

A Directory for Youth in Agriculture State Programs

What is it?

It is an excel spreadsheet of the programs that each state has created for the Youth in Agriculture (YIA) program. In this spreadsheet it lists the many different states that take part in the Youth in Agriculture program and their respective projects, quizzes, activities, lesson plans, and presentations. Within the directory you can see the title of the project, the type of project it is, which age group it targets, if it has learning objectives, and if it is presented online or in person. The programs were also viewed and graded through two different lenses: 4-H Program Priorities and the National Education Standards.

Why is this useful?

This directory of the Youth in Agriculture programs furthers the goal of developing a national-level curriculum that integrates best practice components from all state projects. It does this by creating one comprehensive spreadsheet that holds all of the important preliminary information to each project. This increases awareness of the programs that are available for YIA so that when states are developing new programs they can conveniently see what has already been produced. Thus creating streamlined communication between the states, building relationships, and strengthening our One Health approach to Youth in Agriculture.

Next, we used learning objectives as a lens to define each program's goals. If the program didn't have learning objectives we developed new ones to coincide with the YIA goals. Learning objectives are important to provide a clear purpose for teachers to focus their instruction, and for students to focus their learning efforts. We made sure that each objective is actionable and measurable to ensure they could be used to assess the students' learning progress.

Lastly, we used the 4-H program priorities and National Education Standards as a lens to sort through each of the programs and were able to see how each project fits into YIA's goals. This is important because when agricultural leaders are looking for programs to teach their students, they can readily see which standards each program fulfills. This will allow for better, well-rounded, and structured lessons for our youth, and having increased structure to their lesson plans will allow for a better grasp on the information that Youth in Agriculture is trying to relay to our young agricultural students.

Suggestions for further engagement:

- Distribution of directory to state health departments and agricultural leaders
- Participation from all YIA states including biannual updates to the directory
- Compare YIA curriculum and learning objectives with other national-level curriculums or standards (e.g., YQCA, AFNR)
- Create a communication tree for easier parent/leader use of the directory

