AET Student Lesson Plan: Exploring Educational and Career Interests

Grade Level: 2nd-Year Agriculture Students

Time Required: 1.5 Class Periods (45–75 Minutes)

Topic: Career Exploration

Standards Alignment

CRP.10 - Plan education and career path aligned to personal goals

- CRP.10.01 - Identify career opportunities within a career cluster that match personal interests, talents, goals, and preferences.
- CRP.10.02 - Examine career advancement requirements (e.g., education, certification, training, etc.) and create goals for continuous growth in a chosen career.

Lesson Overview


Lesson Title: Discovering My Future: Educational and Career Exploration Through AET

Purpose: This lesson helps second-year agricultural education students identify personal educational interests, explore potential career pathways, and use the O*NET Career Exploration resource within AET to connect their interests, abilities, and goals to future opportunities in agriculture and related industries.

Students will use the Student Profile Tab to select educational and career interests and complete career exploration activities using O*NET.

Learning Objectives

By the end of this lesson, students will be able to:

1. Navigate to the Student Profile Tab in AET.
2. Identify and select educational interests that reflect their future goals.
3. Explore career interests using the O*NET Career Exploration resource.
4. Identify at least three careers that align with their interests, skills, and abilities.
5. Investigate the education, training, and skills required for a selected career.
6. Connect career interests to current agricultural education coursework, FFA involvement, and SAE opportunities.

Materials Needed

- Computer, Chromebook, or tablet with internet access
- Active AET student account
- Projector or interactive whiteboard
- Student Profile Tab access
- O*NET Career Exploration resource
- Student Career Exploration Worksheet

Lesson Procedures

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1. Engage: Where Do You See Yourself? (5 minutes)

Teacher Introduction:

Ask students to consider the following questions:

- What type of work do you enjoy?
- Do you prefer working with people, animals, plants, technology, equipment, or data?
- Would you rather work indoors, outdoors, or a combination?
- What education or training do you see yourself pursuing after high school?
- How might agriculture play a role in your future career?

Discussion: Explain that agricultural education provides opportunities for careers beyond pro duction agriculture. Agriculture connects to science, business, technology, communications, en gineering, natural resources, and many other industries.

2. Explore: Student Profile – Educational and Career Interests (10 minutes)

a. Students should be logged into their AET Student Account

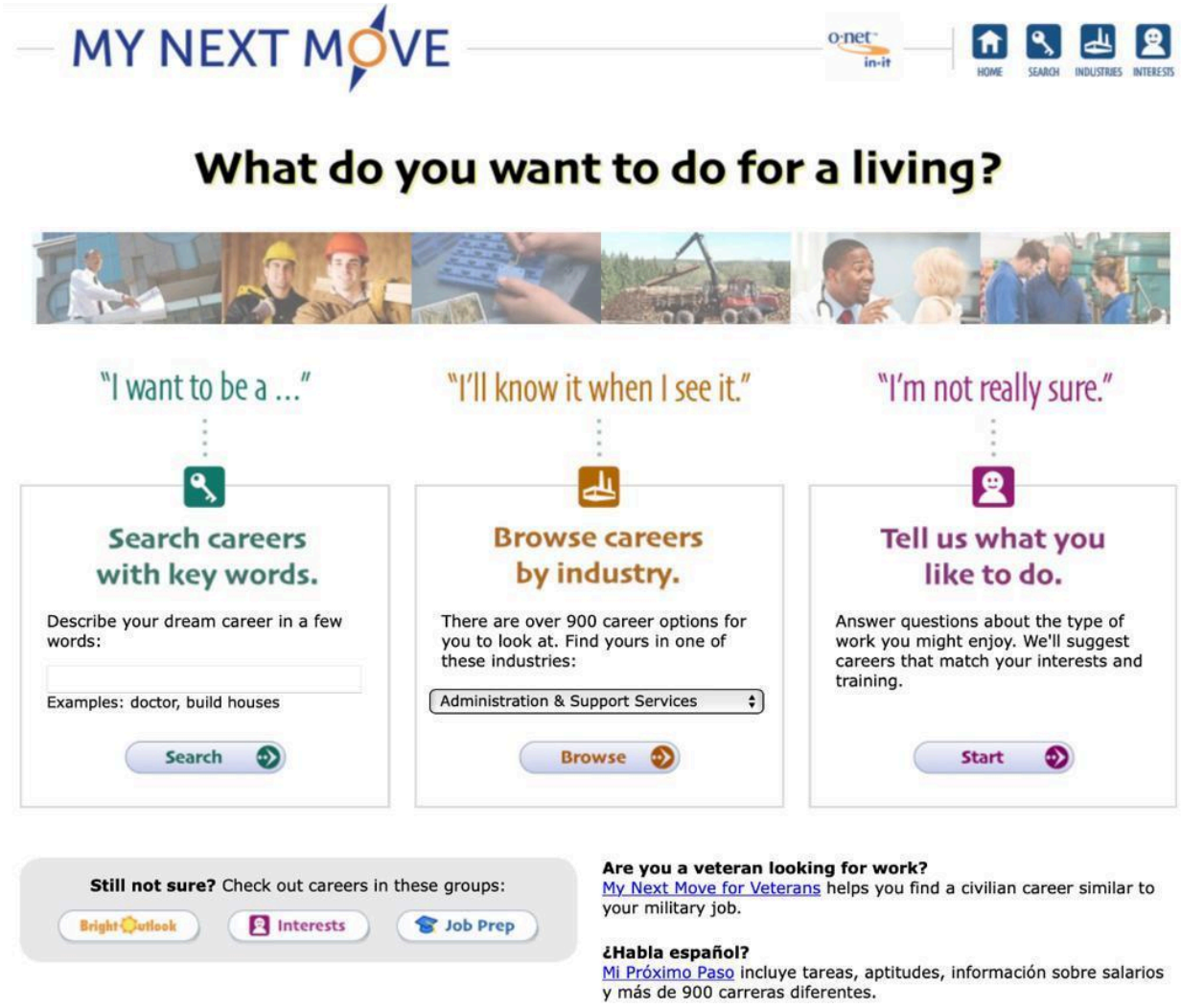
Teacher Demonstration:
Navigate to the AET Student Profile Tab on the SMART BOARD and demonstrate where students can select their educational and career interests.

Student Directions:

1. Click the Profile Tab
2. Open "Explore SAE, Career Exploration & Educational Interest" in the Explore More box
3. Click "Choose your educational and career interests"
4. Scroll or search career areas and click + to extend the career area
5. Click the box beside the career area of interest (this will add it to **My Educational Interests** on the right side of the screen)
6. Students should select 4-6 career areas of interest

Teacher Discussion:
Emphasize that career interests can change as students gain experience, explore new opportu nities, and develop new skills. Their profile should reflect their current thinking, not necessarily a permanent career decision.

3. Discover: O*NET Career Exploration (20 minutes)



Teacher Demonstration:

Locate the Career Exploration box and introduce students to O*NET, a career exploration resou rce that provides information about occupations, skills, education, work activities, and career o pportunities.

Student Directions:

1. Locate the Career Exploration box within the Student Profile area.
2. Select the O*NET career exploration resource.
3. Follow the available career exploration prompts or activities.
4. Review the careers you selected in **My Educational Interests** above in activity 2
5. Explore at least three careers that interest you.
6. Select one career to investigate more closely.

For the Career Selected, prepare an 8.5 x 11 paper or slide for your career poster

Identify:

- Career title and description
- Typical job responsibilities
- Required education or training
- Important skills and abilities
- Work environment
- Potential employment opportunities and locations
- Connection to agriculture, if applicable

Teacher Talking Points:

Encourage students to look beyond familiar agricultural occupations. For example, a student in terested in animals might explore veterinary medicine, animal nutrition, genetics, or livestock p roduction management. A student interested in technology might investigate precision agricult ure, agricultural engineering, or data analysis.

4. Apply: Connect Career Interests to Agricultural Education (10 minutes)

Students will connect their selected career to opportunities available through their agricultural education program.

Have students consider on the back of their poster:

Agricultural Education Component	Career Connection
Classroom instruction	What knowledge will help prepare me?
FFA	What leadership experiences will develop my skills?
SAE	What hands-on experiences could help me explore this career?
AET	How can I document my learning and progress?

Student Challenge:

Identify one classroom activity, FFA experience, and SAE opportunity that could help you prepa re for your selected career.

5. Reflect/Exit: My Future Career Pathway (5 minutes)

Students will complete a written reflection in their worksheet or designated AET journal entry.
Reflection Questions:

1. What career did you select, and why does it interest you?
2. What surprised you about the education or training required?
3. What skills do you already possess that could help you succeed?
4. What skills or experiences do you need to develop?
5. How could your SAE help you explore this career?

6. Has this activity changed or confirmed your thoughts about your future?

My Career Discovery Worksheet

Student Name: _____

Complete the following after exploring O*NET.

1. Career I explored

2. Why does this career interest me?

3. What education or training is required?

4. What skills are important for this career?

5. How could my SAE help me explore this career?

6. What is one action I can take this year to prepare?

REFLECTION: My Future Career Path

Assessment

Assessment Area	Evidence of Learning	Points
Student Profile	Educational and career interests selected	5
O*NET Exploration	Three careers investigated	5
Career Investigation	One career researched in depth and poster	10
Agricultural Connection	Classroom, FFA, and SAE connections identified	5
Reflection	Completed career pathway reflection	5

Suggested Grading: 30 Points

- Student Profile completed: 5 points
- Three careers explored: 5 points
- Selected career research: 10 points
- Agricultural education connections: 5 points
- Reflection and next steps: 5 points

Teacher Evaluation and Follow-Up

At the conclusion of the lesson, students should have a better understanding of how their interests connect to future career opportunities.

Teacher Follow-Up:

- Review student educational and career interest selections.
- Encourage students to revisit their interests throughout the year.
- Use career interests to guide SAE development and experiential learning.
- Help students identify FFA activities, awards, and leadership opportunities that support their career goals.
- Revisit career interests during the third-year SAE planning process.

Connection to the Complete Agricultural Education Model

- Building a Career Through Agricultural Education



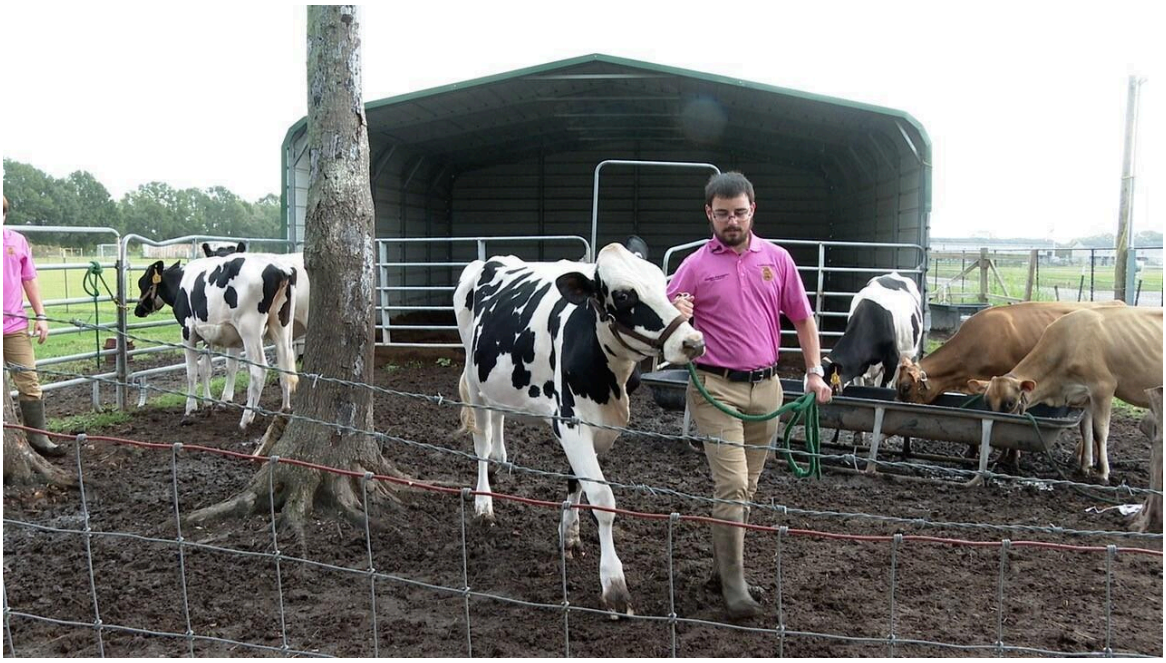
Classroom:

1. Develop career knowledge
2. Learn technical skills.



FFA:

1. Build leadership
2. Learn communication skills
3. Apply technical skills in hands-on applications and competitive events.



SAE:
1. Gain practical experience and explore career opportunities.
2. Learn soft skills required for career success (hard work, responsibility, commitment)

AET Connection: Students document their interests, experiences, skills, and career development as they progress through agricultural education in SAE records through journal and financial transactions

Teacher's Closing Message:

"You don't have to know exactly what you want to do for the rest of your life. You do need to understand your interests, explore your opportunities, and begin developing the skills that will help you succeed. Your agricultural education experience is an opportunity to discover what's p ossible."

Recommended AET Progression:
1st-year students: establish their profiles and explore interests

2nd-year students: investigate career pathways and connect them to SAE opportunities

3rd and 4th-year students: use those experiences to develop career plans, document competencies, and prepare for life after high school.