



Takin' Care of Business: Making the Most of Work-based Learning in AFNR

Intended Audience: Illinois Agricultural Educators

Date of Presentation: TBD

Trainer(s): Mr. Andrew Klein (ISBE) and Dr. Jay Solomonson (Illinois State University)

Time: 50 minutes

The following learning plan has been developed using the principles of backwards design as described in *Understanding by Design (UbD)*. For an expanded look at UbD, please refer to the AFNR Teacher Guide provided by the Department of CTE & Innovation at the State Board of Education.

Learning Preview

Join ISBE in exploring how to make the most of work-based learning in your AFNR program. Work-based learning, to include a variety of SAE programs and other experiential learning strategies, is foundational for career exploration, development of essential skills, and can be a unique, customizable component to any AFNR course—even its own! Workshop participants will gain strategies for embedding work-based learning into AFNR courses as well as an overview of the new Workplace Experience courses in the approved AFNR matrix for the upcoming school year. Get a jump on next year's WBL in this workshop.

Big Ideas

Big ideas represent major themes of the learning plan. These ideas may be repeated or revisited throughout the learning experience to enhance and deepen understanding. See table below.

Big Idea 1	WBL connects all aspects of the agricultural education three-circle model, beginning with career awareness and concluding with career-focused programs. Each circle of the three-circle model has unique WBL tools, resources, and strategies for participation and achievement in work-based learning experiences.
Big Idea 2	WBL is incentivized and celebrated through incorporation into various award programs in agricultural education. However, the most common limiting factor for students in many of these programs is progress in WBL projects.
Big Idea 3	AFNR courses can embed WBL at the activity, lesson, unit and course-wide levels of instruction. Courses may also serve as stand-alone work-based learning experiences.

Learning Objectives

	<i>Audience will know...</i>	<i>Audience will be able to...</i>
Big Idea 1	1. WBL spans across all AFNR program components including classroom instruction, FFA, and SAE beginning with career awareness activities and builds into more career focuses programs.	<i>Conduct an inventory of a local WBL continuum to develop an analysis of strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats. (1.1)</i>
	2. Each stage of WBL has specific tools and resources that can assist students and teachers with relevant tasks in each stage.	<i>Identify targeted resources that can assist in the development of the local WBL continuum. (1.2)</i>
Big Idea 2	3. WBL is a required component of several agricultural education related achievements including but not limited to FFA Degrees, Officer Positions, Proficiency Awards, and AFNR Career Pathway Endorsements.	<i>Identify measurable benchmarks for WBL achievement based on known award programs and certifications. (2.1)</i>
	4. WBL is often the limiting factor for students as they aspire toward achievements in agricultural education.	<i>Map achievements in WBL chronologically based on the typical student experience in agricultural education. (2.2)</i>
Big Idea 3	5. WBL should be implemented at all levels of instruction in a variety of formats.	<i>Identify strategies for implementing or modeling WBL at the activity, lesson, and unit level of instruction. (3.1)</i>
	6. Cooperative Education courses have now been transitioned to a new framework called Workplace Experience (WPE) courses. The new framework maintains some critical aspects of Cooperative Ed. while providing flexibility for student and educators.	<i>Review strategies and resources for simultaneously teaching students placed in different career clusters. (3.2)</i>
	7. AFNR educators with a Professional Educator License are certified to teach Workplace Experience courses, regardless of the placement of each student.	

Essential Questions

1. How should we assess the strength of work-based learning in a local program?
2. What are resources available to strengthen specific aspects of WBL in a local program?
3. How are agricultural education students incentivized to progress in WBL achievement?
4. Why is WBL a common limiting factor for student achievement in agricultural education awards?
5. How can WBL instructional strategies be implemented in the classroom?
6. What are the benefits of the WPE framework as compared to Cooperative Education?
7. What are the certification requirements for teaching a WPE course?
8. What strategies should be used to simultaneously teach WPE students in different career clusters?

Learning Tasks

- ✓ Breakout into small groups of 3-5 participants
- ✓ Ensure all participants have access to items listed on the **Needs Checklist**
- ✓ Show video **WBL Workshop Welcome**

Module 1. The Work-based Learning Continuum (10-15 minutes)

- Read Big Idea #1 and review the relevant knowledge and skills.
- Play Video Presentation **What is Work-based Learning?**
- Facilitate **Activity 1.1 Local Inventory of WBL**
- Play Video Presentation **Tools and Resources**
- Facilitate **Survey 1.2 Resource Library**

Module 2. Incentives and Achievements (10-15 minutes)

- Read Big Idea #2 and review the relevant knowledge and skills
- Play Video Presentation **Incentives and Achievements**
- Facilitate **Activity 2.1 Minimum Requirements**
- Play Video Presentation **Barriers to WBL**
- Facilitate **Activity 2.2 Achievement Roadmap**

Module 3. WBL in the Classroom (10-15 minutes)

- Read Big Idea #3 and review the relevant knowledge and skills
- Play Video Presentation **WBL Instructional Strategies**
- Facilitate **Activity 3.1 In the Classroom**
- Play Video Presentation **What is a Workplace Experience?**
- Facilitate **Activity 3.2 WPE Best Practices**

- ✓ Play Video Presentation **WBL Workshop Conclusion (1 minute)**

Materials and Systems

Video Presentations

[WBL Workshop Welcome](#)

[What is Work-based Learning?](#)

[Tools and Resources](#)

[Incentives and Achievements](#)

[Barriers to WBL](#)

[WBL Instructional Strategies](#)

[What is a Workplace Experience?](#)

[WBL Conclusion Video](#)

Audience Activities

[Materials Google Drive Folder](#)

1.1 [Local Inventory of WBL](#)

1.2 [Resource Library](#)

2.1 [Minimum Requirements](#)

2.2 [Achievement Roadmap](#)

3.1 [WBL In the Classroom](#)

3.2 [Strategies for WPE Courses](#)

Other Systems and Materials Needed

[Audience Needs Checklist](#)

Downloadable Activities and/or Access to Drive Folder ([Activities Folder](#))

Accessible Video Library and/or Links to Workshop Videos ([Video Folder](#))

[Workplace Experience Course Outline Template](#)

Teacher Provides! Curricular unit or lesson lacking engaging, or hands-on activities!

Teacher Provides! Knowledge of local WBL related programming