**Arcola High School**

**Department of Agricultural Education**

**Introduction to Agriculture**

**2011-2012**

**Teacher: Mrs. Vander Kuur**

**Office hours: M-F 7:30-8:15 & 3:00-3:30**

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**Website:** [**http://mrsvanderkuur.weebly.com/**](http://mrsvanderkuur.weebly.com/)

**Course Description**: This orientation course provides an opportunity for students to learn how the agriculture industry is organized; its major components; the economic influence of agriculture at state, national and international levels; and the scope and types of job opportunities in the agricultural field. Basic concepts in animal science, plant science, soil science, horticulture, agribusiness management, agricultural mechanics, and aquaculture science and technology will be presented. Improving computer and workplace skills will be a focus. Participation in FFA activities and Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE) projects is an integral course component for leadership development, career exploration and reinforcement of academic concepts. This class is open to all students.

**Course Objectives:**

* Relate readings to prior knowledge and experiences to make connections to real settings.
* Produce, edit, revise, format written work with the correct citations when necessary for real situations.
* Apply listening skills in practical settings while working in groups and when delivering presentations to their peers.
* Implement a plan to build a strength, meet a need or address a challenge in order to accomplish a goal.
* Analyze the impact of current events on agriculture and society.
* Analyze and report historical events to determine cause and effect relationships.
* Demonstrate simple use of shop equipment.
* Explain the important goals of each area of agriculture.

**Course Grading:**

**High school is the preparation for higher education and work experience and therefore, you should help yourself prepare by completing your homework to the best of your ability and on time.**

**Course Materials:**

* Necessary writing utensils
* Lined paper
* Calculator
* Recommended 3-ring binder

**Standards for Written Work:** I firmly believe that all students should turn in work that has been read thoroughly by not only by themselves, but also checked in spell check. While this course is an “agriculture” course, it is imperative that you, the student, work on perfecting your writing for future professional needs. Also, I will ***NOT*** grade any written work that has been plagiarized. These written assignments will be given an immediate zero and it will be reported to the principal.

**Due Dates for Assignments:** Due dates will be written on the “homework” board and will remain there until the due date has passed. It is your responsibility to keep track of due dates within a date book, assignment notebook, etc.

**Late Work:** Late work will not be accepted unless permission has been given by the teacher or you have an excused absence the day the assignment is due. If you have an excused absence on the day that an assignment is given, please look for your missed work on the bulletin board just outside the classroom door. It is your responsibility to check this board and complete assignments by the due date.

**Extra Credit:** There will be many opportunities for you to participate in Extra Credit. However, there are three opportunities all students:

Box of Kleenex – 5 points (one time only)

Word of the Week – 2 points each week

Test recheck – ½ credit back

**Classroom Expectations:**

* **RESPECT: I will treat you with respect and will expect you to treat others in the same manner.**
* **RESPONSIBILITY: It is your responsibility to be aware of any due dates, changes, upcoming events and anything else discussed in class. Anything covered during this course is fair game to be included on a test. If you have questions or comments about the content, it is your responsibility to contact me prior to the test for clarification. It is also your responsibility to behave safely and appropriately when working in the shop, laboratories or classroom.**
* **READY: Come prepared to class. This means, you are not only expected to bring all class materials, but also your attention.**

**Participation:** Students are expected to engage in classroom activities and discussions. This course will be full of hands-on experiences in which can be tied to real-life circumstances.

**Exceptions:** I understand that family and school activities can interfere with school work and class attendance. If you ever need to talk to me about an assignment, course content or anything not mentioned, please do not hesitate to talk to me before or after school/class. We will then talk to come to a conclusion that will meet both of our needs.

**Schedule (subject to change):**

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| **Week** | **Topics Covered** |
| **8/22 – 8/26** | **Introductions, Paperwork, Supervised Agricultural Experience Overview** |
| **8/29 – 9/2** | **FFA Leadership** |
| **9/6 – 9/9** | **FFA Creed, Parliamentary Procedure, Career Development Events** |
| **9/12 – 9/16** | **Supervised Agricultural Experiences (In Depth), Record Keeping** |
| **9/19 – 9/23** | **Agricultural History and Its Importance** |
| **9/26 – 9/30** | **Agricultural Careers, Employment, Interviewing** |
| **10/3 – 10/6** | **Natural Resources** |
| **10/11 – 10/14** | **Natural Resources** |
| **10/17 – 10/21** | **Soil Science** |
| **10/24 – 10/26** | **Soil Science, Plant Science** |
| **10/31 – 11/4** | **Plant Science** |
| **11/7 – 11/9** | **Horticulture** |
| **11/14 – 11/18** | **Horticulture** |
| **11/21 – 11/22** | **Record Book** |
| **11/23 – 11/27** | **Thanksgiving Break** |
| **11/28 – 12/2** | **Agricultural and Shop Safety** |
| **12/5 – 12/9** | **Agricultural Construction** |
| **12/12 – 12/16** | **Agricultural Mechanics** |
| **12/19 – 12/21** | **Exams** |
| **12/22 – 1/2** | **Christmas Break** |
| **1/3 – 1/6** | **Record books, Updates** |
| **1/9 – 1/13** | **Introduction to Animal Science** |
| **1/16 – 1/20** | **The Beef Industry** |
| **1/23 – 1/27** | **The Dairy Industry** |
| **1/30 – 2/3** | **The Swine Industry** |
| **2/6 – 2/10** | **The Poultry Industry** |
| **2/13 – 2/17** | **The Equine Industry** |
| **2/21 – 2/24** | **FFA WEEK** |
| **2/27 – 3/2** | **Careers in Animal Science** |
| **3/6 – 3/9** | **Veterinary Science, Animal Safety** |
| **3/12 – 3/16** | **Animal Welfare** |
| **3/19 – 3/23** | **Agricultural Business, Marketing** |
| **3/26 – 3/30** | **Agricultural Marketing** |
| **4/2 – 4/6** | **Record Books, Updates** |
| **4/9 – 4/13** | **Spring Break** |
| **4/16 – 4/20** | **Research Safety, Scientific Method** |
| **4/23 – 4/27** | **Scientific Method** |
| **4/30 – 5/4** | **Research Projects** |
| **5/7 – 5/11** | **Research Projects, Presentations** |
| **5/14 – 5/18** | **Record Books, Updates, Wrap-up, Etc.** |
| **5/21 – 5/23** | **Exams** |
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**Below is an area for you to keep track of your grades so that you can see where you are at grade-wise over the entire school year. If more pages are needed, please ask and I will print out extras.**

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