



**College of Agriculture and Life Sciences
Agricultural Education Student Showcase 2019**



Created by: Meghan Rodriguez - University of Arizona

Preface

The Department of Agricultural Education contributes to the College's unique functional role as a leader in the University's land-grant mission by providing an array of programs in formal undergraduate and graduate instruction, research, and service to enable the people of Arizona, the nation, and beyond to improve the quality of their lives.

The strength of the Department is firmly grounded in its nationally and internationally recognized faculty, who in a positive and proactive manner, are committed to educational excellence and to addressing the challenges and opportunities presented by the current climate of change within the College, the University, the nation, and the world.

We engage the leadership of the future in Agricultural Education by providing a better quality of life through a knowledge base in agricultural technology management, formal and non-formal education, and leadership for our students, the people of Arizona, and society



Robert Torres, Head of the Agricultural Education Department

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Kaycee Larios

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Mingus Union High School

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“Life begins at the end of
your comfort zone.”

-Neale Donald Walsch



Why teach agriculture?

I was tagged to Teach Ag way back when I was a sophomore in high school, but it took me five years to realize it. I want to teach agricultural education to help high school students feel like they belong somewhere, help them unlock their potential, and help them find careers in the agriculture industry that needs the new generation to take over. If they do not think agriculture is the place for them as a career, then my students will have the skills to be able to advocate for the agriculture industry. High school is a confusing and awkward time for students, I want to make it a time to set up and launch their early adult lives with a smidge less awkwardness.

Education:

- Undergraduate in Agricultural Technology Management and Education: Teaching Emphasis, Bachelors of Science
 - (Expected Graduation, May 2019)

Relevant Experiences:

- Certified in Comprehensive Beef Quality Assurance, 2017
- Curriculum in Agricultural Science Education AFNR Provisional Certification

Membership of Professional Organization:

- National Association of Agricultural Educators
- Sigma Alpha Professional Sorority

Activities, Awards, and Honors:

- American FFA Degree, 2017
- Imperial County 4-H member 2007-2011

What do you consider your content area specialty?

I come from a strong animal science production and food safety background. I was involved in 4-H and FFA for a combined 10 years. I have shown cattle, sheep, goats, and rabbits. I have managed herd sizes ranging from 20-100 of sheep, goats, and cattle as a hobby farm and as a production farm. My first two years of my undergraduate degree I was a veterinary science major, and really dove into the food safety aspects of the food industry.

Joshua Troub

Cooperating Center:

Mayer High School

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“...the greatest doer must also be a great dreamer. Of course, if the dream is not followed by action, then it is a bubble; it has merely served to divert the man from doing something.”

- Theodore Roosevelt, 1905



Why teach agriculture?

Quite frankly, I did not start college with the goal of being an Agricultural Educator; I wanted to be a Wildlife Manager with Arizona Game and Fish. On the other hand, as I completed my freshman year in college, I took a moment introspectively evaluate the tasks I had completed and the purpose behind them. The main reason that I had gone into the Natural Resources major at the University of Arizona was because I had placed first as an individual and as a team in the Wildlife Career Development Event in the FFA organization. While I enjoyed the competition and the success I had therein, I realized that what I enjoyed even more was the program behind my competition and my success. Indubitably, the Agricultural Education model and my teacher both played significant roles in molding me into the person I have become, and I believe the passion I have to teach will drive me to produce well rounded individuals to lead the

agricultural industry to provide for the rapidly growing population.

Furthermore, agriculture is the inherent basis of our society since it provides food, shelter, clothing, and medicine. Growing up in Buckeye, Arizona in the early 2000's; agriculture has been a major part of who I am. Due to its importance in society and it being engrained in my person, I could not see myself teaching any other subject besides agriculture or its related entities.

Education:

- Undergraduate in Agricultural Technology Management & Education: Teaching Emphasis, Bachelors of Science.
 - Expected Graduation, May 2019

Relevant Experiences:

- Five-Points Market and Restaurant- Garden Consultant
- Rocker 7 Farm Patch- Farm Hand

Membership of Professional Organization:

- National Association of Agricultural Educators
- Arizona Agriculture Teachers Association

Activities, Awards, and Honors:

- Dean's Leadership 50-Member
- CASE AFNR Provisionally Certified

- Arizona Association FFA State President 2015-2016
- Boy Scouts of America-Eagle Scout

What do you consider your content area specialty?

I consider my content area specialty to be natural resources due to my experience with the Boy Scouts of America, in the Wildlife Career Development Event, in the Environmental and Natural Resources Career Development Event, in the Natural Resources Major, in volunteering with Game and Fish, with the Society for Range Management, and in my success at Natural Resource Conservation Workshop for Arizona Youth.

Sarah McNall

Cooperating Center:

Coolidge High School

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“Agriculture is our wisest pursuit, because it will in the end contribute most to real wealth, good morals, and happiness.”

-Thomas Jefferson



Why teach agriculture?

I want to be an agriculture teacher because I did not have the opportunity to take an agricultural education course in high school. My high school had one animal science courses, but there was never any connection to agriculture, FFA or the different opportunities and exposure involvement could bring to members. Looking back now I see all the experiences I missed out on because my high school’s program was so weak. I want high school students to learn about the field of agriculture, especially that it is more than just the stereotypical idea of farming. It was not until my sophomore year of college that I was able to learn about agriculture and all the different opportunities the field possesses. I believe that agriculture is multifaceted and being an agriculture teacher will allow me to share the joys of agricultural life with future generations. To me, being an agricultural teacher is more than just the core educational learning that will

happen in my class but preparing students to be leaders and productive members of society in any direction of life they chose to take after our time together.

Education:

- University of Arizona: Master of Science in Agricultural Education (Expected Graduation, 2019)
- University of Arizona: Bachelor of Science in Agricultural & Resource Economics with a focus in Agribusiness Economics (2016)
- University of Arizona: General Business Administration Minor (2016)
- University of Arizona: Agricultural Leadership and Innovation Certificate (2016)

Relevant Experiences:

- Graduate Assistant for multiple Agricultural Education courses (2017-Present)
 - ALC 422; Communicating Knowledge in Agriculture and Life Sciences (Fall 2017)
 - AED 295B; Heritage and Traditions of the University of Arizona (Spring 2018 & Fall 2018)

- Curriculum for Agricultural Science Education AFNR Provisional Certification
- University of Arizona Summer CASE Institute Coordinator (Summer 2018)
- State Leadership Convention Agriscience Fair Judge (2017 & 2018)
- FFA Spring Field Day Job Interview Student Chair (2018)
- U.S. Dairy Education and Training Consortium (2016)
- Substitute Certificate, PreK-12
 - Arizona Department of Education Certificate

Membership of Professional Organization:

- National Association of Agricultural Educators (2017-Present)
- Sigma Alpha Agricultural Sorority (2014-Present)
- Gamma Beta Phi Honors Fraternity (2013-2016)
- Alpha Zeta Agricultural Honors Fraternity (2015-2016)

Activities, Awards, and Honors:

- J.R. Cullison Scholarship Recipient (2018)
- Regent's High Honors Endorsement Award (AIMS) (2012-2016)

What do you consider your
content area specialty?

Agribusiness

Agriculture Economics

Dairy Management and Science

Taylor Bird

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Valley Union High School

Supervising Practitioner:

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“Excellence in education is when we do everything that we can to make sure that they become everything that they can.”

-Carol Ann Tomlinson



Why teach agriculture?

Agriculture is the basis of our past and the hope for the future. There are a vast number of lessons to be taught from agriculture. Through agricultural education, a student can learn about anatomy, biology, chemistry, business, and so much more through the lens of agriculture. By teaching agriculture, students are exposed to the endless job and leadership opportunities available within the agricultural industry while gaining skills to ensure they are career ready. For the great aim of education is not knowledge, but action. I have wanted to be a teacher for as long as I can remember. I found my passion for the agricultural industry during my sophomore year of high school and never looked back. I hope to help students find their passion, and I could not think of a better way to do so but being an agricultural educator.

Education:

- Master of Science in Agricultural Education: Research Emphasis (Expected Graduation, 2019)
- Bachelor of Science in Agricultural Technology Management and Education: Teaching Emphasis (2018)

Relevant Experiences:

- Graduate Assistant for agricultural education courses including:
 - AED 496/596D: Teaching Science and Mathematics through Inquiry
 - AED 437: Methods of Facilitating Learning
- CASE AFNR Provisionally Certified
- Student Worker at the University of Arizona Food Product and Safety Lab at the Campus Agricultural Center
- Consultant for the Arizona Association FFA
- Intern for the Inaugural Blue and Gold Gala held by the Arizona Agricultural Education and FFA Foundation.

Membership of Professional Organization:

- National Association of Agricultural Educators

- Arizona Agricultural Teachers Association
- Sigma Alpha Professional Agricultural Sorority

Activities, Awards, and Honors:

- JR Cullison Scholarship Recipient, 2017
- American FFA Degree Recipient, 2016
- Sigma Alpha Professional Agricultural Sorority
 - Philanthropy Chair 2016-2017 School Year
- Arizona Association FFA State Vice President, 2014-2015

What do you consider your content area specialty?

I feel versed in numerous content areas of agricultural education; however, I would consider leadership, applied biological systems, and animal science to be my content area specialties.

Meghan Rodgers

Cooperating Center:

Chandler High School

Supervising Practitioner:

Kari Williams

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“It’s not what you take
when you leave this world
behind you, it’s what you
leave behind you when
you go.”

-Randy Travis



Why teach agriculture?

“I believe in the future of agriculture, with a faith born not of words but of deeds...” as a freshman in high school I wasn’t entirely sure what these words meant. “I believe...” well, sure, but is it simply because my teacher told me so or do I really believe it? When I was younger, I didn’t really know what agriculture was other than Old McDonald’s Farm. Through my experience in agricultural education high school, I quickly learned it is so much more than that old nursery rhyme. Agricultural education is the path to creating tomorrow’s leaders by engaging them in an industry rooted in all aspects of education and today’s innovative technology. It promotes leadership, career success, and personal growth among students regardless of their prior experiences with the industry. Therefore, teaching agriculture has become my passion, the topics I am able to cover with students is just a bonus to an already outstanding subject. With each passing day, I grow in faith that the

agricultural industry has a bright future.

- Minorities in Agriculture, Natural Resources, & Related Sciences Member

Education:

- Bachelor of Science in Agricultural Technology Management & Education (Expected graduation, 2019)

Relevant Experiences:

- Greenhouse Manager, University of Arizona- Controlled Environmental Ag Center, 2018-Present
- CASE AFNR Provisionally Certified
- Farmer's Market Manager, University of Arizona- Controlled Environmental Ag Center, 2018
- Greenhouse Technician, Maggie's Farm & Desert Tree Farm, 2015-2018
- Ambassador, University of Arizona- College of Agriculture & Life Sciences, 2017-2018
- Announcer, Arizona National Livestock & Horse Show, 2013-2017

Membership of Professional Organization:

- Arizona Agriculture Teachers Association Student Member
- National Association for Agriculture Educators Student Member
- National FFA Organization Alumni

Activities, Awards, and Honors:

- American FFA Degree Recipient
- J.R. Cullison Scholar
- Dean's List and Dean's List with Distinction Recognition

What do you consider your content area specialty?

Plant and Animal Science

Maya Wallace

Cooperating Center:

Highland High School

Supervising Practitioner:

Amy Dillard

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“When you get, give.
When you learn, teach.”
- Maya Angelou

Why teach agriculture?

As we grow up, I believe we recognize our calling in life, our well-suited purpose. It takes experience to find it, and there is a lot of soul-searching to do beforehand. Some people spend their whole lives searching for meaning, but the ones who truly make a lasting impact on those around them are living life with meaning. I believe my calling is to teach Agricultural Education. My thirst for knowledge is important to me and one day I would like to have a career in which it can flourish. I had the honor to be able to serve on the 2014-2015 Arizona FFA State Officer Team. Just seeing the enthusiasm of FFA members that is contagious in their communities and is evidence that youth have a large contribution to positive change. Being an Agricultural Educator is a very rewarding career in Agriculture. It gives an opportunity to plant new ideas and spark innovations in the upcoming generations who ultimately hold the future of agriculture. The FFA has left a tremendous impact on my outlook on life. It has allowed career exploration

through competing in Career Development Events; raising livestock fueled my passion for production agriculture, showing me how to reach out to others, and FFA has taught me to accentuate the little things, because they have the potential make the biggest difference. I cannot think of a humbler way to give back than to teach Ag. Teachers do not teach for the glory, the fame, or the money. They do it because they are compassionate and selfless, and they truly do care about their students being successful after they graduate. I do not know if there really is a nobler calling than that.

I have constantly been warned about the “impossible-to-make-a-living” low salary in my future of pursuing a degree in Agricultural Education. “Why Teach?” “Why Agriculture?” I’ll admit it is somewhat painful to hear these words of discouragement when trying to pursue growth. However, there isn’t a single thought that crosses my mind about wishing I was doing something else. Because that would be wishing to be someone who I will never be. The FFA has given me phenomenal memories and experiences that I will cherish for the rest of my life. I have worked hard to be heavily involved in the FFA by following the motto closely: “Learning to Do, Doing to Learn, Earning to Live, Living to Serve.” FFA wasn’t a choice; it became my lifestyle. I have numerous people who have supported and believed in me throughout my FFA journey including family, friends, sponsors, teachers, FFA Advisors, FFA members, and they have all inspired me, and I believe in each and every single one of them just as they and the FFA gave me the ability to say “I believe in myself.” Being a member has brought me invaluable joy that cannot be simply put into words, but it’s something that I hope to share with my future students. I cannot wait to become an Ag. Teacher so I can share my journey and cultivate new journeys of

membership in the FFA. Teaching agriculture gives me the ability to influence the future of agriculture through my students and stimulate agricultural literacy. As a student pursuing Agricultural Education, I am the future of agriculture and my students will be the future of agriculture.

Education:

- Graduate Student, Masters of Science in Agricultural Education-Research Emphasis
 - (Expected Graduation: May 2019)
- Undergraduate in Agricultural Technology Management and Education: Teaching Emphasis, Bachelors of Science (2018)

Relevant Experiences:

- Certified 4-H Volunteer, 2018-Present
- 4-H Judge and Leader Assistant, 2015-present
- AFA Leaders Conference Delegate, 2014-2017
- Agriscience Fair Judge, Arizona FFA State Leadership Conference, 2017
- University of Arizona Food Product and Safety Lab Worker, 2015- 2016
- Arizona FFA State Treasurer, 2014-2015
- Certified in Comprehensive Beef Quality Assurance, 2015
- Masters of Beef Advocacy 2.0 Program, National Cattleman’s Beef Association, 2015
- 4-H Member, 2003-2015

Membership of Professional Organization:

- American Dairy Goat Association
- American Kennel Club
- Collegiate Livestock Growers Association

- Arizona Science Teachers Association
- Arizona Agriculture Teachers Association
- Continental Kennel Club
- National Association of Agricultural Educators

Activities, Awards, and Honors:

- American FFA Degree, National FFA Convention, 2015
- State FFA Degree, AZ FFA State Leadership Conference, 2014
- FFA Diversified Livestock Production Proficiency Award Third Place Gold Rating, 2014
- FFA Job Interview CDE Third Place Individual Spring Conference, 2014
- Grand Champion Rabbit Fryer, Pima County Fair, 2014
- Winner of the 2014 “Do National Parks Matter?” Essay Contest, 2014

What do you consider your content area specialty?

My passion for agricultural education traces back to my passion for animal science. I enjoy teaching all aspects of the animal science industry and believe that lessons from this content area instills important values in students. I also enjoy teaching subjects in agricultural mechanics and in career preparation. My goal is to have a program, that is well-rounded that allows students to graduate high school with a variety of skills and knowledge to use towards pursuing a higher education and careers.