

CURRICULUM FOR AGRICULTURAL SCIENCE EDUCATION

2025 EXECUTIVE REPORT

Mission

To design industry-leading, inquiry-based curriculum, and teacher education to create lifelong learners and prepare students for the future of agriculture.

Vision

To develop curriculum and professional development that empowers agriculture education teachers to inspire, educate, and prepare students for career success in the agricultural industry.

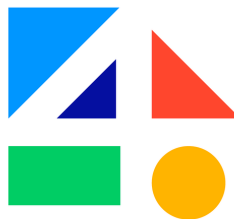
Core Values

Purposeful Curriculum

Creating a flexible, ready-to-execute curriculum model of sequenced agricultural education courses that enhance the delivery of agricultural education, uphold educational core standards, and help create work-life balance for teachers.

Student - Centered Learning

Fostering a student-centered agricultural educational experience that's focused on inquiry and project-based learning.



Fostering Connection & Growth

Building a network of agriculture educators across the nation to create unity and support, and recognize achievements.

Teacher Training

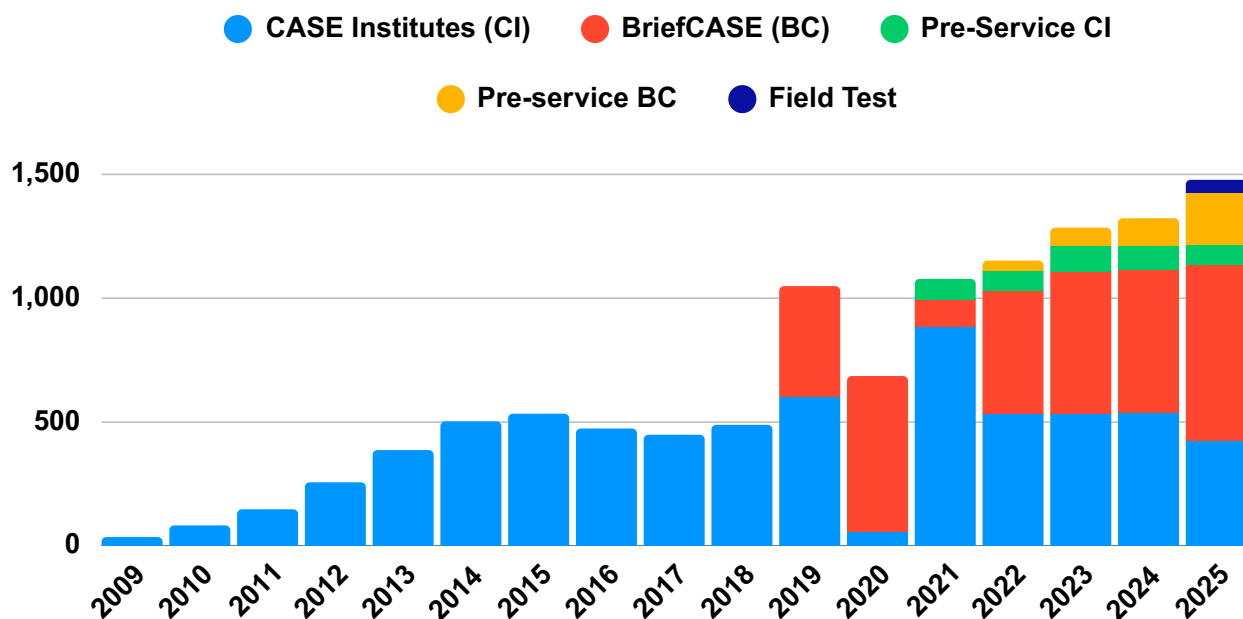
Certifying teachers through industry-leading professional development so they can enhance the agricultural education experience for students.



Message from the Director

This past year has been one of meaningful progress and continued growth for CASE 4 Learning. Across the country, agricultural educators remain committed to providing students with engaging, hands-on learning experiences that connect science, technology, and agriculture. In 2025, the initiative delivered **94 professional development events** and issued more than **1,400 teacher certifications**, while also celebrating a major milestone with our **10,000th CASE certification**. These accomplishments reflect the strength of our national network of teachers, lead teachers, partners, and supporters who share a common vision for advancing agricultural education.

Teacher Certifications



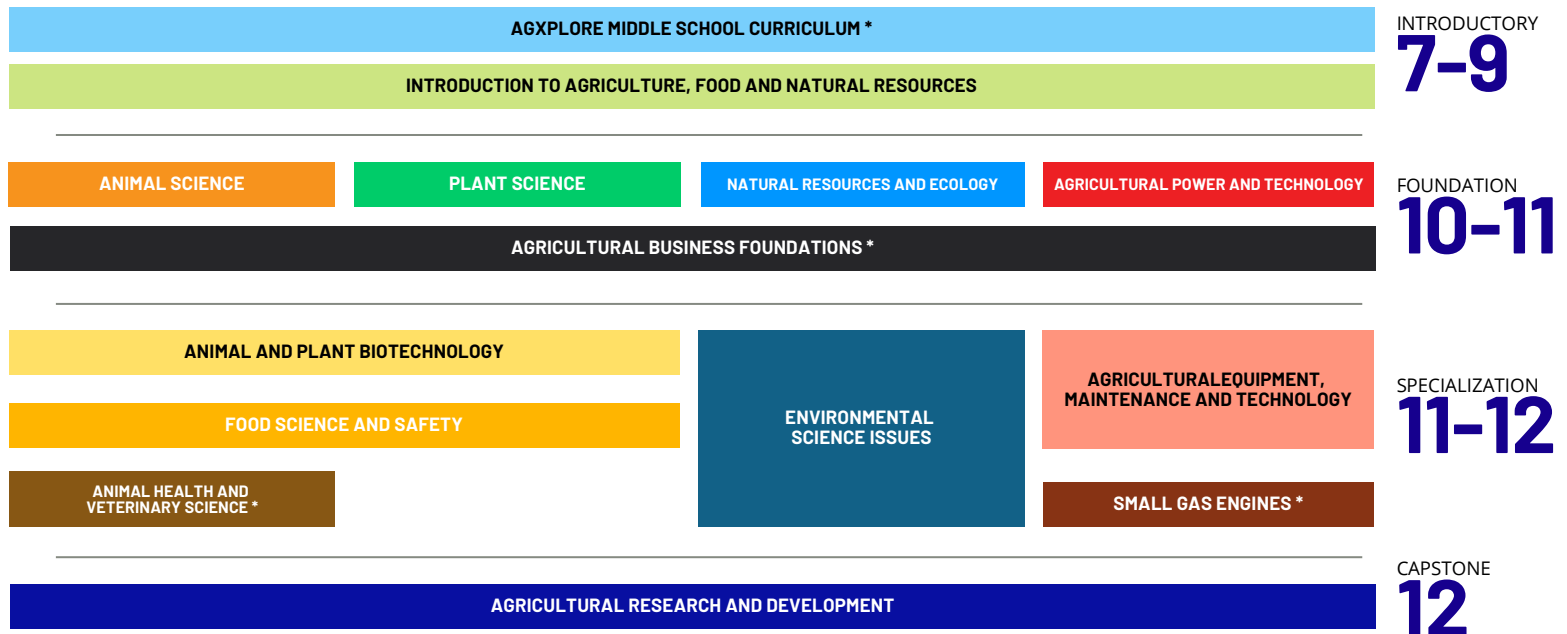
Throughout the year, the CASE team continued to strengthen both the quality and relevance of our curriculum and professional development. Significant progress was made in aligning courses with the updated National AFNR Standards, ensuring that CASE concepts connect directly to nationally recognized performance indicators. At the same time, new partnerships and resources have expanded the tools available to teachers, including new curriculum development in emerging areas such as biotechnology and agricultural automation. These efforts help ensure that students are developing the knowledge and technical skills needed for success in modern agricultural careers.

As we look toward the future, our focus remains on supporting educators while strengthening the connection between secondary education, postsecondary pathways, and industry needs. Through collaborations with industry and post-secondary partners across the country, CASE continues to explore new opportunities to expand curriculum, incorporate industry certifications, and build stronger career pathways for students. The progress of the past year would not have been possible without the commitment of our teachers, advisory members, partners, and supporters. Together, we will continue to grow this initiative and prepare the next generation of agricultural leaders and innovators.

Purposeful Curriculum

CASE 4 Learning's Animal Systems, Plant Systems, Agricultural Engineering and Mechanics, and Natural Resources curricula are divided into four levels: Introductory, Foundation, Specialization, and Capstone.

Courses and Instructional Levels



Student Assessment and Industry Certification



AET

AET Student Assessments, provided by the Agricultural Experience Tracker (AET) in partnership with CASE, enable high school agricultural education students to take standardized online tests to measure their knowledge and skills. These assessments offer questions aligned with CASE concepts and AFNR Standards across CASE Introductory and Foundation courses.



NOCTI

NOCTI End-Of-Course CASE assessments are standardized evaluations designed to measure a student's technical knowledge and competence at the conclusion of a specific CASE course such as Intro to AFNR, Animal Science, and Plant Science. These assessments provide students with credentials that validate their skills for future employment or post-secondary education transitions.



CASE New Holland Top Tech

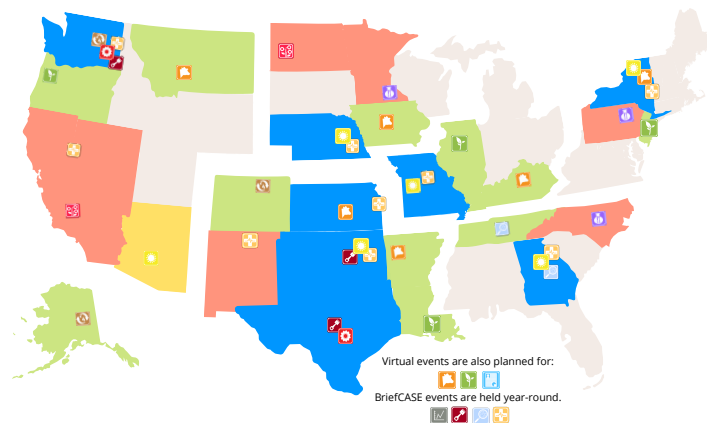
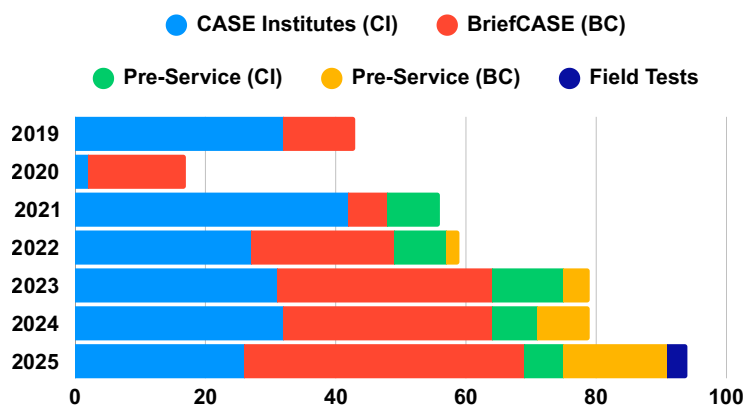
The CASE and CNH TOP TECH partnership provides a specialized pathway for high school students to earn industry-recognized certifications in agricultural equipment maintenance and technology. By aligning CASE AEMT curriculum with CNH Web Academy modules, the program prepares students for precision careers and seamless transition into post-secondary CNH Top Tech programs.

Teacher Professional Development

CASE Institutes and BriefCASEs are professional development events that provide teachers with training for each CASE course or module. Professional development programming is available for current and pre-service teachers.

In 2025, 1,478 educators participated in one of 94 CASE professional development events hosted by our Affiliated Institutions, CASE, or agricultural education partners. The number of annual events has nearly doubled in the past five years.

Professional Development Events



*Map indicates 2025 CASE Professional Development Locations

CASE Institutes

425 teachers registered for and attended one of the 26 CASE Institutes this summer. All teachers received professional development hours and were certified to implement the CASE curriculum in the classroom. Events were offered in person, virtually, or as a combination of virtual and in-person professional development. To accommodate teachers' need for a work-life balance, a maximum of five in-person days is required for any certification

Pre-Service Programming

CASE pre-service programming certifies student teachers before graduation. In 2025, university faculty partnered with CASE to prepare 288 new agricultural educators to enter the classroom.

Pre-Service Affiliate Partners and Faculty

Arkansas State University | Dr. Nina Crutchfield
Illinois State University | Dr. Jay Solomonson
Iowa State University | Dr. Scott Smalley
Kansas State University | Dr. Brandi Disberger
Montana State University | Dr. Emily Sewell
Oklahoma State University | Dr. Christopher Eck
Purdue University | Amy Conrad
The Ohio State University | Dr. Kellie Claflin
University of Central Missouri | Avery Deevers
University of Georgia | Dr. Eric Rubenstein
University of Missouri | Dr. Jon Tummons
Washington State University | J.D. Baser

BriefCASEs

713 teachers attended one of our 43 BriefCASE professional development events offered for certification in *Agricultural Business Foundations*, *AgXplore*, *Small Gas Engines*, or *Animal Health and Veterinary Science*. Affiliate institutions and agricultural education partners, including local schools and state ag teacher associations, hosted in-person events.

CASE 4 Learning hosted virtual events for teachers to become certified to use the *Agricultural Business Foundations* or *AgXplore* middle school curriculum. The events were offered in multiple evening sessions to accommodate teachers' schedules.



Lead Teacher Orientation

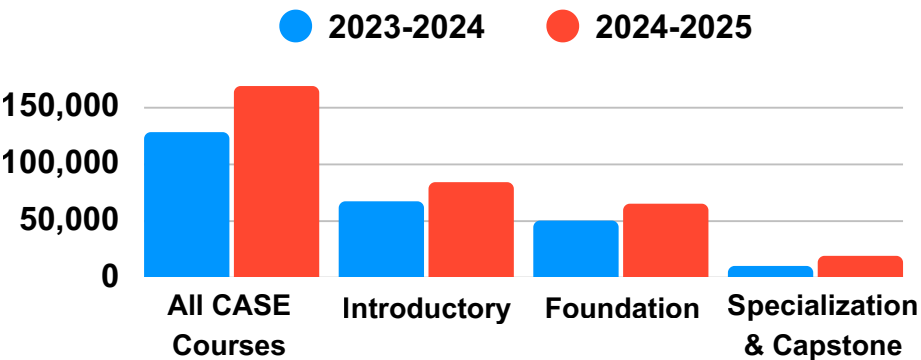
Lead Teacher Orientation was held at the Iowa FFA Enrichment Center in Ankeny, Iowa. The focus was on equipping teachers with toolsets to engage adult learners. Six Affiliate Faculty from Iowa State, Oklahoma State, Texas State, the University of Missouri, and Washington State University attended and provided mentorship to lead teachers.



Student Impact

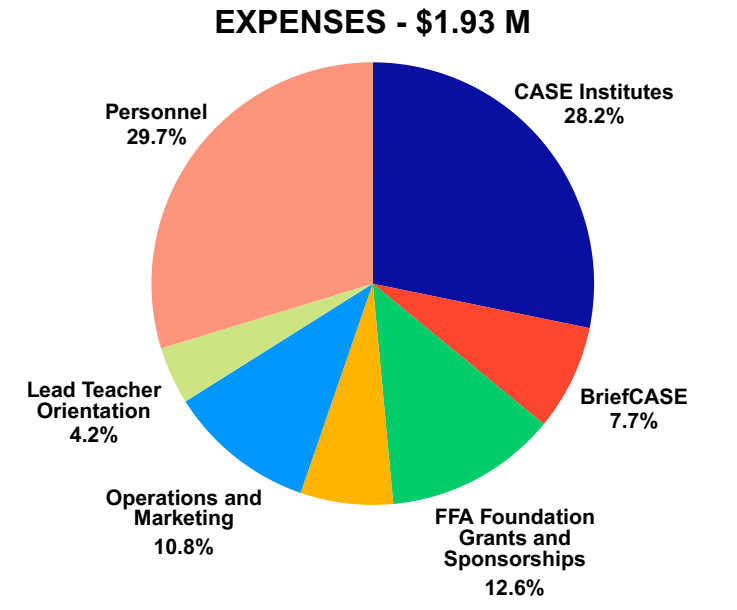
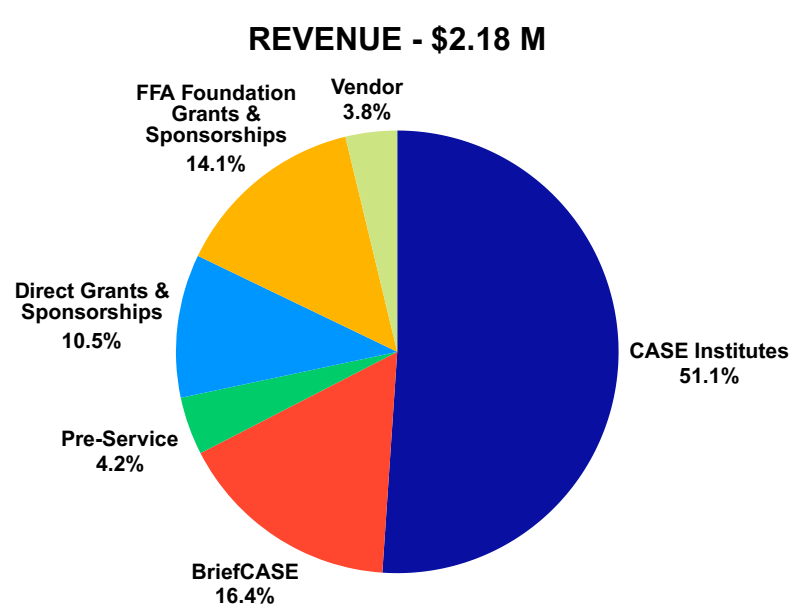
At the start of the 2024-2025 school year, 3,241 teachers were using the CASE curriculum. CASE teachers reported over 169,115 students enrolled in agricultural education courses using the CASE curriculum, a 32% increase from the previous year. Most students are enrolled in Introductory and Foundation level courses.

Reported Student Enrollment



Financial Overview

The CASE 4 Learning initiative had a successful year with a net positive return. The net-positive income will be reinvested into the initiative to maintain sustainability and provide curriculum and professional development services.



Professional Development Scholarships

\$141,500
EQUIPPING
107 teachers
across
101 Schools

Scholarships are proudly sponsored by



Educational Material Grants

\$128,000
ENGAGING
4,410 students
across
29 Schools

Made possible by the generous support of



Community



2026 Executive Committee

The CASE Executive Committee aims to support the CASE 4 Learning initiative of the National Council for Agricultural Education. We would like to express our sincere gratitude to **Dr. Scott Smalley, Iowa**, and **Shari Lighthall, New York**, for their dedicated service, as they completed their terms in 2025.



Dr. Katrina Swinehart
Past Chair



Harry Snyder
Chair



Dr. Eric Rubenstein
Chair-Elect



Dr. Christopher Eck
Post Secondary Rep



Dr. Anna Warner
Post Secondary Rep



Dr. Justin Killingsworth
At-Large Rep



Eric Tilleman
State Supervisor Rep



Richard Dugan
Industry Rep



Joshua Kreig
Lead Teacher Rep

CASE Team



Carl Aakre
CASE Director



John Bergin
Curriculum Director



Chelsea Bowen
Events & Operations Coordinator



Jen Russell
CASE Coordinator



Michelle Goossen
CASE PD Coordinator



Tiffany Zweygardt
CASE Coordinator

Community

Lead Teachers

Our Lead Teachers are an extension of our CASE Team. Fifty teachers facilitated a professional development event in 2025.

Ben Booth
Kaydie Brandl
Jason Bullock
Jamie Christiansen
Dale Cruzan III
Kylie DeBerardinis
Anita DeWeese
Jesse Faber
Sarah Farnsworth
Andrea Flegler
Mary-Elizabeth Foote
David Gibbens
Bibiana Giff
Michelle Goossen
Jamie Gray
Alexandra Grimes
Raelyn Harris

Jessica Helsinger
Nicole Hinrichsen
Riley Hintzsche
Heidi Hull
Madison Hynes
James (Jim) Kaltenbach
Kane Kinion
Joshua Krieg
Randi Krieg
Patrick Little
Kayla Loewenhagen
Ryan Maiden
Carroll Mercer
Mark Meyer
Deanna Miller
Emily Muller

Kevin Norris
Cassandra Perrin
Gregory Pfantz
Jennifer Phelps
Melvin Phelps
Samantha Pierce
Cydnee Rogers
Darla Romberger
Doug Sahr
Clayton Scott
Chris Smith
Katie Titus
Karen Van De Walle
Lindsey Whetstone
Corineah Williams
Kyle Woolston

Awards and Recognition



2025 CASE Innovator

Karen Van DeWalle | Iowa

Agriculture teacher at Denver Secondary School and veteran educator with nearly 19 years of involvement with CASE, she has led national professional development institutes over 13 times. Van De Walle is recognized for her responsive curriculum, including a student-led agricultural podcasting project and the addition of a veterinary science course based on student interest. Her program maintains strong community ties through partnerships like a local charity garden.



Proudly sponsored by



2025 CASE Model Teacher

Mary-Elizabeth Sedgwick | New York

Agriculture teacher at Schuylerville High School she has a 9-year commitment to inquiry-based agricultural science and professional development. Sedgwick holds 8 CASE certifications and has secured over \$50,000 in grants. Her leadership as a CASE Lead Teacher includes mentoring educators nationwide. Beyond the classroom, her curriculum has helped students earn over 200 college credits.



Community

Affiliate Institutions

Many universities partner with CASE to host our professional development events. A warm thank you to our University Affiliates for hosting events in 2025.



Arkansas Tech University
Chemeketa Community College
Cornell University / NYAAE
Iowa State University
Montana State University
North Carolina State University
Oklahoma State University
Riverland Community College
Texas State University
The Pennsylvania State University
University of Central Missouri
University of Georgia
University of Kentucky
University of Nebraska
Washington State University



Vendor Partners

Our vendor partners equip our teachers with the educational materials teachers need to engage students in the classroom. Thank you to our 2025 Vendor Partners.



Looking Towards the Future

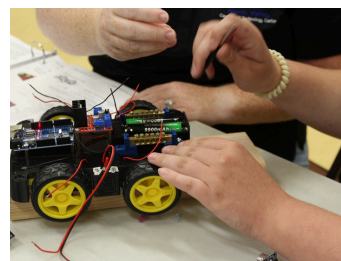
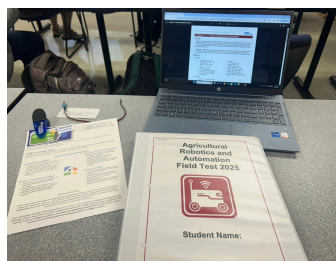
Agricultural Robotics and Automation Technologies

Scan to view the
2025-2026 NSF
ATE Impacts Book



The *Agricultural Robotics and Automation Technologies* project is funded by a National Science Foundation Advanced Technological Education grant in partnership with AgCentric. The curriculum will introduce students to concepts in automation and robotics in three systems: animal, plant, and food. The first unit introduces core concepts in automation and robotics, while the last unit guides students through an open-ended design project. Between these two units are three modules - animal, plant, and food applications. Teachers can incorporate these units independently or together to meet local curricular needs. The project is featured in the 2025-2026 NSF ATE Impacts book.

The professional development and curriculum will be field-tested during the next three years.



Investigating Agricultural Biotechnology



The *Investigating Agricultural Biotechnology* (IAB) project is sponsored by Syngenta and Bayer Crop Science. The curriculum and professional development will provide teachers with the technical content and skills to prepare secondary students for plant biotechnology careers. CASE developed an Animal and Plant Biotechnology course ten years ago, introducing students to basic biotechnology skills and agricultural applications. Changes in the agricultural industry and education demand revisions to the course. Funding will support these revisions, standard alignments, enhanced professional development, and student assessment.

The curricular resource will focus on technical skills and plant applications. The technical skill lessons will be field-tested during the 2025-2026 school year, and the plant applications lessons will be field-tested in 2026-2027.



case learning

Equipping Teachers, Engaging Students



CURRICULUM FOR AGRICULTURAL SCIENCE EDUCATION

PO BOX 78124, INDIANAPOLIS, IN 46278



A national partnership
for excellence in agriculture
and education.