

Clarify state specific processes and procedures

1. Contact appropriate [agricultural education state staff](#).
2. Determine state specific process for starting a new agricultural education program.
Questions to ask include:
 - Who do you need to talk with locally and/or at the state level to start a program?
 - What are the state requirements (if any) for agricultural education programs?
 - Is there an application that the school must complete to initiate an agricultural education program?
 - What timelines should be followed when starting a program for the next school year? What important dates must be followed in your state to start an agricultural education program?
 - What are the available resources?
 - State monies/resources
 - State/federal grants
 - What are the current statistics* on...
 - Agricultural education enrollment for the state (possibly county/parish)
 - Agricultural education graduate placement in the state (how many enter post secondary education, military, workforce?)
 - Graduation rates of agricultural education students in the state
 - Dropout rates of agricultural education students in the state
 - Student participation in Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE) programs
 - Most popular agricultural education courses for the state

* Most of this data is reported to the state by school districts to satisfy the Perkins federal legislation.

 - Are there any state requirements for facilities and equipment?
 - Are there any state program standards --extended contract length, vehicle, required activities?
 - Are there state-approved, required textbooks and instructional materials?
 - Is there a copy of the state agricultural education calendar?
3. Determine whether a complete pre-packaged Agricultural Education program (if any) is available in your state
4. Obtain a copy of your state's agricultural education program standards.
5. Determine what agricultural career pathways are taught in your state.
6. Determine if there are state FFA sponsors in your area who would support starting a new agricultural education program?
7. Visit a model comprehensive agricultural education program identified by the state director.
8. Meet with teachers and students at the model program to gain insight and idea for your proposed program.