

Part 3: Stars and National Officer Candidates

Four star categories exist at the national level: American Star Farmer; American Star in Agribusiness; American Star in Agricultural Placement and American Star in Agriscience. Judges will select the four national finalists candidates for each of these categories based on the quality of SAE programs and achievements as reported in applications submitted for the American FFA Degree. Your state association is entitled to recommend one candidate for each of these award areas and one candidate for National FFA Office. Each state association may submit 1 national officer application. You would download the updated application for national officers by contacting nationalofficer@ffa.org.

If you are an American Star Farmer candidate, you will have an entrepreneurship SAE in production agriculture. If you are an American Star in Agribusiness candidate, you will have an entrepreneurship SAE in a non-production area. Likewise as an American Star in Agricultural Placement candidate, you will have a placement SAE in production agriculture, agribusiness or directed lab that is not agriscience based. Your placement can be a paid or an unpaid position; however, you must have enough earnings and investment from your SAE to qualify for the American FFA Degree. If you are an American Star in Agriscience candidate, you will have an SAE in natural resources, a research/experimentation type of SAE or a science-based directed lab SAE (these may be entrepreneurship or placement experiences). Your agriscience placement can be a paid or an unpaid position; however, you again must have enough earnings and investment from your SAE to qualify for the American FFA Degree.

You are encouraged to submit your application, along with all accompanying information, in a folder to prevent it from being damaged during the judging process. You should arrange the materials in your package as follows: 1) your American FFA Degree application as first, followed by 2) the Star Application Battery and then 3) the additional supplemental information.

Tip: If you have both entrepreneurship and placement SAE information, you must decide which area you are strongest in and complete the Star Battery application with that information. You can put both of your entrepreneurship and placement SAE's information in the American Degree application; however, when filling out the Star Battery, only discuss which area you are applying in. Mixing the two SAE's on the Star Battery will only confuse the judges and could actually hurt your chances of winning.

- Do not alter the application. If the application is altered in any way, it could be “**DISQUALIFIED**”.
- This includes copying application into a word document
- Altering the space given for responses for any question
- Or changing the font size below 10 points.
- For fairness, all applicants must respond to questions in the space provided.

Following are highlights of the requested materials and questions:

1. Performance Review Questions

You will find two different sets of review criteria. The ones you answer will depend on the type of SAE program you conduct. You will use the questions in **SET A** if you have an entrepreneurship type program such as with the American Star Farmer, American Star In Agribusiness, American Star in Agriscience (only if entrepreneurship based) and National FFA Officer candidate (if your program is entrepreneurship based).

You will use the questions in **SET B** if you have a placement program as with the American Star in Agricultural Placement, American Star in Agriscience (if your SAE is placement based) and National FFA Officer candidate (if SAE your program is placement based).

Set A Questions continued on page 36

Performance Questions (continued)

SET A

1. **Briefly describe your SAE. Describe how you started your program. What interested and motivated you to begin?** This is the first impression the judges have of your program and application. Make your write-up interesting and informative. Think about when you first started this enterprise and what happened? Did any particular person or event spur your interest to begin this program?
2. **When you were planning your supervised agricultural experience program, what two or three goals and objectives did you plan to achieve by this point in your development?** Setting goals is very important to successful SAE programs. Did you have a goal when you first started? What did you want to accomplish by this point in your program?
3. **Describe any special advantages or disadvantages that had a major impact on your achievements in your SAE program.** There are circumstances—such as where you live, facilities at school or community and your parents' occupation—that can be considered advantages or disadvantages. Natural disasters such as floods or drought can be considered disadvantages. Make certain that you explain any unique or questionable situations that impact your SAE. Describe how any such circumstances impacted your achievements.
4. **Explain how resources such as livestock, land, buildings, equipment, machinery, supplies and labor are obtained and utilized.** There are many ways to obtain assets: working other jobs, securing loans, inheriting, exchanging labor or materials and even bartering.
5. **Describe your marketing and/or merchandising plans for your SAE.** Explain how you promoted, sold and distributed your products.
6. **Describe your level of achievement and progress towards your goals (such as skills, scope, etc.) as related to the goals and objectives described in question two.** You should have learned many skills from your SAE at this point. In this section, clarify how the skills you developed relate to your stated goals and objectives.
7. **Describe the personal goals, educational goals, and career goals you would like to achieve in the next 10 years.** Where do you want to be in the future? Be as specific as you can in describing each goal.

SET B

1. **Briefly describe your SAE. Describe how you started your program. What interested and motivated you to begin?** This is the first impression the judges have of your program and application. Make your write-up interesting and informative. Think about when you first started this enterprise and what happened? Did any particular person or event spur your interest to begin this program?
2. **When you were planning your supervised agricultural experience program, what two or three goals and objectives did you plan to achieve by this point in your development?** Setting goals is very important to successful SAE programs. Did you have a goal when you first started? What did you want to accomplish by this point in your program?
3. **Describe any special advantages or disadvantages that had a major impact on your achievements in your SAE program.** There are circumstances—such as where you live, facilities at school or community and your parents' occupation—that can be considered advantages or disadvantages. Natural disasters such as floods or drought can be considered disadvantages. Make certain that you explain any unique or questionable situations that impact your SAE. Describe how any such circumstances impacted your achievements.
4. **Briefly describe your placement experience. (Include a description of the business/farm/facility, physical environment, size, number of employees, equipment available, etc.)** Describe your position, your responsibilities, number of hours worked and other important information that explains your placement position.
5. **How has your position description and/or responsibilities changed during the time of your placement?** Describe your responsibilities and note any changes that have occurred throughout your time in this position. Your position could have changed.
6. **Describe your level of achievement and progress towards your goals (such as skills, scope, etc.) as related to the goals and objectives described in question two.** You should have learned many skills from your SAE at this point. In this section, clarify how the skills you developed relate to your stated goals and objectives.
7. **Describe the personal goals, educational goals, and career goals you would like to achieve in the next 10 years.** Where do you want to be in the future? Be as specific as you can in describing each goal.