

## Ag Robotics and Automation Technologies (ARAT) Field Test

### About ARAT

The *Agricultural Robotics and Automation Technologies (ARAT)* 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, there are three modules - animal, plant, and food applications. Teachers can incorporate these units independently or together to meet local curricular needs.

#### *Course Content*

The *Agricultural Robotics and Automation Technologies* areas of study include:

- Unit 1 – Foundations of Agricultural Automation
- Unit 2 – Automation in Plant Systems
- Unit 3 – Automation in Animal Systems
- Unit 4 – Automation in Food Processing
- Unit 5 – Automated Solutions

### What is a Field Test?

The introduction of a new CASE 4 Learning course requires several steps. After course development, the curriculum is field-tested to check for appropriateness, accuracy, and flow. In addition, field-testing a course provides an opportunity to validate the course and to inform the curriculum designers about potential areas of concern missed during the development stages. Each field test comprises a group of teachers who agree to teach the course following the draft curriculum and provide feedback for necessary changes.

### Call for Field Test Applicants

CASE 4 Learning is seeking 16 participants for two regional *ARAT* field tests. Potential participants must complete the [ARAT Field Test Application](#) by **February 28<sup>th</sup> 2026**. Selection is not a traditional first-come, first-serve style. CASE 4 Learning will notify applicants of their selection status by March 13 via the personal email they provide. At that time, they must complete the provided registration link before April 15. Alternates are selected to fill additional seats as needed.

The *ARAT* field test is a three-day event with no associated costs. The National Science Foundation will cover participant expenses, including room and board, transportation, and materials necessary to implement the curriculum. However, schools selected must place a \$500 down payment to hold their reservation. AgCentric will reimburse the school \$500 after you attend the first day of the Field Test.

#### *Field Test Location*

- TBS, MN – week of June 22<sup>nd</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> 2026

Questions? Contact Carl Aakre at [carl.aakre@case4learning.org](mailto:carl.aakre@case4learning.org).