


To: Agricultural Education Educators
From: Nancy Trivette, President 
Re: Curriculum in Agricultural Science Education (CASE) Update
Date: April 6, 2009

As a method to deliver the CASE project as envisioned and proposed by National Council for Agricultural Education in 2005, an expanded collaboration with Project Lead the Way (PLTW) is being discussed. When we projected the future development of the advance courses; project administration; the development and administration of technical support; sales and service over time, we saw that NCAE needed much more infrastructure than what we had in order to be successful.

The NCAE Board of Directors, in March, directed Jan Traynor, CASE Governance Committee Chair and Brad Schloesser, CASE Project Manager to initiate conversations with Project Lead the Way to discuss a potential *new and increased* collaboration that could include administration of CASE as a joint effort between PLTW and NCAE. Larry Case and I followed up with an additional meeting on Monday, March 30th. The CASE project continues to be an important item on all NCAE agendas and the NCAE Board of Directors is committed to the CASE project success.

Larry Case and Dick Blais, Vice President, State and Corporate Relations will meet with State CTE Directors next week to provide an update and ensure the development of advanced CASE courses with the support of the State Directors.

CASE concepts and notes to know:

1. The National Council for Agricultural Education made the decision to use PLTW model to develop the Curriculum in Agricultural Science Education (CASE) in 2005.
2. Two courses are complete. The remainder (4 plus capstone, 5 total) need to be completed.
3. www.case4learning.org provides for a review of foundation course samples. (This is **highly recommended** to see depth of lessons, academic correlations, integration of FFA/SAE, course structure that is consistent for all lessons, electronic access and more.)
4. All courses will include SAE, FFA and LifeKnowledge components.
5. All lessons are correlated to academic standards (and noted in lessons).
6. CASE provides provisions for strong post secondary connections.
7. As a result of delivering the Curriculum in Agricultural Science Education (CASE) program, there will be
 - a. standardized curriculum with lessons for 170 days
 - b. intense professional development for all teachers in the program

- c. consistency of equipment, supplies and materials for each course
- d. consistent course assessments resulting in measurable data for agricultural education
- e. less curriculum development 'stress' so more teacher energy for student enhancements such as FFA and SAE development
- f. a curriculum designed with an activities, projects and problems-based philosophy.

In the end, it will be teachers who make these courses and the CASE program successful. CASE will be delivered as a sequence of courses, thus providing *measurable results*. I believe the opportunity to offer CASE to schools at a more reasonable cost exists under this potential increased collaboration with PLTW. The Council Board is committed to the success of CASE. CASE can and will be a program delivered to audiences we currently do and do not serve in agricultural education. CASE courses will be field tested in eleven states and in over 40 schools next year. And finally, I'll end with a teacher endorsement:

"I am impressed with the curriculum that is now available. This is a start to improving agricultural education throughout the U.S. It is probably safe to say that this one curriculum uses more science and math in one year than what most programs will use in four years. I cannot wait to start piloting the lessons and to see what is yet to come. Kudos.

- Richard Horn

Please contact me if you have questions or comments.

