

## **2018 State Teach Ag Results (STAR) Program Connecticut**

The STAR Program, managed by the National Association of Agricultural Educators (NAAE), is designed to address recruitment and retention of Agriculture Education (AgEd) teachers through a systematic, results driven approach. Connecticut is one of six new states to join the STAR program in 2018. There are now thirty-six states participating. The Connecticut STAR team will work with National Teach Ag Campaign representatives to assess the situation and create a sustainable and effective long-term teacher recruitment and retention plan.

The Connecticut STAR team will include members representing multiple aspects of Agricultural Science and Technology (ASTE), FFA, and education. Minimum membership requirements include:

- State Department of Education ASTE Supervisor
- University Faculty Representative for AgEd
- Connecticut Agricultural Educators Association Board Member
- FFA Alumni Council Representative
- State FFA Foundation Representative
- Ag Ed Student Representative

Additional members are welcome. We encourage participation from state and local consulting committee members, ASTE teachers, FFA Alumni, industry partners, and other stakeholders. Casey Dunn ([cdunn@rsd6.org](mailto:cdunn@rsd6.org)) and I are serving as the CT state contacts/coordinators. Please contact us if you are interested in joining the team.

The CT STAR team will hold a full-day planning meeting in March or April with Ellen Thompson, NAAE Project Director of the National Teach Ag Campaign. Prior to the meeting, we will be collecting and compiling assessment data to help determine appropriate strategies and goals. A few ideas are included below. We look forward to assessment results and additional suggestions as we move forward.

- Hold information sessions or activities to increase awareness and attract potential candidates from both within and beyond ASTE/FFA
- Create opportunities for Ag Mechanics training for preservice and in-service teachers
- Develop programs to increase diversity of teacher candidates (ethnic diversity, urban/suburban/rural diversity, individuals with disabilities, etc.)
- Facilitate and promote dual teacher certification for Agriculture and Science
- Identify and encourage community college students who may follow a multi-step route to certification
- Work with UConn Extension to highlight AgEd teacher certification as a path to Extension Education careers (AgEd and Extension are connected at many universities)
- Identify resources and help students determine eligibility for out-of-state certification
- Increase opportunities and awareness regarding regional collaboration (New England, New York, etc.)

Respectfully submitted,  
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