and share your enthusiasm for agricultural education.

Prepare for teaching agriculture, food and natural resource content and advise an FFA chapter of middle school/high school students as an advocate for the industry.

Job Outlook
More than 700 ag teachers will retire over the next three years across the United States. It is estimated that there will be more than 100 new agricultural education positions in the upcoming year. South Dakota currently has over 80 high school agriculture programs. It is estimated that there will be hundreds of unfilled positions across the United States this year because not enough students are choosing to be agricultural educators. The agricultural industry needs passionate educators to inspire the next generation. Join us as an Agricultural Education major at SDSU!.

Every day is different and fun. One day you might be in a classroom or laboratory, the next visiting students in the field, preparing teams for a FFA Career Development Event or leading a community service activity. The work is meaningful, challenging and rewarding - and it helps grow the next generation of problem solvers, entrepreneurs and leaders.

Teach by doing, not just telling.

Create lessons that are hands-on.

Reach students of all abilities and interests through diverse curriculum options and engaging delivery methods.

Work with new and emerging agriculture, food and natural resources technology.

Develop lasting relationships with colleagues across the country.

“I always enjoy seeing the growth of students and their project growing that sparks an interest and develops into something that can turn into a career.”

Bailey Hurlbert
Agricultural Education