

## **INTRODUCTION – Marion Local Ag-Ed Study Group Report – June 2008**

The first German settlers came to this area in the early 1800's. Many of us locals can trace our genealogy to these brave souls who left everything to start over in this "new world". It is hard to imagine how hard they must have worked to flourish and create communities that we benefit greatly from today.

These folks came here because they wanted to farm. Upon arrival, the first order of business was to clear the forests, plant crops and acquire livestock. The forests were mostly cleared long ago, but the planting and the tending of animals has continued non-stop. Along the way, our Marion communities were blessed with businesses that started, flourished, and then faded. Over the decades, this area produced manure spreaders, bricks, tiles (clay and cement), barrel staves, and wagons. We even had a hotel or two and many more taverns than the current count. All are gone, but we are grateful that other businesses have taken their place. We are also grateful for agriculture, which has endured the longest and provided continuous growth and benefits.

Ohio agriculture contributes \$79 billion\* to this state's economic production. Mercer County, with annual farm production of \$622 million\*, is Ohio's leading county. (Our neighbor to the south, Darke County, some of which is in the Marion community, is always second). Agriculture also employs 6,500\* people in Mercer County. Based on these statistics we can calculate that our Marion agricultural community produces in excess of \$60 million annually.

It becomes readily apparent that our agricultural community is one to be nourished and encouraged. It is the key economic "engine" in this area. It has supported the area continuously from the beginning. It is highly unlikely that these agricultural jobs will be exported so its vitality will continue and expand.

A key ingredient to keeping local agriculture dynamic and strong is the training of future farm leaders. An effective means of accomplishing this task is to have a robust Agricultural Education curriculum at the high school level. Many area schools provide such a program but Marion Local does not.

Please review the attached report submitted to the Marion Local Board of Education on June 9, 2008. If you agree that agriculture is indeed a vital part our local economy, please support this initiative by signing the sheet provided. We would also like all of you to strongly encourage the school administration and your board representatives to add an Ag-Ed curriculum at Marion Local. While you're at it, also thank these good folks for their accomplishments with our local educational system. We can all be justifiably proud of their work. Given the reasons stated above, our Ag-Ed study group and the MCDO committee believe that local education can be even further enhanced by the addition of a robust, comprehensive agricultural education program.

\*2006 Ohio Department of Agriculture Statistic (Furnished by Farm Bureau)



Marion Local  
Agriculture Education  
Study Group

Report to:

Marion Local Board of Education

June 9, 2008

## Marion Local Agriculture Education Facts

Mercer County is the number one Agricultural County in Ohio and Agriculture is Ohio's largest industry. Darke County is second and part of Marion Local School is in Darke County. Attached pages 1 & 2

The majority of Marion Local businesses derive significant income directly or indirectly from agriculture. Attached pages 3 & 4

Agriculture is rapidly changing becoming more science based and technical.

Production Agriculture is becoming a people management business.

Skills to become effective in production agriculture, agricultural business, and professions serving agriculture are best supported by job training, high school agriculture education, post secondary technical education, and college agriculture curriculums.

High School Agriculture Education prepares students to be more effective in Post Secondary Technical and College Agriculture Curriculums. Brad Moffit, State Dept of Ed. Models attached pages 5 & 6.

There are no current curriculum choices at Marion Local High School that focus on Leadership training.

Surrounding school districts have been very successful in Agriculture Education and have some of the top FFA Chapters in the State of Ohio.

Community support for Agriculture Education is strong as evidenced by over 60 community members attending an informational meeting February 25<sup>th</sup> at the Chickasaw Library.

The Marion Local Agriculture Education Study Group was formed as a result of that meeting. Listing attached page 7

Curriculum proposals are being developed following guidelines of the State Department of Education and other successful Agriculture Education Programs. Example Curriculum from Ridgemont High School attached pages 8 & 9. More available if requested.

Curriculum will be primarily science and technology focused rather than shop focused. Curriculum will be further developed after an Agriculture Education teacher is hired.

Attempts will be made in curriculum to provide ½ science credit for one year of study.

Initial class sections may be small but target a Fall 09 start of the program.

Class sections considerations are:

- 1 Ag Ed 1 for first year Ag Ed students
- 2 Ag Ed 2 for students that have had Freshman Ag Ed at St. Henry
- 3 Ag Ed 3 for students that have had Ag Ed 1 & 2 at St. Henry

Funding requirements will be approximately \$50-60,000 for teacher salary and benefits.

It is estimated that \$20,000 is currently spent to send students to St. Henry.

State Career-Tech Funds can be utilized for portions of funding. Pages 10-14 attached.

Agricultural Engineering could be incorporated into the industrial arts program procuring additional State Funding.

The former Home Economics room will be adequate to start an Agriculture Education program at Marion Local.

Industry partners may be utilized to provide shop, laboratory, and field trip experiences.

Funding can be provided by:

- Private Pledges contingent upon School Board Approval to seek them
- Redirecting current Agriculture Education expenditures at St. Henry to the Marion Local program.
- General Fund Contributions
- State Career Tech Funds
- Levy directed toward Agriculture Education

The Marion Local Agriculture Education Study Group requests that the Marion Local Board of Education continues support of providing Agriculture Education at Marion Local High School.

## Agriculture and Employment:

### JOBS:

- Four major factors that will define the job market from 2005-2010 in agriculture.
  - Consumers & their preferences.
  - Evolving business structure in US food system.
  - New developments in technology & science.
  - Public Policy choices & food system security.



- **Leading Opportunities**
  - Management & Business
  - Scientific & Engineering
  - Agricultural/Forestry Production
  - Education, Communication & Governmental Service
- **Ag Trends:**
  - Renewable Fuels
  - Environmental Science-Conservation Management
  - Biotechnology
  - Public Policy-Food Safety & Security
  - Niche Marketing
    - Locally Grown
    - Organic

## **Agriculture Facts:**

### **US**

- Agriculture generates 22 million jobs in the US each year.
- Fewer than 2 million Americans are actively engaged in “farming”.
- There are over 250 career areas in the agriculture field (“from the gate to the plate”).

### **OHIO**

- 1 in every 7 Ohio residents works in a sector of agriculture such as, wholesaling/retailing, farm production, marketing and processing and agribusiness.
- Food is Ohio’s Top Industry.
- Ohio Agriculture and Food contributes \$90 billion to the state’s economic growth.
- Agriculture and Food industry accounts for 18% of the states total employment.
- Ohio has more than 1000 food processing facilities. We attract more plants because of our population diversity.

### **Mercer County Agriculture**

- Agriculture contributes \$621.7 million in output & employs 6,500 people in Mercer County.
- Livestock & Poultry production represents over 78% of production agriculture in Mercer County
- Food & Forestry processing accounted for \$171 million in total output
- Cash Receipts from marketing of farm commodities totaled over \$310 million dollars.
- Average Farm size is 213 acres
- Total farmland available 264,000 acres
- Total Farms 1240 in 2006 down 10 from 2005.

## MARION COMMUNITY BUSINESSES

Compiled by Jim Keller with MCDO

The businesses have been grouped and classified as to their involvement and benefits from the agricultural economy in the Marion Community. The classifications have been compiled by the Ag Study Committee, and is based on the opinions of the committee members

D - Directly and fully benefits from agricultural economy

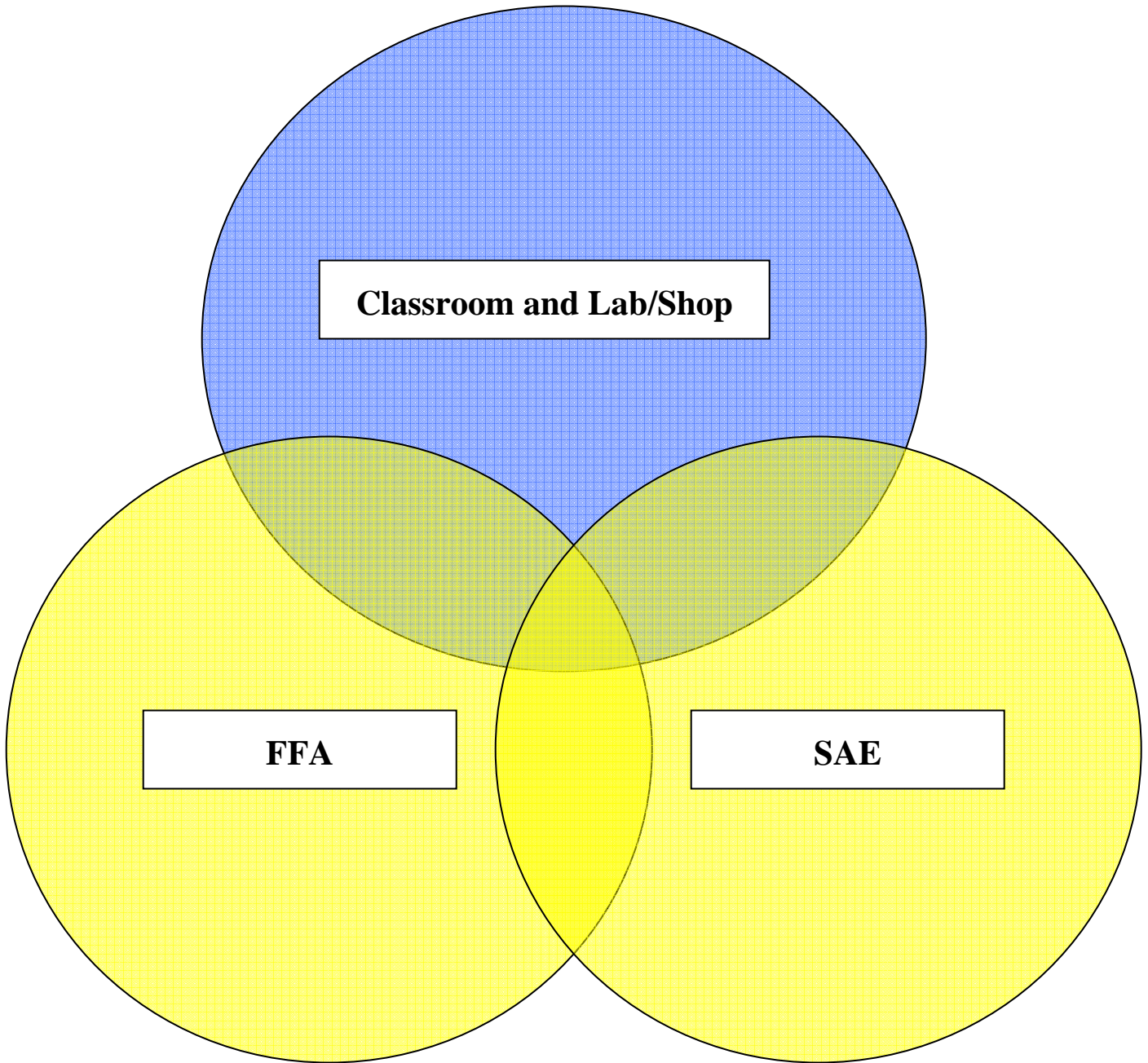
I - Indirectly benefits from agricultural economy

M - Minimal or no benefits from agricultural economy

Lastname	Firstname	Company		Phone
Evers	Gene	A.J. Evers & Sons	D	419-925-4204
Roetgerman	Kirk	Advanced Agri-Solutions Co-op, Inc.	D	419-582-3502
Vian	Gerald	Blue Ribbon Feed Mill	D	419-925-4790
Fledderjohann	Dr. Neal	Chickasaw Veterinary Center	D	419-925-4910
Droesch	Don	Droesch Farm Service	D	419-925-4526
Everman	Dennis	Everman Brothers Trucking & Poultry	D	419-925-4828
Homan	Roger	Homan, Inc.	D	419-925-4349
Huelskamp	Don	Huelskamp Trucking	D	419-925-4854
Goettemoeller	Dale	Lou Goettemoeller & Sons LTD	D	419-925-4614
Hardesty	Dr. Mark	Maria Stein Animal Clinic	D	419-925-4212
Kremer	Chuck	Maria Stein Grain Co.	D	419-925-4414
Puthoff	Ken	Mercer Landmark, Inc.	D	419-925-4326
Minton	Dr. Bill	Minton Veterinary Service	D	419-925-9300
Holdheide	Lenny	MS Welding	D	419-925-4141
Buschur	Joan	PBS Animal Health	D	419-925-8800
Winner	Brian	Robert Winner Sons, Inc.	D	419-582-4321
Tuente	Ron	Tuente Trucking	D	419-582-2652
Winner	Ted	Winner Trucking, Inc.	D	419-582-4321
Evers	Randy	Arling - Evers Auctioneers	I	419-678-4384
Bruns	Stan	Bruns & Homan Construction	I	419-925-4601
Bruns	Paul	Bruns Bulldozing & Backhoe	I	419-925-4545
Budde	Dave	Budde Construction, Inc.	I	419-925-4101
Heitbrink	Bob	Chickasaw Garage, Inc.	I	419-925-4329
Puthoff	Ron	Community Development Services	I	419-925-7100
Wynk	Dave	E. J. Wynk Construction, Inc.	I	419-925-4821
Gagel	Todd	Gagel Hardware	I	419-925-4575
Hartings	Paul	Hartings Trucking, Inc.	I	419-925-4051
Heitkamp	Dan	Heitkamp Developers, Inc.	I	419-925-4307
Heyne	Earl	Heyne's Painting & Sandblasting	I	419-268-2549
Homan	Stan	Homan's Insurance Agency	I	419-925-4567
Huelsman	Tom	Huelsman Automotive, Inc.	I	419-925-4711
Lamm	Tom	Lamm's Insurance Agency, Inc.	I	419-925-5259
Bertke	Ted	Leugers Insurance	I	419-925-4511
Heitkamp	Marvin	Maria Stein Trenching and Excavating	I	419-925-4055
Metzger	Carl	Marion Local Schools	I	419-925-4294
Piper	Scott	Marion Mutual Insurance Assoc.	I	419-925-4567
Sanders	Charlie	Mercer Builders	I	419-925-8001
Berry	Matt	Midwest Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc.	I	419-394-4110
Evers	Nick	Mike's Sanitation, Inc.	I	419-629-3695
Moeller	Gary	Moeller Trucking	I	419-925-4799
Monnier	Mike	Osgood State Bank	I	419-582-2681

Rethman	Mike	Rethman Brothers		I	419-925-4456
Schwieterman	Dr. Jim	Schwieterman Family Physicians, Inc.		I	419-925-4613
Seitz	Steve	Seitz Electric, Inc.		I	419-925-5206
Bruns	Ron	Small Jobs		I	419-305-1285
Garrison	Bonnie	St. Henry Bank - Maria Stein Branch		I	419-925-4563
Thobe	Gregg	Thobe Oil Co.		I	419-925-4742
Puthoff	Virgil	Virgil Puthoff Construction		I	419-925-4443
Moorman	Dave	3-Way Machine & Tool Co.		N	419-925-7222
Bergman	Ted	Bergman Tool & Machine Co.		N	419-925-4963
Bernard	Tom	Bernard Masonry		N	419-925-4211
Uppenkamp	Rick	Brookside Trucking		I	419-925-4457
Rethman	Maria	Chapel Hill Preschool		N	419-925-4456
Tangeman	Norb	Chickasaw Machine & Tool, Inc.		N	419-925-4325
Lochtefeld	Al	Chickasaw Qwik Stop		N	419-925-8888
Heitkamp	Harry	Dynamic Weld Corporation		N	419-582-2900
Poeppelman	Gary	G & L Sales & Service		N	419-582-4341
Garmann	Brad	Garmann/Miller & Associates, Inc.		N	419-628-4240
Gossman	David	Gossman Pools		N	419-925-0710
Heitkamp	Jay	Harmony Reins, Inc.		N	925-4612
Winner	Vicki	Head-Quarters Beauty Salon		N	419-925-4182
Eyink	Eric	Innovative Office Solutions		N	419-925-5433
Kemper	Mike	Kemper's Landscaping		N	419-582-1301
Schwieterman	Jeff	Korner Kafe		I	419-925-4031
Nieberding	Pat	Manco Manufacturing		N	419-925-4152
Hoying	Sr. Barbara Ann	Maria Stein Center		N	419-925-4532
Schroeder	Fr. Ken	Marion Catholic Community		N	419-925-4775
Schwieterman	Dale	McCrate Delaet & Co.	D		800-686-3954
Heitkamp	Randy	Messenger Press		N	419-925-4121
Moeller	Pat	Moeller Door Sales	D		419-925-4748
Niekamp	Mike	Niekamp Farm & Flea Market		N	419-925-5208
Lochtefeld	Ron	Ohio Recycling, Inc.		N	419-925-4444
Huelskamp	Ben	One Block at a Time, Inc.		N	
Brunswick	Ron	OPPAC		N	419-582-2761
Bollenbacher	Ryan	Pleiman Landscaping		N	419-925-4033
Pohlmann	Mark	Pohlmann & Company Masonry		N	419-925-4124
Poeppelman	Randy	Randy Poeppelman Auto Sales		N	419-925-4747
Bruns	Shelly	RB Advertising Specialties		N	419-925-5403
Rose	Jon	Reliable Rental, Inc.		N	419-925-4100
Winner	Ron	Sajacks Freight, Inc.		N	419-925-5515
Schoenlein	Rick	Schoenlein Salvage		N	419-582-4011
Livingston	Scott	Scott's Carry Out		N	419-925-4021
Roche	Dan	Spiritual Center of Maria Stein		N	419-925-7625
Thobe	Pat	Thobe Body Shop		N	419-925-4427
Thobe	Gary	Thobe Masonry & Plastering		N	419-925-4577
Thobe	Jon	Thobe TV & Satellite		N	419-925-4022
Thobe	Phyllis	TNT Trucking		N	419-925-4422
Puthoff	Joe	Town Tavern		N	419-925-4572
Puthoff	Sara	Ultimate Health & Fitness		N	419-925-9900
Broering	Karen	Village Sports Shop		N	419-925-4722
			19	32	38 Total Listings

**Traditional Model for 9-12 Agricultural Education  
Venn Diagram**



Grades 18+ \*

Grades 15-16 \*

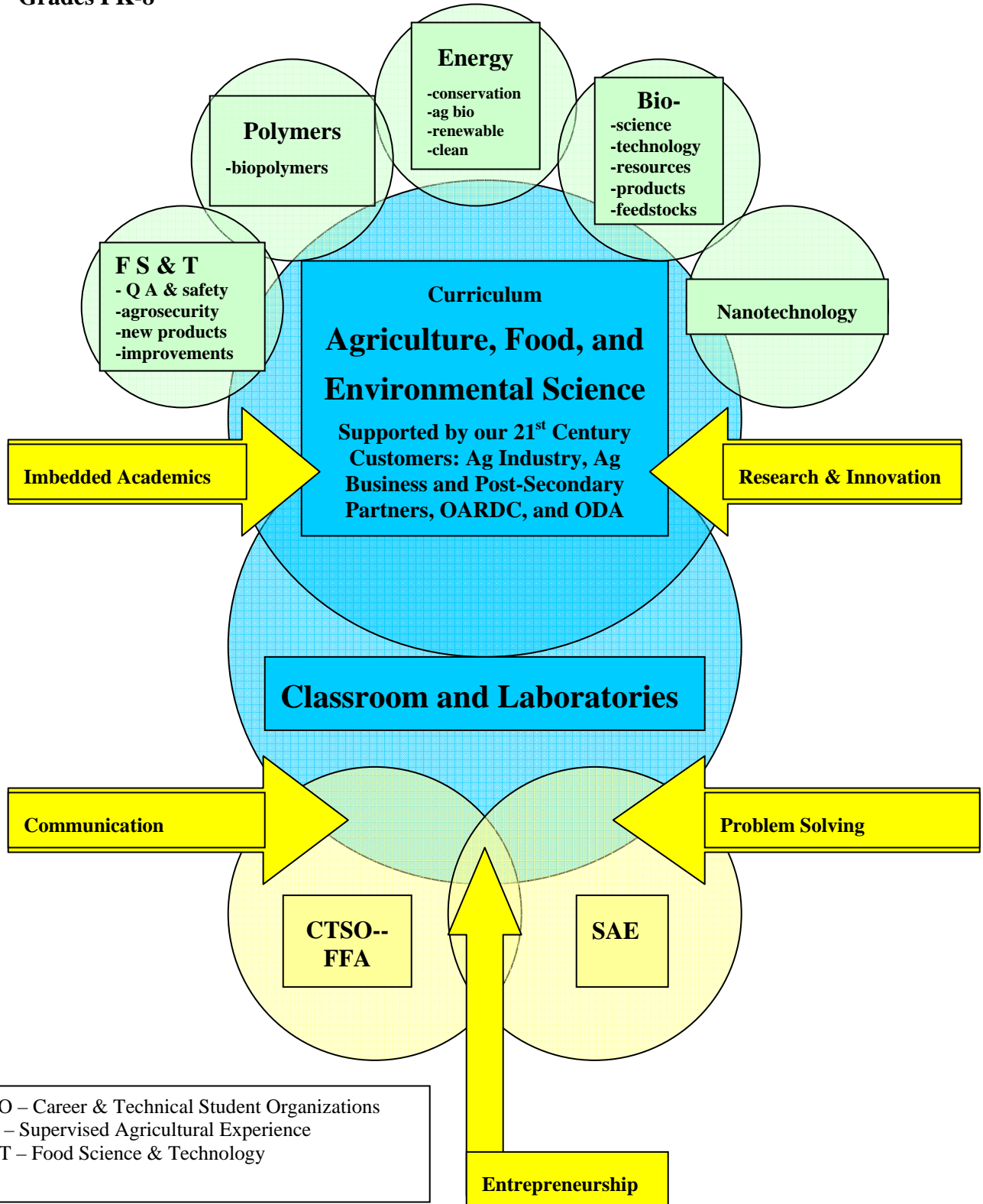
Grades 13-14 \*

Grades 11-12 \*

Grades 9-10

Grades PK-8

\* = possible stepping-off point



CTSO – Career & Technical Student Organizations  
 SAE – Supervised Agricultural Experience  
 FS&T – Food Science & Technology

## Marion Local Agriculture Education Study Group

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