



Maryland Farm Bureau

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Estimated Cost Projections Based on Maryland Agricultural Education Improvements

1. Homogenizing the agricultural education opportunities across the state through Teacher Extended Duty Contract availability.

Currently, many of the agricultural education teachers in the state are on 10-month contracts and are not compensated for the extra hours and days they put in to allow their students to participate in many of the after-school and summer programs that are part of the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) accredited ag ed program. This change would create an extra duty contract program that could utilize MAEF to issue the extra duty days through a grant program so that there is confirmation that the teachers are actually using the extra days for the ag ed program.

Number of teachers = 75

20 extended days X 8 hours = 160 hours/teacher

75 X 160 hours = 12,000 hours @ \$35/hour = **\$420,000**

2. Creating equal opportunity for every student enrolled in an agricultural education class to participate in all 3 components of an ag ed program by making Maryland an FFA affiliate state.

Currently, a student that enrolls in an ag ed class has to pay dues to be able to participate in FFA. In 2017, there were 5,600 students enrolled in an ag ed class, but only 2,400 of those students were in FFA.

Cost to cover the FFA dues for all Maryland students currently enrolled in ag ed = **\$60,000**

3. Assist with funding proper teacher development and training through Summer Ag Teacher Conference, Staff Development & Update.

Currently, ag teachers have to pay to attend a summer training conference to help them improve their Supervised Ag Ed and FFA programs.

\$400 x 70 teachers = \$28,000 plus \$2,000 for training resources = **\$30,000**

4. Expand and update the MSDE approved ag ed program across the state.

Currently there are 323 High Schools in Maryland, but there are only 51 of those schools with ag education classes. Several school systems would like to add the ag ed program to their school, but the cost to set up and implement is significant. This would create a grant program to help offset some of the upfront costs to implementing a new ag ed program in a public school. It would also provide teacher training to make sure the teachers implementing the new program are properly trained and prepared to get the program off the ground successfully.

Grant programs that would offer \$15,000 per program at 10 programs per year = \$150,000

Same grant program that would train 10 teachers per year @ \$2,500 per teacher = \$25,000

5. Content Leader for ag education to implement the new programs.

To ensure that all these new programs are properly administered and flow smoothly, there should be a dedicated staff position created to administer the programs. This position should be in addition to the current FFA Executive Director position that is housed at the Maryland Ag Education Foundation (MAEF). \$100,000

Grand total for these enhancements to the state's current Ag Ed program = \$785,000

**Funding for these programs would need to increase as more agricultural education programs are started and more students participate in the program.*