

NAAE National Professional Development Opportunities for Agricultural Educators

The National Association of Agricultural Educators (NAAE) provides a comprehensive suite of professional development opportunities designed to support agricultural educators throughout every stage of their careers, from preservice preparation through experienced teacher leadership and advocacy.

Together, these opportunities create a career-spanning professional growth system that helps agricultural educators **grow professionally, strengthen instructional practice, develop leadership capacity, improve career satisfaction, and advocate for the future of agricultural education.**

Program	Target Audience	Description
NAAE Convention	All agricultural educators	The premier national professional development event for agricultural educators, featuring workshops, keynote speakers, networking opportunities, Learning Labs, award recognition, and collaboration with peers from across the nation.
Teachers Turn the Key (TTTK)	Early-career teachers (2nd–4th year)	A year-long professional development experience designed to help new teachers thrive in the profession. Participants engage in specialized convention sessions, peer networking, and cohort-based learning focused on classroom management, time management, work-life balance, and professional growth. Since its inception, the program has supported more than 600 agricultural educators.
XLR8 – eXcellence in Leadership for Retention	Mid-career teachers (7th–15th year)	A retention-focused cohort experience that provides targeted professional development for experienced educators. Participants engage in convention sessions, virtual learning experiences, and collaborative networking designed to increase career satisfaction, longevity, and leadership capacity.
INFLUENCE	Veteran educators (15+ years)	A year-long immersive leadership and advocacy development program. Participants build skills to influence educational policy, strengthen their leadership presence, and advocate for agricultural education at the local, state, regional, and national levels through in-person, virtual experiences and a capstone project.
National Agriscience Teacher Ambassador Academy (NATAA)	Agriculture teachers interested in agriscience instruction	An intensive academy focused on inquiry-based teaching and integrating science into agricultural education. Participants learn advanced instructional strategies and become Ambassadors who share inquiry-based instruction best practices through workshops and professional development across the country.

Program	Target Audience	Description
Virtual Book Club	All NAAE members	Flexible, virtual professional learning that allows educators to explore leadership, education, and personal growth topics while earning professional development or continuing education credit.
Regional Leadership Conferences	State leaders, emerging leaders, and active members	Leadership-focused conferences held throughout NAAE's regions that strengthen state organizations, and build professional networks among agricultural educators.
NAAE Learning Labs	All agricultural educators	Interactive, hands-on professional development sessions offered at national events that provide practical classroom strategies, innovative teaching methods, and program management techniques.
National FFA Convention Professional Development Opportunities	Agricultural educators attending National FFA Convention	Specialized workshops, networking opportunities, and professional learning experiences offered in conjunction with the National FFA Convention.
State PD Workshop Programs	State agricultural teacher associations	NAAE-developed professional development programs that can be delivered within states, including Early Career Elements, XLR8 Institutes, and Teacher Resiliency Workshops focused on retention, wellness, and leadership development.
Teacher Resiliency Workshops	Current agricultural educators	Professional development focused on building resilience, managing stress, enhancing wellness, and sustaining long-term career satisfaction through reflection, active learning, and peer support.
International Professional Development Experiences	Experienced educators seeking global perspectives	Opportunities such as the Greece Agriculture & Cultural Tour that provide agricultural, cultural, and educational learning experiences in international settings.
Future AgriScience Teacher (FAST) Symposium	Undergraduates majoring in agricultural education with the intent to teach	Professional development experience for preservice agricultural education majors which provides customized professional development, networking, and mentoring with current and future agriculture teachers from across the country