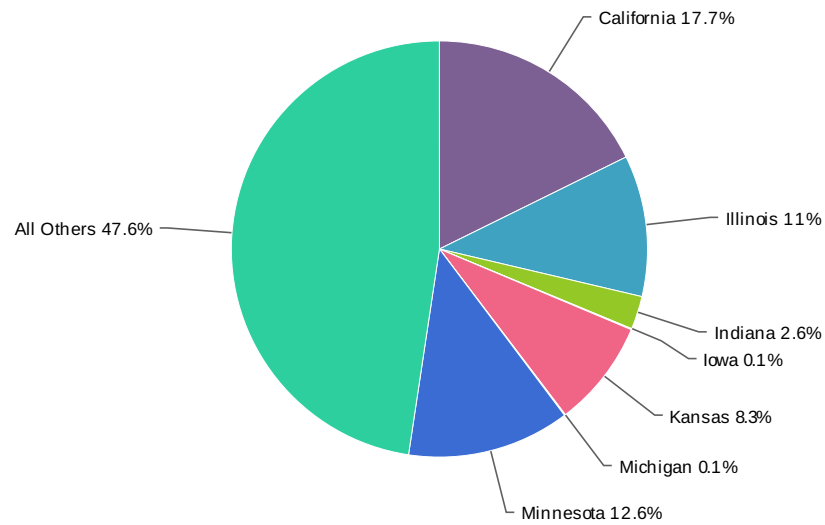


# New Summary Report - 10 October 2014

Survey: State Teach Ag Results (STAR) Program Assessment-Current Teachers

## 1. State where you teach:



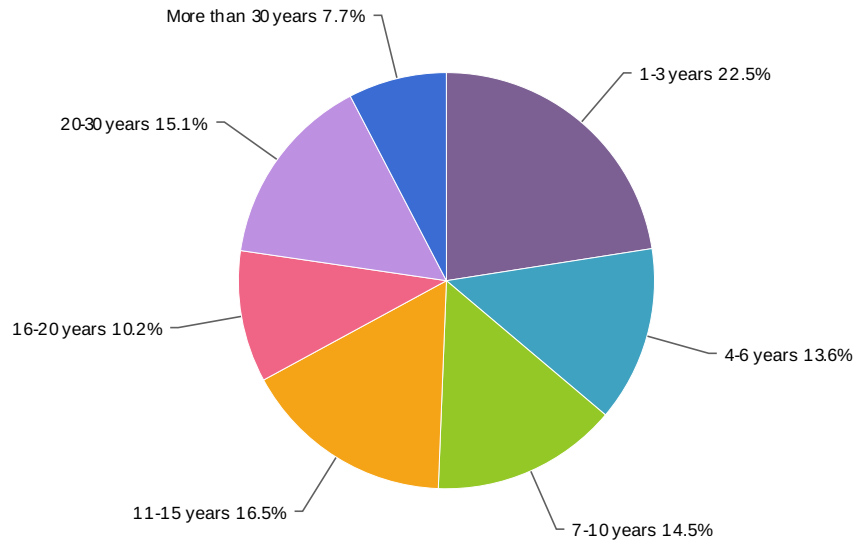
Alabama	0.0%		0
Alaska	0.0%		0
Arizona	0.0%		0
Arkansas	0.0%		0
California	17.7%		213
Colorado	0.0%		0
Connecticut	0.0%		0
Delaware	0.0%		0
District of Columbia	0.0%		0
Florida	0.0%		0
Georgia	0.0%		0
Guam	0.0%		0
Hawaii	0.0%		0
Idaho	0.0%		0
Illinois	11.0%		132
Indiana	2.6%		31
Iowa	0.1%		1
Kansas	8.3%		100
Kentucky	0.0%		0
Louisiana	0.0%		0








Maine	0.0%		0
Maryland	0.0%		0
Massachusetts	0.0%		0
Michigan	0.1%		1
Minnesota	12.6%		152
Mississippi	6.9%		83
Missouri	23.4%		281
Montana	0.0%		0
Nebraska	8.4%		101
Nevada	0.0%		0
New Hampshire	0.0%		0
New Jersey	0.0%		0
New Mexico	0.0%		0
New York	0.1%		1
North Carolina	5.0%		60
North Dakota	0.0%		0
Ohio	0.0%		0
Oklahoma	0.0%		0
Oregon	3.9%		47
Pennsylvania	0.0%		0
Rhode Island	0.0%		0
South Carolina	0.0%		0
South Dakota	0.0%		0
Tennessee	0.0%		0
Texas	0.0%		0
Utah	0.0%		0
Vermont	0.0%		0
Virginia	0.0%		0
Washington	0.0%		0
West Virginia	0.0%		0
Wisconsin	0.0%		0
Wyoming	0.0%		0

Total

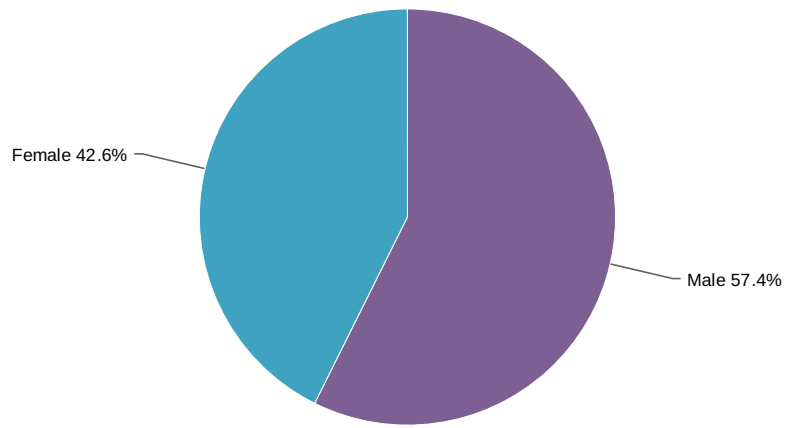
1,203



2. How many years have you been teaching agriculture at the secondary level?



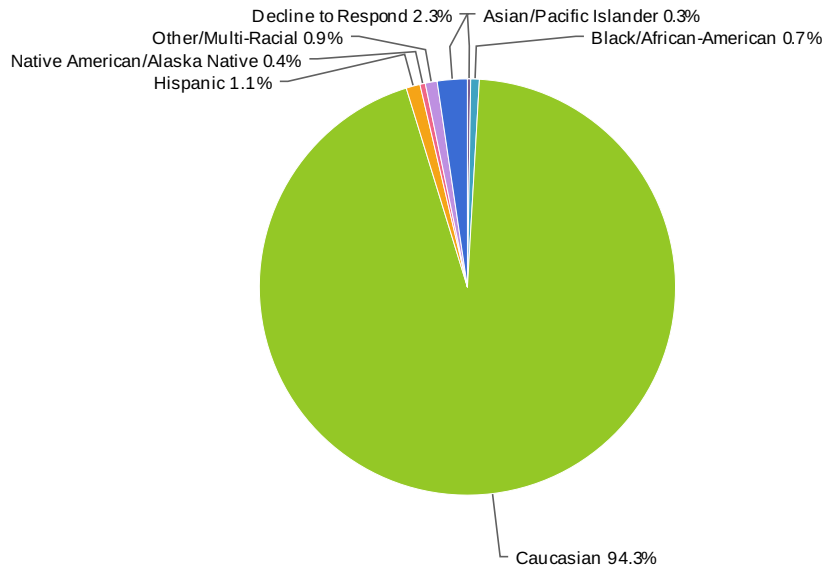
				<b>Statistics</b>		
1-3 years	22.5%			271	Sum	9,911.0
4-6 years	13.6%			164	Average	8.9
7-10 years	14.5%			174	StdDev	6.8
11-15 years	16.5%			198	Max	20.0
16-20 years	10.2%			123		
20-30 years	15.1%			181		
More than 30 years	7.7%			92		
Total				1,203		

### 3. Gender



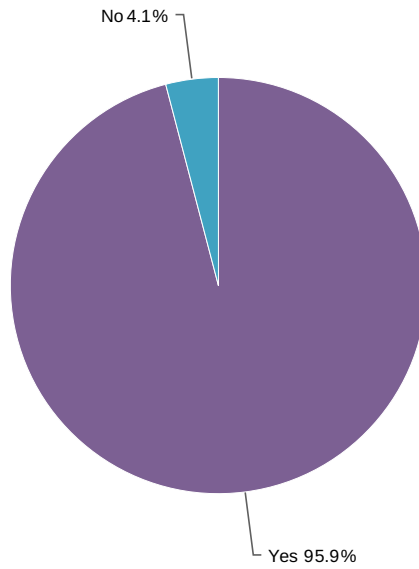
Male	57.4%		690
Female	42.6%		513
Total			1,203

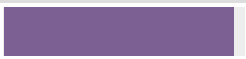

#### 4. Race



Asian/Pacific Islander	0.3%		3
Black/African-American	0.7%		8
Caucasian	94.3%		1,131
Hispanic	1.1%		13
Native American/Alaska Native	0.4%		5
Other/Multi-Racial	0.9%		11
Decline to Respond	2.3%		28
Total			1,199

5. Are you a certified agriculture teacher in the state you are currently teaching? If no please explain your teaching credential.



Yes	95.9%		1,154
No	4.1%		49
Total			1,203

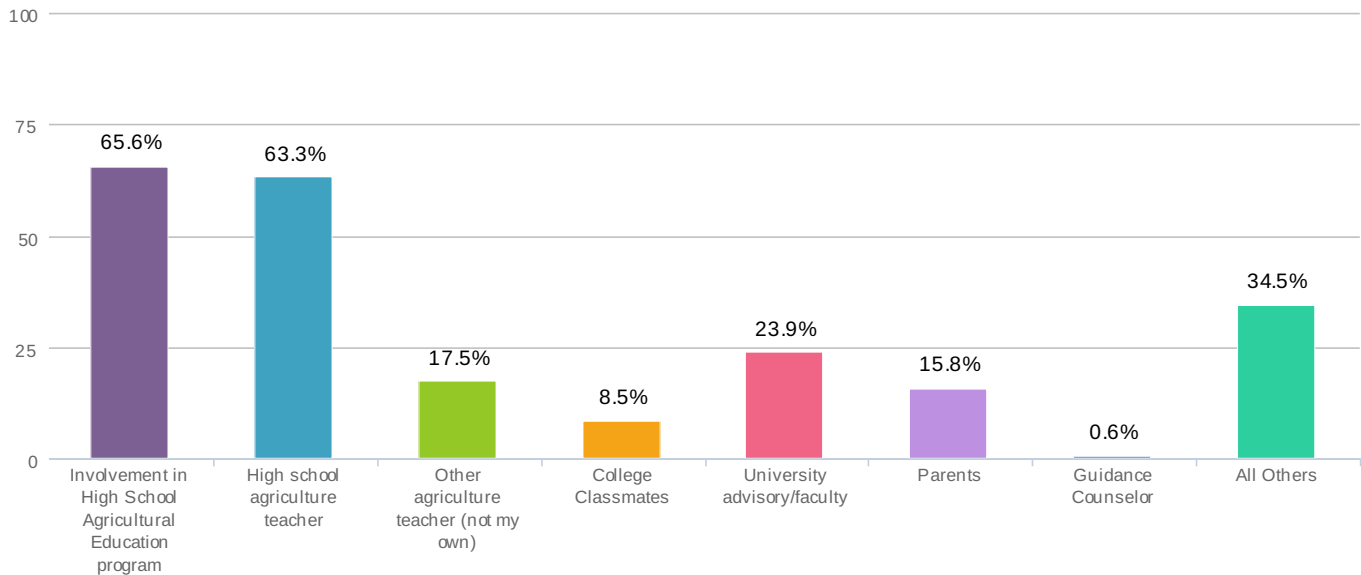
## Comments

Count	Response
2	Also in Nebraska
1	Certified in Agriculture Education
1	Community College
1	Completing requirements for license
1	Designated Teaching Cred. in Ag. No single subject
1	Designated subject
1	Designated subject vocational credentials
1	I am a student teacher not credentialed yet.
1	I am certified in Oklahoma for Ag Ed.
1	I am currently attending UC Davis, earning my agriculture teaching credential.
1	I am currently working on my credential through student teaching.
1	I am teaching on a Designated Subjects credential, not a traditional Ag Credential
1	I have a BS and MS in Agricultural Education and I have National Board Certification
1	I have a Math credential and an agriculture degree and background.
1	I have taught industrial technology for two years as a teacher.
1	I have the Co-op credential, as well as science credentials and am a veterinarian.
1	I need to clear my credential, it is preliminary
1	I teach at the postsecondary level, so a credential is not required.
1	I teach on a provisional certificate. Work experience.
1	I will be certified in August, currently I have an emergency teaching certification.
1	I work at a California Community College.
1	In the process of filing out the paper work, was behind because of medical reasons
1	Lateral Entry - Probationary License
1	MS Building Administration
1	Once was. Am not currently teaching on the secondary level.
1	Provisional
1	Provisional Certification
1	Provisional Certification, career educator
1	Provisional certificate
1	Provisional. Going through the transition to teaching program through UNK.



1	Pursuing the VIP alternate route certification.
1	Retired
1	Single Subject Agriculture Specialist
1	Single Subject Credential-Agriculture, Ag Specialist Credential
1	Student Teaching
1	Taught 12 yrs HS Ag and have 16 yrs at the CC level
1	Variance with a teaching license in life science
1	Wisconsin/Minnesota
1	Working on alternate route certification.
1	Working on my getting my certification. I have my temporary certification at the moment.
1	Working towards full certification, on a temporary authorization to teach agriculture.
1	agriculture credential i lack my specialist credential
1	variance - certified next year
1	I am a CTE teacher and teach horticulture/urban agriculture at our very urban school. I am a licensed veterinarian as well as certified for 6-12.
1	I am a provisional teacher with a transitional certificate. I plan on getting my actual certification coursework done by 2016.
1	NO ~ my husband farms. We and others keep club going. I would love to take course or anything to help out.
1	I am currently attending UC Davis School of Education to receive my credential and master in Agriculture Education. I am currently student teaching at Pleasant Grove high school in Elk Grove, CA.
1	Life License K-12 Vocational Agriculture, I have also completed all of my course work to teach Biology, but wouldn't surrender my life license.
1	I am a certified CTE teacher teaching an Exploring Agricultural Science course in a middle school. Being an Eploratory course, I am certified without having to have a four year Ag degree.

## 7. Who or what inspired you to become an agriculture teacher? Check all that apply



				<b>Statistics</b>	
Involvement in High School Agricultural Education program	65.6%		789	Sum	4.0
High school agriculture teacher	63.3%		762	Max	4.0
Other agriculture teacher (not my own)	17.5%		211		
College Classmates	8.5%		102		
University advisory/faculty	23.9%		288		
Parents	15.8%		190		
Guidance Counselor	0.6%		7		
Involvement in 4-H	18.0%		216		
National Teach Ag Campaign Program	0.3%		4		
Attended a Teach Ag event during high school	0.9%		11		
Ag Ed representative talked to my class during college	1.5%		18		
Other	13.8%		166		
<b>Total</b>			<b>1,203</b>		

## Who or what inspired you to become an agriculture teacher? Check all that apply - Text Analysis

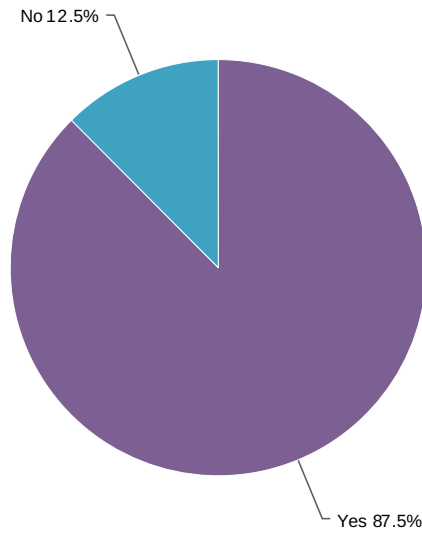
Total	0
-------	---



Who or what inspired you to become an agriculture teacher? Check all that apply - Text Analysis

Total

0

11. Do you encourage your students to consider a career teaching agriculture? Why or why not?



Yes	87.5%		1,053
No	12.5%		150
Total			1,203

## Comments

Count	Response
1	I encourage them to teach ag. ed if they are interested in multiple ag fields.
1	I will for those I feel are a good fit. Not many seniors from ag program graduating this year.
1	It's a great career, to impact the lives of others
1	#1 Industry in our State
1	-
1	- over all of the negatives there are still more good days than bad
1	50/50
1	A Very Rewarding Career
1	A great choice for a career
1	A great option to have when you graduate.
1	A lot is expected without compensation.
1	Absolutely!
1	Absolutely!!!! The rewards far out weigh the negatives.
1	Ag Ed has been great for me.
1	Ag.is the most important job on earth
1	Agriculture is a large and varied field that will always be needed, though it may change.
1	Agriculture isn't going away and will only grow bigger.
1	All students are not interested but focus on those who are.
1	All the time
1	Always, always, always!
1	As stated above
1	As well as any agriculture related field
1	Because I believe it's an amazing career to be part of.
1	Because I enjoy what I do.
1	Because I love it!
1	Because I see talent in some students who would make VERY good ag teachers
1	Because agriculture is our future.
1	Because every student needs to experience or have knowledge about agriculture
1	Because it is a great and rewarding career.
1	Because it is a great career and if they are a good candidate for it, they should look into it.

- 1 Because it is a rewarding career with 100% placement
- 
- 1 Because it is a vital industry to our world!
- 
- 1 Because it is an admirable career.
- 
- 1 Because it is an awarding career
- 
- 1 Because it is fun and you change the lives of students
- 
- 1 Because it is the greatest occupation to work in.
- 
- 1 Because of the changing nature of education.
- 
- 1 Because there are jobs available and it is rewarding.
- 
- 1 Because there is a shortage
- 
- 1 Because they will always get a job.
- 
- 1 Because we need more ag teachers and who else than those I teach.
- 
- 1 Because we need them in the profession and I think they would enjoy it
- 
- 1 Being a teacher may not pay much but it is very rewarding.
- 
- 1 Best career I have had.
- 
- 1 Best job there is!
- 
- 1 Best profession ever!
- 
- 1 Best profession in the world!
- 
- 1 Best teaching job available
- 
- 1 Best teaching option in school.
- 
- 1 But I always tell them the truth about the profession
- 
- 1 But I explain to them the pitfalls that are present and make sure they see both sides.
- 
- 1 But granted, just the ones I feel could handle the demands or that show an interest.
- 
- 1 But hard to get them to committee
- 
- 1 But not as heavily as other career options in ag.
- 
- 1 Can't say that I ever really talk about it but I do not discourage it.
- 
- 1 Certain personal traits are considered when I explain or talk with potential candidates.
- 
- 1 Cte
- 
- 1 Definitely!
- 
- 1 Demonstrate ability to give knowledge and interested in becoming a teacher
- 
- 1 Depends on the kid....if I think they will make a good ag teacher, then yes
- 
- 1 Depends on the student, but usually yes
- 
- 1 Depends on the students personal situation and motivation.
-

- 1 Despite pay and time management, it is a rewarding field.
- 
- 1 Each year we have a student that shows a true desire to be an agriculture teacher.
- 
- 1 Education is a valuable component in "living to serve".
- 
- 1 Every day.
- 
- 1 Explain that it is a rewarding and great career choice
- 
- 1 For the hours I put in the pay is very low.
- 
- 1 For the reasons already mentioned.2
- 
- 1 Fulfilling passion and flexibility of working with desire to farm.
- 
- 1 Fun, variety, lots of opportunities and good job opportunities
- 
- 1 Good career for those who know what they are getting into. Very rewarding but not for everyone.
- 
- 1 Good career if they have the passion.
- 
- 1 Good field to make a difference in the lives of students.
- 
- 1 Good job.
- 
- 1 Good profession. Need to. Be flexible
- 
- 1 Great career
- 
- 1 Great career option for the right person.
- 
- 1 Great career.
- 
- 1 Great job, 100% placement!
- 
- 1 Great opportunity for many people.
- 
- 1 Great place to live and work. Usually you can still live in a rural area.
- 
- 1 Great profession for those that are committed to it.
- 
- 1 Great profession, good job outlook.
- 
- 1 Great way to stay involved with agriculture and the great need.
- 
- 1 Great way to work with people and influence the future
- 
- 1 Hands on engagement, FFA involvement, being outside rather than in the classroom
- 
- 1 Has been a good profession for me.
- 
- 1 Have a former student teaching 25 miles from me.
- 
- 1 Have never had one take up teaching yet, must drive them away with my schedule
- 
- 1 However I remind them of the time commitment
- 
- 1 Huge time commitment and stressful though
- 
- 1 Huge time commitment, most students don't have what it takes
- 
- 1 I always encourage ag as a career & even plant the idea through the Tagged program
-

1 I always encourage kids to teach ag because I really enjoy my job and want the same for them.

---

1 I always let them know I'm having fun at my job.

---

1 I always say, get a Ag. Education Degree, and you can steal all other ag. degree jobs.

---

1 I am not very self-confident and don't believe anyone would want to do what I do.

---

1 I believe it is the best job in education.

---

1 I believe kids in the future need the mentorship that I see in my current students

---

1 I can see some kids doing this for a living and encourage them to consider it for a career

---

1 I can think of no higher calling.

---

1 I currently have 5 or 6 different former graduates of mine that teach agriculture

---

1 I do and currently have two former students majoring in agricultural education.

---

1 I do because there is a need for the recruitment to the profession

---

1 I do but many students will not consider entering the profession because of the pay

---

1 I do encourage, not much success.

---

1 I do enjoy teaching but the secondary level is very demanding especially when you have a family

---

1 I do if I see the passion in their eyes - I believe that is a gift to be an nice ag teacher

---

1 I do if they ask, but in today's climate I don't over exert the idea

---

1 I do not sugar coat it but do let them know that it is worth the time and frustration.

---

1 I do, but it is hard to convince them!

---

1 I don't discourage them, and encourage them if they have an interest.

---

1 I don't discourage them. I try to set an example and let them decide.

---

1 I don't encourage or discourage.

---

1 I encourage a few students... but only a select few.

---

1 I encourage students that show an interest

---

1 I encourage students to follow their dreams.

---

1 I encourage the good ones to look at Ag Ed even if they don't plan on making teaching a career

---

1 I encourage them almost daily due to the shortage and the number of jobs available to be filled.

---

1 I encourage them to explore all agriculture careers

---

1 I encourage them, but the salary usually draws them away pretty quickly.

---

1 I encourage to work in the agricultural industry

---

1 I encourage, but many students see how hard I work and that discourages them from trying.

---

1 I enjoy it

---

1 I enjoy my job for the most part. The pros out weight the cons.

---

1 I enjoy my job, so I try to highlight the aspects of my job that I like.

---

1 I enjoy the profession and currently have an ex student in college in AG Ed

---

1 I give them a chance to teach in class and encourage those that enjoy it.

---

1 I have 3 that have chosen this career

---

1 I have a couple former students currently teaching and a few more going for Ag Ed Degrees

---

1 I have a son who will be a senior in Ag Education next year at U of M.

---

1 I have at times, but it has to be the right student. This job is not for everybody

---

1 I have enjoyed teaching and think it is a rewarding field for a young adult.

---

1 I have had a number of former students go into Ag Education.

---

1 I have in the past, I am not currently as I am in my first year of teaching in a new school.

---

1 I have not had a student interested in teaching.

---

1 I have three currently teaching and 1 more student teaching next spring.

---

1 I haven't had any yet that wanted to

---

1 I just don't have very many students who I believe would like too or be very good at teaching.

---

1 I just haven't got any of them to take the bait. Hopefully soon.

---

1 I just see teacher in some of them. They are willing to help and give.

---

1 I know that we need more qualified teachers in Agriculture

---

1 I let them show interest and then direct them towards the career

---

1 I love my career, at times I am frustrated, but I love what I do.

---

1 I love my job!

---

1 I love my job! We are in desperate need of more teachers...

---

1 I love my job, and I can see some of them becoming great agriculture instructors.

---

1 I love the organization and support Agriculture.

---

1 I need to do a better job of this

---

1 I only encourage the one that I feel would be good teachers in the classroom/

---

1 I share that it is a way of life that allows you to make a true difference in students lives.

---

1 I teach them how to search for a career.

---

1 I tell a number of students that they would make goo teachers of agriculture.

---

1 I tell kids to do something with their lives that will make them happy.

---

1 I tell them every day is something new and exciting.

---

1 I tell them it is rewarding and there is a demand for it if they are not picky about location.

---

1 I tell them that the positive outcomes outweigh the negative things.

---



1 I tell them that there's a shortage, so if they want employment in ag, it's a great way to go.

---

1 I tell them why I love what I do.

---

1 I think it can be a rewarding profession, but there is a lot of extra work that goes into it.

---

1 I think it has to be one of the most rewarding careers a person could be in.

---

1 I think it's important for future generations to educate consumers.

---

1 I think that some would really enjoy being an agriculture teacher and the benefits it brings

---

1 I try to encourage students that would make good ag teachers.

---

1 I try to present them with both sides of the issue

---

1 I used to

---

1 I want to pass on the possibilities and rewarding experiences.

---

1 I will help them but they must have the passion.

---

1 I would caution them about the time commitment.

---

1 I would say sort of

---

1 IF they are interested, I let them know it can open all sorts of options.

---

1 If I feel they can "take it" It isn't for everyone.

---

1 If I feel they would be good.

---

1 If a student shows promise for a career in ag ed I definitely promote the career to them.

---

1 If it fits the students personallity. The world always needs good teachers.

---

1 If it is the right fit for them

---

1 If one has good work ethic and people skills and agricultural interest, good job placement.

---

1 If school is not for them they have other skills to develop and thrive in

---

1 If somebody seems interested, I support it, but I don't go out of my way to encourage it.

---

1 If the shoe fits, I'll recommend it.

---

1 If they are good candidates

---

1 If they are interested, I don't pressure them into it.

---

1 If they are interested, they can ask me.

---

1 If they are the right kind of person

---

1 If they enjoy agriculture and enjoy working with students.

---

1 If they have an interest I'll give them a real picture of what it takes to be an ag teacher.

---

1 If they have an interest in teaching and agriculture

---

1 If they have any interest in it, I try and help them the best I can with my knowledge

---

1 If they have passion for it.

---

- 1 If they have the teaching knack.
- 
- 1 If they show a like for helping.
- 
- 1 If they show interest in education
- 
- 1 If they show interest in teaching, I encourage that
- 
- 1 If you have a passion for agriculture, this is an area to consider
- 
- 1 Illinois' new retire system is a problem
- 
- 1 Im not encouraging anyone to teach ANY subject!
- 
- 1 Is it a good living depending upon the individual personality
- 
- 1 It can be a good job if you are not worried about ever living a comfortable life.
- 
- 1 It can be a very rewarding career
- 
- 1 It can be rewarding and fulfilling if you enjoy it and if it is your passion.
- 
- 1 It has been a good job for me
- 
- 1 It has been a rewarding career
- 
- 1 It is a good occupation and there is a shortage of qualified teachers
- 
- 1 It is a fulfilling career
- 
- 1 It is a fun and rewarding career
- 
- 1 It is a good career
- 
- 1 It is a good career choice for someone who enjoys agriculture and youth
- 
- 1 It is a good career.
- 
- 1 It is a great career for the right student.
- 
- 1 It is a great career that allows you to do what you love!
- 
- 1 It is a great career! You can make a difference for society. Rewarding career.
- 
- 1 It is a great career.
- 
- 1 It is a great career. It is very satisfying to see students succeed.
- 
- 1 It is a great choice for a career where two days are never the same.
- 
- 1 It is a great job
- 
- 1 It is a great job to have
- 
- 1 It is a great profession and career.
- 
- 1 It is a great profession to be involved in if you enjoy agriculture!
- 
- 1 It is a great profession.
- 
- 1 It is a great service type job
- 
- 1 It is a great subject and you are learning every day.
-

- 1 It is a rewarding career, but students often get turned away knowing how much work it is.
- 
- 1 It is a rewarding job and we have many students who would be wonderful in the classroom.
- 
- 1 It is a rewarding profession
- 
- 1 It is a very fulfilling career and lifestyle.
- 
- 1 It is a very personally rewarding career
- 
- 1 It is a very rewarding career
- 
- 1 It is a very rewarding career that has many struggles, but they are outweighed by the positives.
- 
- 1 It is a very rewarding career to work with students (our future)
- 
- 1 It is a very rewarding career, and there is a shortage of vo-ag teachers.
- 
- 1 It is a very rewarding experience and there is a demand for teachers at this point.
- 
- 1 It is a very rewarding occupation
- 
- 1 It is a wonderful profession with quite a bit of flexibility.
- 
- 1 It is always different and you can make it what you want.
- 
- 1 It is enjoyable.
- 
- 1 It is fulfilling
- 
- 1 It is fulfilling. It is needed.
- 
- 1 It is important to recruit new ag teachers to fill the increasing number of job openings.
- 
- 1 It is rewarding
- 
- 1 It is rewarding if you are in the right school or program
- 
- 1 It is rewarding. The downside is the lack of pay and increase in work.
- 
- 1 It is something I enjoy and there is a demand for teachers.
- 
- 1 It is the most rewarding career!
- 
- 1 It is very hard to be the head of household on a teachers salary.
- 
- 1 It is very rewarding
- 
- 1 It is very rewarding and if agriculture is something you are passionate about it is enjoyable
- 
- 1 It is very rewarding career- I have 10 former students in the ag teaching career field
- 
- 1 It's a great career area. The needs and opportunity to make a difference are very evident.
- 
- 1 It's a great career for those that are serious about being true professionals.
- 
- 1 It's a great job and I talk about the shortage of teachers in AGED.
- 
- 1 It's a rewarding career with lots of variety.
- 
- 1 It's an awesome career!!!! :-D
- 
- 1 It's hard work, but it's a good life. Very rewarding.
-

1	It's still a rewarding career
1	It's the best job ever!
1	It's tough but GREAT !! Always something new and diverse !!
1	It's up to them. I don't push it.
1	Its a good gig. Lots of job openings. We need people.
1	Its a great career!
1	Its a great profession and way of life
1	Its a rewarding career
1	Its fun but I think they realize the time commitment and back out
1	Job availability and its a great career!
1	LOTS OF FLEXIBILITY. NOT DOING THE SAME THING EVERY DAY.
1	Lack of salaries in education stops talented kids from teaching.
1	Limited contact time with students.
1	Little pay for A LOT of work.
1	Long hours for the financial return, the stress, parents
1	Lots of job openings, rewarding career
1	Low pay for the time put in. Not worth the hassle of dealing with obnoxious parents & rude kids.
1	Low pay. No tenure (security)
1	Many students do not want to teach because they see the lack of time I have for my family.
1	Most of the students I teach are interested in industry rather than ag.
1	N/A
1	Need more great teachers
1	Needs to be a special type of person who can juggle all the requirements to teaching ag.
1	Not all but a few
1	Not been very successful. They see all the work and say they don't want that
1	Not enough \$\$ The state should require AG in schools.
1	Not enough money in it for the hours spent. I call it my hobby job.
1	Not sure - 5 former students are currently Ag Teachers
1	OF COURSE! We should be their biggest recruiters for teaching agriculture Ed.
1	Of course! If I think it is a great profession why wouldn't I encourage others.
1	Oly if they are truly interested. This is not a job you can "kind of" want to do!
1	Only a few...but they see how much time and work it takes, and that steers them away.

1	Only a select few, those I believe have the personality and intelligence to do so.
1	Only if I feel it is the right fit for them.
1	Only if I think it will be great for them
1	Only if they are interested.
1	Only those that have high potential
1	Only those that show interest.
1	Our state is terrible
1	Provides a variety of experiences and you learn a tremendous amount of skills
1	Rewarding career
1	Rewarding career
1	Rewarding experience
1	Rewarding past the paycheck
1	Rewards Outweigh Problems
1	Salaries are too low to feed their families and not take a second job.
1	Satisfying
1	Select students only.
1	Some - that I think would be good teachers because we need good teachers.
1	Some I do but not all. Just depends on the student
1	Some are extremely talented in teaching others
1	Some kids are the right fit and I feel need to be guided to this career
1	Some of them show great potential
1	Some students have the depth of knowledge and energy to tackle the position.
1	Some students would be great teachers.
1	Some students, not a lot.
1	Someone needs to replace me.
1	Sometimes
1	Sometimes but still not a good profession to go to in this state
1	Sometimes very rewarding and fun.
1	Sometimes yes and sometimes no. often depends on the mood of the day.
1	Sort of....
1	Still we talk about the pros and cons.
1	Students are encouraged to research several career areas of interest to them.

- 1 Students are not interested in teaching career.

---

- 1 Teacher pay scale

---

- 1 Teaching Ag is incredibly motivating and rewarding!

---

- 1 Teaching agriculture is an extremely rewarding career.

---

- 1 Teaching agriculture will prepare you for any other career

---

- 1 The Ag Ed Program @ MSU.....is terrible Dr.Swartzle

---

- 1 The certification process and low pay.

---

- 1 The credentialing process has become to difficult and redundant.

---

- 1 The good days always outweigh the bad.

---

- 1 The money is horrible and often the state does not support public education as they should.

---

- 1 The pay issue is limiting

---

- 1 The resent actions of are State Law Makers.

---

- 1 The reward and continued involvement

---

- 1 There are so many good jobs in agriculture, not just production.

---

- 1 There is real need for good teachers.

---

- 1 There is a job waiting for you.

---

- 1 There is no better job to go with farming and family.

---

- 1 They can do much more because of their potential.

---

- 1 They can make more money and gain respect for agriculture in other areas of the industry

---

- 1 They can make twice as much in other areas of agriculture.

---

- 1 They have the ability to lead and interest in agriculture.

---

- 1 They is a large commitment, yet the reward is also very great.

---

- 1 They need to make that choice on their own

---

- 1 They see how much I do, and dislike the idea of teaching.

---

- 1 They see me having a good time and they think that they might enjoy it to

---

- 1 They should do something they are passionate about.

---

- 1 This is a wonderful profession. Teachers make an impact of a student's life forever!!

---

- 1 To fill the need of shortage of good quality ag instructors

---

- 1 To further educate students and adults who don't understand the importance of agriculture

---

- 1 To those that show an interest.

---

- 1 Too many regulations, rules, requirements, and reports

---

- 1 Very few kids show much interest in what I do.

1	Very fulfilling career, good benefits and life style
2	Very rewarding career
1	Very rewarding career, job opportunities
1	Very rewarding, although not high paying career field.
1	Way to much work with no support, poor pay, no regulation from the state to help support.
1	We can shape lives
1	We have a huge shortage of teachers and we need them to keep our programs alive.
1	We need good replacements
1	We need more Ag teachers!
1	We need more ag teachers and I feel it is a great occupation.
1	We need more ag teachers!
1	We need more good ag teachers.
1	We need more teachers
1	We need some good role models for tomorrows youth in the field of education.
1	We need to actively recruit so that ag education will flourish in the future.
1	When I have qualified students.
1	Why not go to work loving what you do each day and getting paid well.
1	Why not?
1	Why wouldn't you?! Much better pay than they sometimes tell you. Opportunities galore!
1	Yes because I enjoy the job.
1	Yes because there are 23 job opening in the State of MO.
1	Yes ~ we have two students that would like to be an Ag teacher
1	Yes! Its a great career!!
1	Yes, I have in the past
1	Yes, and focus on Ag in the Classroom with older students to introduce teaching.
1	Yes, but right now the teaching profession in general in NC does not look optimistic
1	Yes, everyday as everything we do is based around agriculture!
1	Yes, if I believe they would like it.
1	Yes, some of them, because you can make a difference
1	Yes. If there is a student who I think is a good fit, to be an ag teacher.
1	You can make more in other areas of the agriculture industry with less hassle.
1	You get to see students excel and make an impact

- 1 actually, sometimes, depending on the student
- 
- 1 because I enjoy teaching and we need good ag teachers.
- 
- 1 because i love my job
- 
- 1 because it is rewarding
- 
- 1 especially males we are not attracting males
- 
- 1 for all of the above reasons low pay for teachers compared to industry
- 
- 1 for some students it is a great fit
- 
- 1 good job!
- 
- 1 good profession
- 
- 1 high need area rewarding profession still connected to ag. even if cant farm FFA
- 
- 1 if they want to change lives
- 
- 1 it can positively impact lives and our world
- 
- 1 it's a noble career
- 
- 1 its a great career
- 
- 1 its a satisfying career
- 
- 1 letthem make their own choices. They are aware of teaching as a career
- 
- 1 not as much since state screwed up retirement
- 
- 1 not really, but will talk to them if interested
- 
- 1 numerous oppoortunities
- 
- 1 opens so many doors and inspires youth to continue in the industry
- 
- 1 requirements on beginning teachers and low pay and respect.
- 
- 1 retirement is an issue
- 
- 1 rewarding to help others
- 
- 1 some have the temperment, some do not.
- 
- 1 sometimes
- 
- 1 they can do better, pay, hours, family sacrifices to much
- 
- 1 too hard to balance family and work
- 
- 1 workload does not match the pay in comparison to other Agriculture careers
- 
- 1 yes if they like agriculture and its diversity
- 
- 1 yes, it has been a good career and I have enjoyed my time for the most part
- 
- 1 you bet, especially the males
- 
- 1 I find qualities in the students that will make them a successful ag teacher and try to encourage them into the profession.
-



- 1 It's not that I don't encourage them, but at this time I just don't have any students interested.
- 
- 1 B/C it is a rewarding profession that that allows you to become part of a community and provides a comfortable middle class lifestyle.
- 
- 1 I do some students that I feel would make good teachers. This job takes a certain type of person to accomplish and I do not feel that everyone could do the job effectively.
- 
- 1 Tell them it is a rewarding career that offers competitive pay, great job security, and many other benefits that are not monetary in nature.
- 
- 1 I feel it is a very worth well career and encourage students to at least look at AgEd as a career pathway.
- 
- 1 I encourage my students to pursue their passion. I love teaching agriculture. I hope I have instilled that passion in a few of my students.
- 
- 1 I am selective in who I encourage for the sake of quality and willingness to devote time to the career path
- 
- 1 Many of my students would be great as an Ag teacher. They posses the knowledge & skills, work ethic, patients, and love for this industry and profession.
- 
- 1 Yes and No. Yes because it is a blast and rewarding. No because the pay sucks and you spend a lot of time away from your family.
- 
- 1 Yes it is a great job, but I feel it is only right if you truly want to do it. If you and not 100% about it, isn't for you.
- 
- 1 My students who are very interested in ag ed and have a strong interest and aptitude towards secondary education are encouraged.
- 
- 1 It is a life choice to teach in the field of agriculture. The hours are longer, but the summer pay is nice. Not all hours will be compensated monetarily, but student successes more than make up for it.
- 
- 1 Very important to obtain top quality of students so we will have quality teachers to make our profession better. Better quality of teachers for students.
- 
- 1 I think it is a rewarding career that in the right school district can be a decent paying job. Although, I do feel like we owe it to our students to give both the good and the bad to our jobs.
- 
- 1 I encourage them to pursue a career that they are passionate about and love. I stress to them why I became an agriculture teacher and why I remain an agriculture teacher despite the current educational system in NC.
- 
- 1 it's important!! I don't spend a lot of time talking about it, I try to set an example that draws them into it...even if it takes them some time. It took me +4 years after I graduated from college to enter this field...it's ok :)
- 
- 1 I wish I could click both yes and no! I encourage them to do it, if that is something they desire, but I make no bones about the reality of being an ag teacher.
- 
- 1 In the state of KS, I would not encourage any student to take a career in educator. Especially with the state messing with tenure laws.
- 
- 1 Deciding to end my teaching career (for now) was one of the hardest decisions of my life. I'm extremely happy to be home with my kids now, but teaching gives you such a sense of fulfillment and joy that you can't get anywhere else. Knowing that you are helping to shape the lives of hundreds of students is really aw-inspring.
- 
- 1 I believe in agriculture education however, my students claim they don't have the patience to be teachers of any kind.
- 
- 1 Everyone should try to find a career that gives them a opportunity to make a difference. This is how I have.
- 
- 1 I encourage kids to do as they want. IF they want to teach, in ag, then I encourage that, but I don't actively encourage them to get into something
- 
- 1 I love my job and feel that it is important to inspire others to be employed in the AG industry...we need to feed, clothe, fuel,

and sustain the world you know! :)

1	I believe teaching is a very good fit for many of my students. I currently have well over 20 former students in both Ag Ed and public education collectively.
1	I do, but don't get very far with many of them since they see the schedule I carry and they don't want that type of schedule for their life.
1	If they are diversified, organized and fun I encourage them, if they aren't very energetic I direct them in another area.
1	Yes, if they have an interest pursuing agriculture as a career. Not all of them will become veterinarians.
1	While I encourage many at the same time I point out all the inconsistencies and lack of support our state gives the education profession.
1	Sometimes. I will be honest, with the education field changing and salaries not staying competitive with industry, I find it hard to "talk someone into teaching." Those that want to I encourage.
1	Unless your family owns a farm to be anything other than a hired man is becoming nearly impossible without some type of income from an alternative source. This allows them to be in agriculture while working to build their dream.
1	I only encourage students to teach that have mentioned that they are considering it. The fit has to feel right for them. If I think they might have the potential, I definitely suggest it.
1	As a teacher it is my job to advocate for my students, including their career. I want to make them aware of all the options, if they want to pursue agricultural education, I'm doing a disservice by not encouraging them.
1	but have trouble because of the lack of support that education as a whole has and with the online and charter schools would they have a good rewarding career like we have had
1	I have some amazing students that are interested in agriculture but not sure what they want to do. They have many experiences in many aspects of agriculture and would be great. I point out the extreme shortage, and how all the things they love about FFA and Ag classes take an AG TEACHER!
1	Depends on the kid, but even with all of the 'stuff' we have to deal with it is still a very rewarding career.
1	But only if they want to teach more than anything else. And I am completely honest about the positives and negatives
1	The majority of my students that express interest in being a teacher while they are still in high school are my best students and I have a hard time encouraging them to pursue a career where they will work 5 times harder than they will ever get paid for.
1	Only if they realize that teaching is becoming more of a secondary profession - if married, etc and that your efforts/professionalism have nothing to do with your program's ultimate success - much of this is now out of your hands.
1	There are certain students who have the interest and heart for the profession. I tell these students the truth - good, bad, or indifferent and let them make the decision.
1	This is a great profession. Two of my passions in life are agriculture and advancing the younger generations. Through Ag Education and as an Ag Ed Instructor, I have the opportunity to do both. We need younger generations who are as passionate about Agriculture as my grandparents, parents and siblings are. We are the ones who have to create that passion.
1	I just started doing more of this, but I find that I some kids who would make great teachers think they have other interests/goals.
1	I only recommended they teach if it is already what they want to do. Teaching is not for everyone. You have to live it not just work at it.
1	It depends. I do not encourage everyone. This is a lifestyle not just a career. The pay is not great and it takes of a great deal of personal time. Your spouse and your children almost have to be equally dedicated and involved. Realistically women need to understand the time commitment and consider how they are going to balance that with family.

1	Sometimes, I do. I will only encourage them to do it though if they understand the entire field off education and I highly encourage them to go out of state if they are interested in agriculture education because I didn't feel fully prepared by Purdue.
1	I try to stress to them the impact Ag Ed and FFA has on my life and how successful I am because of it even though I was not raised on a farm.
1	It takes a special type of person to teach agriculture, thus not everyone can do it. When I meet a student who I feel has the qualities of a good agriculture teacher, I encourage them to pursue this profession because there is nothing in the world like teaching agriculture. The rewards outweigh the frustrations.
1	I used to but with the decline of student behavior and lack of pay, not worth the frustration. My health has suffered.
1	I put yes, b/c I do, but I also say no,b/c it is getting to be such a pain in the butt to make sure you have everything you need. I am fortunate to be a single teacher. I am not sure how I would balance everything if I had a family also.
1	I feel like for what we do the money is horrible and so is the time with our family. I took a pay cut to be an ag teacher 12 years ago and still do not make that much nor do I have that amount of time off. Students can still effective help agriculture from other avenues.
1	I encourage those who are thinking about teaching to take teaching agriculture into consideration.
1	I teach at a newly established ag program and I feel that unless I make it aware to them, my students will never consider becoming an ag teacher as a career.
1	The ones who really seem passionate about it yes, unfortunately many people always seem to talk them out of it like its not a good career choice.
1	Yes but I have very few students that want to be teachers because of the low pay in North Carolina
1	Yes, we need excited new teachers in our profession!! If they are thinking about teaching I always introduce the idea of teaching agriculture.
1	I only encourage those who really want to be ag teachers. Otherwise, students can work fewer hours, make more money, and have easier careers in other fields.
1	Yes, because it is one of the greatest things you can do to make a difference in the lives of others.
1	If students are interested, I encourage them to teach agriculture, but I make them aware of struggles of being an ag teacher!
1	Absolutely, because I love my job! It is frustrating, challenging, and time consuming but most of all its extremely rewarding and everyday I love coming to work, I look forward to it. I love my kids.
1	It is their chance to give back to those who invested in their K-12 learning and help to educate those who will feed/lead the world next.
1	I wish there was a sometimes on here. There are students who you can tell are suited to be an Ag Teacher, and others who are not.
1	It is a great career. You get to have a daily impact on people who are the future of our industry and country.
1	Unless they come to me and say that they want to be an Ag teacher I don't push it. The pay isn't great, the hours are long, and you take on a lot of stress.
1	When I encourage my students most of them say "no way!" and they tell me they wouldn't want to deal with all of the things I do on a daily basis.
1	It is a very rewarding career but many students know that they can go into industry and make more money and not have as much time dedicated to their jobs.
1	See #10 above combined with low lifetime pay for secondary teachers. I can't support my wife and three children on my

teaching salary alone.

- 
- 1 But, recent developments in the educational policies of the current Governor has made me question that.
- 
- 1 I explain to them that yes, my job may be very stressful but I enjoy spending time with them and watching them gain all the knowledge and skills they get from the FFA. I wouldn't change it for anything!
- 
- 1 So many other career choices are more lucrative and less stress than education. I do not discourage students from the choice, but I do not "sell" it.
- 
- 1 My students see the issues that I deal with, concerning some administrators, coaches and other teachers, so they decide early on that they do not want to go into Ag. Ed.
- 
- 1 I think it's important to give back and encourage any student who is interested in ag teaching to try it. I think it's something that our society needs more of.
- 
- 1 It is a rewarding career for those who have the passion. It provides a good, stable life with good benefits and chances of a solid, stable income. Also, with current numbers, supply does not meet demand so their employment potential is high.
- 
- 1 I tell them if they have a desire to work, advise, teach, assist youth in agriculture then this is the career for you.
- 
- 1 As my college professor told us-we are a jack of all trades and master of none. This allows us to know a little about most ag related things.
- 
- 1 It's an enjoyable career that allows you to make a good living and feel as if you are making a difference.
- 
- 1 I encourage students who I believe have the personality and drive to be good teachers and make good connections to students.
- 
- 1 I think that it is an excellent program and I think that teaching is a great career. I do try to mention all of the extra things that are required of Ag teachers. Luckily, since these students are in a program, they understand better than I did, as someone who wasn't in Ag in high school.
- 
- 1 Industry treats employees like professionals, education does not. The salary is not competitive for teachers.
- 
- 1 Because we need a steady group of young ag. teachers to ensure there are ag classes in the future.
- 
- 1 With the shortage of ag teachers in this state and across the U.S. we need teachers. If I see a student becoming a great ag teacher I would definitely recommend them and help them in any way to make it happen.
- 
- 1 I find students who I think would be good at it and would enjoy it. I love my job and I understand the difference that it makes.
- 
- 1 I don't discourage, but I try to be very open about the positives and negatives and let them make their own choice. I have told kids I think they would be good at it, but I don't recruit kids for it. I think teaching should be a choice not because someone convinced you to do it.
- 
- 1 I think agricultural education is extremely challenging, but also extremely rewarding. If a student has a passion for helping others and for agriculture, this career is a great fit.
- 
- 1 I encourage them as I realize the great shortage that will come about. In 1979 when I graduated college in Dec. I found a job in January 1980 due to the great shortage of teachers at that time. My school could not find a teacher and the students had gone one semester with no Ag program or FFA.
- 
- 1 It's a way to inspire students to pursue their passion. It's very rewarding. Able to leave the world a little better than when you came into it.
- 
- 1 Because we are facing a shortage in teachers in the industry. It's a rewarding career and one that I believe many future leaders should look into.
- 
- 1 None of my students have stood out with qualities that would make them good agriculture teachers. Whether that is patience, dedication, personality, or responsibility.
-

- 1 Teaching is a great field to get into. The reason I am leaving the profession is because I have a customer base in another career, and that business is growing to fast for me to continue both careers.
- 
- 1 Both, some look at the FFA and thinks thats all there is. Others are not sure, but like the diversity of Ag program vs. other teaching fields
- 
- 1 I try to show them that it is a very rewarding career with excellent benefits and pay. I also try to show them the love I have for Agriculture.
- 
- 1 Its not something that I think about, I talk about it as a career but its not on the forefront. In the past few years I have started a little more.
- 
- 1 i do not know if I encourage as much as I would say that I suggest. But I have never discouraged students. However, they have made comments about how hard I work and some of the extra things I do as compared to other teachers they have. They made comments that they would not consider teaching ag because it looks like a lot of work.
- 
- 1 Because there is something to be said for teaching Agriculture vs. teaching other subjects and how important/rewarding it can be.
- 
- 1 I don't push it on them but do mention to the ones I think are capable that we need more Ag teachers in the profession.
- 
- 1 I feel a serious sense of pride knowing that 12-15 of my former students are either currently teaching ag or are currently preparing to teach ag.
- 
- 1 Students who have had a positive experience in Ag Classes and FFA and I would want to hire if I were an administrator.
- 
- 1 I encourage them because it is a very rewarding profession despite the frustrations. You get to truly make a difference everyday and everyday is different.
- 
- 1 I think it is important of students to strive for a career in whatever subject they are passionate about.
- 
- 1 Teaching agriculture is extremely rewarding. We get to teach students practical skills that are applicable to real life.
- 
- 1 They do not understand how a teacher is paid. For example salary schedules, extended contracts, being paid for FFA and benefits.
- 
- 1 Can combine indoor with outdoor instruction, every day is different, we can have fun, easy to share passion for agriculture
- 
- 1 Teaching as a profession is not something I would encourage any student to enter. I recognize the great need for ag teachers, but I can't consciously set students on a teaching career path.
- 
- 1 I do but not with great zest. This isn't a lifestyle for many. And I don't want to be "responsible" for kids and their educational choices. My goal is to show them and then teach and allow choice.
- 
- 1 First position cut, often parttime. If you want to teach do science or a core subject and have ag as an add on.
- 
- 1 Although the teaching profession is kind of "dumb", it is very rewarding and they will not regret the decision.
- 
- 1 It depends on the student. If they are driven and interested in pursuing this career then yes I do encourage them. However, with the trouble the education system is facing it tends to prevent people from entering this profession due to those hazards. There are many students who refuse to enter this career simply because of the lack of pay, the issues teachers face, and the hard work that goes along with this career.
- 
- 1 The requirements to become a teacher in Missouri are ridiculous and can not justify putting a student through that mess.
- 
- 1 Over the past 5 years of teaching in Indiana, I would not encourage a student to become a teacher of anything. Gone are the days of freedom of choice and flexibility in the classroom. Too much top down administration in education. Ask most students if school is enjoyable anymore and they will tell you no. Who wants to be part of that negative experience?
- 
- 1 I believe becoming an agriculture teacher is one of the most rewarding opportunities I have been a part of.
- 
- 1 I do encourage students to become Ag Teachers as I do love what I do and if a student has a passion for agriculture and is

even thinking of teaching I encourage them to try it.

- 
- 1 I do, but remind them of all the hours that are involved. It is hard to teach with as a female when starting a family with young kids.
- 
- 1 Although there are struggles, it is a very rewarding career being able to work with students and industry leaders on a daily basis.
- 
- 1 I see qualities and characteristics amongst my students that would make them prime candidates for career technical education.
- 
- 1 I tell them that it is a great option for them to look at because they have so many opportunities.
- 
- 1 Only certain students who I feel have a broad enough background in agriculture that would be able to handle it.
- 
- 1 I do encourage ones that love agriculture and want others to know about it because I feel they can stay in the profession. For others that do not have strong people skills and hate paperwork I tell them everything that I have to do as an ag teacher so they are aware of what they are getting in to.
- 
- 1 provides students with a high demand education field while applying and sharing with students practical application of agricultural skills
- 
- 1 I inform the students there is a demand for good Ag teacher's. I do warn them the criteria in education is becoming more challenging as they increase the qualifications, but do not match the salary.
- 
- 1 This question really needs a maybe option. To be an ag teacher takes a special kind of person. You have to be ready to take the good with the bad, be able to bring yourself to the level of the student and determine what they want to do. And above all be willing to over come all adversity. Today's kids aren't as involved as they were in the past so you need to be able to find a way to get students more involved and wanting to learn.
- 
- 1 When I first starting teaching 18 years ago I did because it was an awesome profession. I do not encourage anymore as the profession has become very stressful and frustrating
- 
- 1 I encourage them to go to school from Ag Education not just for teaching but for job opportunities in the Ag field.
- 
- 1 there are things wrong with the educational system. I don't discourage them, just do not promote it as a viable future for the "breadwinner" of the family
- 
- 1 I encourage them, but I also present them with a realistic picture. I tell them about the good, but I also remind them that you have to be "tough" and diligent.
- 
- 1 It is a very rewarding job getting to see students grow and make the personal connections with them.
- 
- 1 I don't feel teaching is as respected a position that it once was. You can make more money, have better benefits, better control of your vacation time, and be paid based on merit and accomplishments in another field.
- 
- 1 I encourage students that I see have a true love of agriculture and FFA that I know would be ambassadors of our profession.
- 
- 1 It depends on the student and their passion. I think some definitely are the type that would enjoy this career.
- 
- 1 I do encourage some. The problem is that most of your more talented students can earn a significantly higher salary in the industry.
- 
- 1 I would say that I encourage more than I discourage but I don't push them very hard. It needs to be their decision.
- 
- 1 Difficult to balance a successful program with the demands of raising a family. Lack of respect from citizens Low salary given formal education required.
- 
- 1 Yes with caution - I have met very few students who have the drive and commitment that it takes to be a productive and successful ag teacher
-

- 1 I mention it, but I don't tell them they should/should not be an ag teacher. That's their choice.
- 
- 1 My students can see the love and passion I have for agriculture and education, they are inspired from that. I try to fuel that fire as much as possible to try and maintain the Ag Programs in the state that we already have!
- 
- 1 Somebody has to take my job and we are short of ag teachers- I serve kids from 7 schools that do not have ag- it was dropped because it wasn't "important"
- 
- 1 I would encourage students who are interested however I believe your only happy if you love what you doing. Therefore I don't encourage all of my students to pursue teaching.
- 
- 1 I have had a student commit to teaching agriculture or earning an agricultural degree in college every year I have taught
- 
- 1 If they are interested, I encourage them. Most tell me they couldn't put in the hours that I do, and I understand that. It takes a strong dedication to do this job.
- 
- 1 But is do tell them that presently North Carolina, and some other states, are making it very difficult on new teachers and teaching in general.
- 
- 1 However they must understand this is not a 8-3 job. They are going to put in way more hours than the average teacher and may have to make sacrifices that their family and friends may not understand.
- 
- 1 I encourage those students who I feel can make a positive impact with practical experience and a common sense approach to life.
- 
- 1 Great program excellent leadership at the state and national level. School Board can see the value of the program. Many teaching opportunities in California
- 
- 1 As much as possible. It is a difficult task, simply b/c our students see the good and bads we go with and how we struggle at times.
- 
- 1 I currently have 3 students who are studding to become ag teachers. Its an every growing industry with lots of opportunity and you don't have to come from a farming background. you just need a love and passion for agriculture.
- 
- 1 I encourage all of my students to pursue a career that they can be successful in and I hope that some of them will choose ag ed.
- 
- 1 Best feeling is to have a former students come and tell you they are becoming and agricultural teacher. When they say it's because the influence you had it biggest pay off to teaching.
- 
- 1 I have fun teaching agriculture and I think they can appreciate that as a couple are on their way to be teachers now.
- 
- 1 I do on teach ag day. It's expected of me and I'd be a hypocrite if I didn't. We promote all other Ag careers, why not the most important one ?
- 
- 1 I believe that there are other careers in the agriculture community that are usually a better fit for most students.
- 
- 1 I think it is an awesome career, however, I worry about them not having life balance as I have not done a good job of modeling.
- 
- 1 I have found that the amount of work and time away from family is not worth the poor salary. I encourage students to enter agriculture industry where pay and benefits are better. I have loved my career but it certainly has not been financially rewarding.
- 
- 1 We need more students pursuing a degree in all areas of agriculture especially, production and education.
- 
- 1 I encourage students to consider education in general. Those that are interested in ag I suggest ag ed. Many of them comment that ag ed teachers do too much work.
- 
- 1 Ag is so broad - they could be their own owner operator, work for a private company or for the government, be indoors or outdoors, travel. They could be planting seeds or genetically modifying them. There are just so many opportunities when we are talking about food, fiber, and recreation.

1	It is rewarding and worthwhile. I love what I do and if I see a student that I feel would improve the profession then I advise them in that direction.
1	I do but I warn them that it is a tough profession that requires alot of extra time and a lower pay than industry
1	This job is very stressful at times. To be an agriculture educator you must be good at stress management, organization, and business management. Being an ag advisor is basically like running a small business with 100 employees by yourself. Honestly, there have been many moments where I have stressed myself out to the point of being sick with this job, and at times I regret my decision to be an ag teacher.
1	I try to be honest with them about the new requirements and restrictions in the profession, esp. about retirement. I tell them I'm not sure that I would become a teacher if I were graduating from college today.
1	If they love to teach and care about agriculture then I tell them of what they can do for others in their lives.
1	Because they can be well rounded and once they go through the Ag Ed Program in College they are employable any where
1	Only if they are very interested because of all the new requirements for teachers and all the political paperwork of the job
1	Yes, but the kids that are interested are also very passionate about the dairy industry and choose career fields in that area.
1	It's a good job for those who want to remain in small communities. Also, there is a very high demand.
1	With this degree you are not limited to any place you want to work, anyone/ company is willing and wants to hire someone with a Ag Ed Degree
1	I have a lot of students interested in education but aren't sure what age or subject they would like to teach. I inform them of all that I do and what teaching agriculture can provided you with as a career choice.
1	Sort of. I tell my students they can do what ever they want to do. However, I personally have concerns about teaching jobs availability.
1	I would encourage any studnet to go into teaching agriculture if they had a real desire for agriculture and the FFA. They also need to be a student that is not afraid of hard work and long hours.
1	My studnets are very non trational and I have not come across any that would be a good fit. If I do I will definety encourage.
1	It depends on the student. Teaching has its rewards; however, it seems like students want to less each year.
1	With reservations. See number 10 comments above. Also, it is my understanding that requirements are increasing, almost to the point of absurdity. That tells me that our state really does not want good people entering our profession.
1	This is a mixed bag. It makes it tough when students with an ag degree can make more money in less hours.
1	If I feel they possess the patience's for it then I try to get as many enthused about teaching as possible.
1	I do, but I have none that are interested in it. It is hard to encourage students to be an ag teacher when the state has such complicated requirements to fulfill during college, the unclear outcome of TRS, and the lack of support from the state government for teachers. It's also hard for students when they see starting salaries of other agriculturally related careers that are more than double a starting teacher's salary.
1	I do truly enjoy what I do and I hope that some of my students decide to pursue this career to keep ag education alive for future generations. It's a tough job but someone has to do it and the rewards outweigh the frustrations and hardships
1	Only if the first show an interest. There are many agriculture careers that are rewarding. Teaching is just one of them.
1	* I believe AG Ed needs great teachers, I always encourage my students to change the world any way that they can. I have a great job, therefore I encourage my great students to pursue that avenue.
1	It is a rewarding career that keeps your interest and allows you to be at home with your family almost every night.



- 1 I'm really of mixed feelings on that topic. I love my job/career. This is what I've always wanted to do as a career! However, I have a son that is in Ag Ed that I told he was crazy because of the current public educational policy that our current, past governor, and the legislature have put our young teachers in where they can graduate with a BS/BA and make \$28,000 for ever (no salary schedule), get married and start a family and qualify for SNAP benefits! EMBARRASSING WHAT THEY HAVE DONE! Created a self fulfilled prophecy for failure of the system that made the United State of America Great!
- 
- 1 One caveat is that it takes time to do it well and so it impacts the ag teachers' family. Also, for all of the work one does, the pay is not commensurate.
- 
- 1 Even with all the frustrations, this is a great job. Having kids want to spend time in your room, trying to find things to do, or figuring out what they are passionate in makes coming to work worth it every day.
- 
- 1 but only the super dedicated, I am not pleased with the rigor in the teacher certification process
- 
- 1 I try to but being rather new I haven't had a lot of time to encourage students. I do discuss the benefits of the job and in Ag Bus. we discussed contracts and how they work because the kids were interested.
- 
- 1 I marked yes, but I could have just as easily marked no. I think things are definitely better than they were 10 years ago, but it is demanding without as much respect from administration. The outside time is significant and sometimes our association places people on pedestals that aren't always realistic examples.
- 
- 1 not since the Illinois state retirement system has mess up. A teacher is burned out after 33-35 years of teaching. there are too many test that are given to students in college , just to qualify to be a teacher. There will be an even larger shortage of all teachers in Illinois in a few years. the state has made it a real change to be an average paid teacher.
- 
- 1 If they enjoy what we do, yes, but you must enjoy it and are willing to spend the time to make a difference. This is not a regular 8 to 3 teaching job.
- 
- 1 I would always encourage a young teacher to go into ag teaching because I believe in the 3-circle teaching methodology, however I would also make sure they had their science credential, so their school in "good-ag numbers times" flip to ag teaching and in "bad-ag number times" flip to teaching science, it's truly the perfect answer to other depts. trying to push ag teachers out, we can teach both, therefore we prove to be the "qualified teacher" by having multiple credentials
- 
- 1 I believe agriculture is the back bone of our country and it needs strong youthful leadership to see it advance in the 21st century
- 
- 1 The Ag industry is an amazing industry, as is working with kids!! Teaching Ag is one of the last places a teacher can actually teach students life skills AND subject matter to prepare them for a career out of high school or to give them the tools to succeed in higher education!
- 
- 1 I want my students to become successful and the teaching profession in my state does not reward good teaching.
- 
- 1 Education in general in Indiana is something they in the last 3 to 4 years has greatly gone down hill. The past state administration and current leadership has made it difficult to do your job. I will not in the current climate recommend any of my students to go into education in this state. In the past I encouraged many of my students to enter into the profession. I do not see the future very bright for young aspiring teachers.
- 
- 1 But Missouri is making it so hard to get a teaching degree with their new testing and legislators making laws on teaching...they are losing their best potential teachers to industry and are being left with the "b" and "c" string.
- 
- 1 If I see a student that shows great potential, hard work ethic, and has a passion for BOTH agriculture and FFA, I encourage them to pursue a career in Ag Ed. On the other hand, I do not want to "sugar coat" the job and hide the realities of the job. If I don't think that a student could withstand the job, I do not suggest it or encourage them. I want us to have more ag teachers that have longevity in the career instead of just coming in for a couple of years not knowing all of the hard work and commitment the job requires and then leave teaching and we are back in the shortage once again.
- 
- 1 I am not confident of the future direction and focus of DESE. I am also a realist about the current cost of a college education and how long it will take an education major to pay that off.
- 
- 1 I enjoy what I do. I encourage students who want a career that is meaningful and impactful to consider a career in agriculture education.

- 
- 1 It's an industry that is starting to see plenty of job openings and will continue to do so. I also put it into perspective for the students that if someone doesn't do it then farmers will diminish and our food supply will be lost or taken completely over by foreign markets or by government entities and will cost much more than it currently does.
- 
- 1 I make sure that they are aware of the challenges that an agriculture teacher faces as a result of our job, but I also tell them that it is the most rewarding career that I can think of. I knew I wanted to be an agriculture teacher from the time I was in 9th grade, and I really am one of the few people that get to work in their dream job that they always wanted, but there are struggles with it as well. I make sure to present both sides to my students, but I always encourage them to consider it.
- 
- 1 I do but some days I wonder. We have a senior that will begin in Ag. Ed in fall of 2014. Maybe I am an old dog and have problems learning new tricks.
- 
- 1 It is hard, because the kids are smart and see all the time, dedication and commitment it takes and many don't want to do it no matter how positively you portray it.
- 
- 1 It is great that some of my former students have chose to pursue a career as an agriculture teacher but I want that decision to be their own and not because their role model pushed them into it. Teaching agriculture successfully is a huge commitment and I think it has to be something a student is genuinely passionate about. I would rather encourage my students to pursue a career in agriculture and if they find that path to be in teaching than I would encourage that.
- 
- 1 Right now it is hard to with all the funding problems in IL & the cuts. I just question them & want them to be truly passionate & for them to know it will not be easy if they do decide to enter teaching. If they still want to they have my full support.
- 
- 1 I feel that family comes first, and most people want a wife/husband and kids and there is no way you can put them first and still put everything that needs to go into an ag program into it.
- 
- 1 I encourage students to consider being Ag Teachers because I know how rewarding the career is and I know they will be able to find a job when they graduate.
- 
- 1 Because we need to educate more people about agriculture; I think it should be a required general class. Every single person uses agriculture on the earth and should in one way or another know what they're using and why its important.
- 
- 1 It is a lot of work and I know several teachers who have gone through divorces due to teaching Ag.
- 
- 1 A great way to have an influence on the future of the Agriculture Industry and be an advocate to your larger community.
- 
- 1 Too much time and money spent to train to become a teacher; even going without work during student teaching experience- all to become a part of a profession that is underpaid, under valued and constantly trying to fight for survival. I would rather promote career opportunities in agriculture that don't have these barriers and are higher paying in general
- 
- 1 Some haven't even consider teaching. I like to show options to students and see if anything sparks an interest.
- 
- 1 Most of my kids want to make a living. The legislature is seeing to it that no one wants to begin a life like that.
- 
- 1 Especially my female students. There is great job availability and it provides a paycheck doing something fun every day.
- 
- 1 I do not encourage all students to pursue this path because it takes a special person to be a quality agriculture educator and not all students have those qualities needed.
- 
- 1 I encourage my students to pursue a career that is exciting to them. I don't discourage them from teaching Ag. but I don't push them either.
- 
- 1 It depends on the student - I have two former students in college now who want to teach ag - I worry about the availability of jobs for them.
- 
- 1 It isn't "work" for me on most days when I get to do what I want to do and that is see students succeed outside of the "normal" classroom environment. The personal relationships and lifelong people skills that I help students learn is all worth it in the end. So, I do encourage students to go down that career path if they truly enjoy the program and have had a positive experience.
- 
- 1 For students with commitment and dedication a career in agriculture education can be rewarding. It is often a thankless job,

but one that you can find much satisfaction in other places.

- 
- 1 It is a very rewarding career that allows me to do the things I love to do. There are so few "true" Ag Mechanics teachers coming out right now. If I have one of those "special" ones that comes through my program, I certainly encourage them to seriously look at this career.
- 
- 1 I preface it with making sure they have a secondary option in case teaching doesn't work. With the new common core, testing, lack of funding, and concern of a program being cut...I recommend having a fall back plan.
- 
- 1 We need more teachers in the field and I try to find kids who are passionate about ag and then push them in the direction of teaching.
- 
- 1 Yes because we need Ag Teachers, however it is frustrating to encourage students to teach due to school cut backs and lack of knowledge about Agricultural Education!
- 
- 1 Overall has been a rewarding career. We need more diversified teachers interning our field, the more the merrier, then cull.
- 
- 1 I try to help them realize how important Agriculture is to the world they live in and how they can contribute positively and be successful in life.
- 
- 1 I hope to replace some that are leaving, and I hope that they find find the same fulfillment as I do
- 
- 1 They will have less stress and a better financial outlook if they get a degree in Ag and use it in the private sector.
- 
- 1 Agriculture education is a very rewarding career. There are a lot of job opportunities in agriculture education.
- 
- 1 We need more Ag. Ed. teachers, and I promote it heavily to those that I believe could do it successfully.
- 
- 1 I have encouraged, but with the negative climate in Illinois, I am almost starting to discourage. I tell my kids interested that you will not have much time for family if you are real dedicated to it-- here in Illinois we have 2-3 section/state activities and at the local level we are in charge of concessions, so that is a big time commitment. But that is not the case for a lot of chapters, so it depends on what the teacher wants to do.
- 
- 1 Yes, although I worry for them with the new retirement system that they will be working a LONG time.
- 
- 1 Because even with the downfalls of this profession there are many more positives that i get out of it.
- 
- 1 Opportunity to make a difference in student lives. Sometimes we are the only positive role model they have.
- 
- 1 They usually say that I work too hard. But they appreciate what our program does and how I am a part of that. I do have 3 students who desire to become an Ag Ed teacher.
- 
- 1 The focus of some University programs dos not prepare future teachers to succeed. Need better connection between Universities and HS
- 
- 1 I tell them to consider it, but to keep their options open for other career areas related to agriculture.
- 
- 1 Because as long as people like to eat we will need people in agriculture and need teachers to inspire those students to go into that field
- 
- 1 If you are going to have a family the schedule works. The Ag Ed family is supportive. Way of life.
- 
- 1 It's an amazingly rewarding career. Many students would not consider this career if not exposed to the idea from their ag teacher.
- 
- 1 Most influential and satifying teaching position in the school. Ag. Ed. the most versatile agricultural degree. Job satisfaction is high and there is a high demand for people with this degree in education, higher ed., ag. business, etc.
- 
- 1 I encourage students to teach who I feel have been active in the FFA along with helping other students along the way.
- 
- 1 I encourage students to become agriculture teachers because it's challenging and rewarding and every day is different.
-

- 1 I love this career. When I see students with passion and enthusiasm, I always try to encourage this career.
- 
- 1 I push them in that direction, but it is hard to compete with the pay scale and benefits they can get working in industry and that is what they see.
- 
- 1 Steady income/insurance Great relationship with co-teachers & students Teaching subject passionate about
- 
- 1 If they want to be a teacher, I explain to stay away from English teachers because they have to grade and read too much, social studies are a dime a dozen, pe teachers have to coach and ag teachers get paid the most
- 
- 1 Most students see the hours I put in and don't want to teach. Add the low pay and it isn't too enticing for students to become Ag. Ed. instructors.
- 
- 1 I always tell kids to follow their dreams. If they want to be an agriculture teacher I don't discourage that. I do make sure that they understand the stresses of the educational system in Illinois and the time comittment they are making.
- 
- 1 This job requires a true passion. If a student shows a passion for doing what I do, I will encourage them. I will not encourage anyone who does not already have a desire to work with kids and put in the time. It would be a disservice to our profession.
- 
- 1 No money in it anymore. Laws making it so strict for evaluation - so demanding. Schedule does not allow for family life.
- 
- 1 It's a service position. If you are called to serve than it is a great field to go into if you are interested in that.
- 
- 1 It is a great way to stay involved in the FFA and support the future of agriculture and the development of our youth.
- 
- 1 not enough compensation and really affects personal life. honestly its not a good career if you do not have an understanding partner
- 
- 1 Get a job that you love to do. Then the choice is yours. I don't want people telling me what to do so I don't expect to do that to others.
- 
- 1 If the right student comes along I encourage them. I do not encourage all students if I do not feel they would have what it takes.
- 
- 1 I encourage those who would help kids be successful. NOT everyone is cut out for this job or understands the time commitment required to do it right.
- 
- 1 If a student has an interest or I think they would make a good teacher I will encourage them to at least explore the option
- 
- 1 No, I don't encourage or discourage them. They look into it as a career choice and then compare it to what they could be getting. I always want something better than I have for them
- 
- 1 Because we need the best and the brightest to be ag teachers to continue our strong Missouri FFA and Ag Ed programs.
- 
- 1 For some kids, it seems like a natural fit, and there will be jobs for them when they graduate (which isn't true for a lot of other career choices.)
- 
- 1 Teaching Salaries are not high enough to justify the cost of tuition at a major university. Students can enter the work force in a trade or industrial field without a college degree earning more per year in 4 years than I am earning now after 20 years and a Masters. No incentives for being a good teacher.
- 
- 1 If they really like Agriculture or their experiences in FFA I always recommend it, but I am always extremely upfront about the time commitment.
- 
- 1 Ag Teaching is fun, interesting, frustrating, stimulating, competitive, overwhelming, and addictive.
- 
- 1 It SUCH a rewarding career. It allows you to impact many lives while doing and teaching what you love.
- 
- 1 For kids to find a career that is rewarding, teaching agriculture is not going to be it unless they come from an agricultural background. I see college graduates coming into teaching that are not prepared because of everything else they are needed to do to be certified. The only ones that I recommend to teach agriculture are the ones that have the background and live

FFA in high school and try everything at least once.

- 
- 1 If I think they would enjoy the career or they are interested in agriculture but want a general agriculture major I encourage Ag Ed.
- 
- 1 It has been a wonderful life for me--now i need a retirement project as my whole life has been ag teaching and my family.
- 
- 1 Yes. Its something they will be passionate about but I also not caution them to get a degree in a second subject
- 
- 1 Sometimes, it is easy to speak about the enjoyment of leading and guiding students but you cannot help but be discouraging about the work load a scoring and broad educational expectations. These tend to be non Ag. related.
- 
- 1 Teaching, across the board, is off the table. I could not in good conscience encourage a student to pursue teaching right now. Which is very sad, because the good parts of teaching are still good.
- 
- 1 I do not actively encourage anyone to go into teaching at this point because I am frustrated with where public education is headed. I do not discourage anyone, but it is difficult to steer students toward teaching when I myself would not choose this route if I had it to do all over again.
- 
- 1 I make them aware of the benefits of being an ag educator so they can consider it as they choose their career path.
- 
- 1 Yes and No. Some students have the work ethic and drive necessary to become an Ag Teacher. They also have the motivation needed to be a teacher that is progressively growing and developing. Some students however do not have the drive and work ethic needed to be a quality Ag Teacher.
- 
- 1 The students that I feel have a true passion for agriculture and strong communication skills, they are encouraged to look into a career in ag education
- 
- 1 For those that I think would enjoy the profession and those that have a passion for ag and working with others.
- 
- 1 I do encourage them to, however you have to advise them of the current state of affairs here in Illinos with retirement.
- 
- 1 I talked to the students about carer choices and the possibility of them becoming ag teachers but I don't necessarily encourage them unless I know they are thinking about teaching ag as a profession
- 
- 1 I encourage them because it is fun to be in the classroom and travel and do visits and things, however I explain how they need to be ready to dedicate a lot of time.
- 
- 1 State of Illinois is making all young teachers jump through too many obstacles instead of helping them become better teachers
- 
- 1 I have in the past but with the lack of support for education in Kansas, I have encouraged those wanting to teach Ag to go to other states and teach.
- 
- 1 Yes, because this career allows you to participate in a program and organization that continually provides students opportunities. It also allows the teacher to do what they loved when they were a student.