
AGRICULTURE

B. STRAND RATIONALE AND PHILOSOPHY

Agriculture is a diverse endeavour involving both rural and urban communities. It affects the quality of life of all Albertans. Agriculture encompasses not only the direct production of primary goods, but also the processing and service industries. It is the second most important area of economic activity in Alberta.★

Growth and development opportunities exist for agriculture products and technologies. The continued strength of Alberta's agriculture industries in domestic and international markets can be ensured through practices that add value to agriculture commodities, and by diversifying products and services to meet consumer needs.

Agriculture involves using our most basic resources: soil, water, plants, animals and people. Concern for the environment provides continuing incentive for new technologies and methods of managing interactions among these resources. Industry practices must ensure the sustainable use of natural resources.

Agriculture, a strand in Career and Technology Studies, provides a comprehensive view of agriculture in Alberta. It encompasses plant and animal production, interior and exterior plantscape, animal husbandry, the agrifood

industry, market research and development, and environmental management. Students will develop first-hand knowledge of practices within Alberta's agriculture industries and will apply this knowledge in producing agriculture products and providing related services.



Students in Agriculture will develop the knowledge, skills, attitudes, motivation and commitment to work individually and collectively, as private citizens and members of the work force, toward the conservation and responsible use of water, land, air, forests and wildlife. Within the philosophy of Career and Technology Studies, *students in Agriculture will:*

★ *Agriculture in Alberta*, Edmonton, AB: Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development, 1993.

- develop greater awareness of the economic, environmental and social significance of agriculture in Alberta and the rest of the world, and develop awareness of factors affecting industry decisions
- describe the characteristics of Alberta's agriculture and horticulture industries, and identify resulting products and services
- describe technologies and research programs that support sustainable agriculture systems and that enhance the development of a range of products and services
- translate sustainable development and conservation goals into viable plans for developing and marketing agriculture and horticulture products and services
- develop competencies and behaviours that have broad application to environmental career paths, and specific application to careers within Alberta's agriculture and horticulture industries.

STRAND ORGANIZATION

DEVELOPMENT MODEL

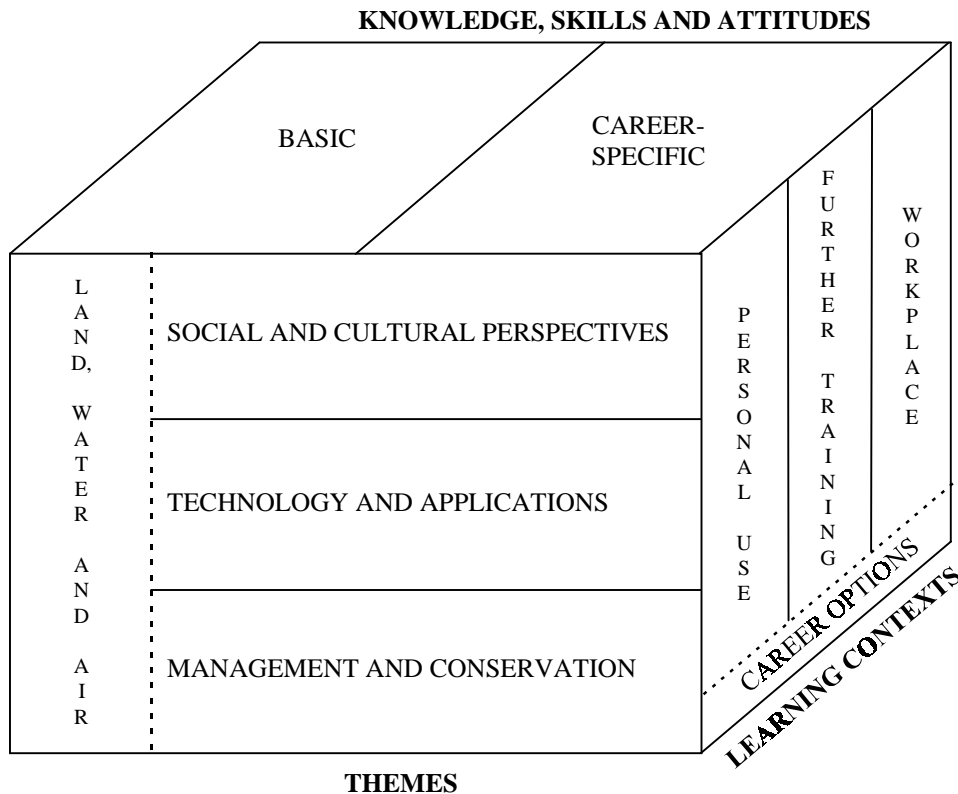
The development model depicts three dimensions that provide a basis for selecting and organizing content within the Agriculture strand.

- The **KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS AND ATTITUDES**, represented on the upper face of the model, provide structure for the course and focus attention on learning goals common to all CTS courses.
- The **LEARNING CONTEXTS**, represented on the right face of the model, foster the development of knowledge and behaviours that enable students to meet the demands of daily living, further training and the workplace.

- The **THEMES** provide situational and concrete learning experiences that support the development of knowledge, skills and attitudes relevant to each of the learning contexts. Each theme focuses attention on a different aspect of sustainable agriculture development. Blended together, the themes enable students to understand how it is possible to fulfill social, cultural, aesthetic and economic goals through resource development, while embracing a conservation ethic so as to maintain essential ecological processes, genetic diversity and an adequate resource base for future generations.

LEVELS

Agriculture, like other Career and Technology Studies curricula, is organized into three levels of learning: introductory, intermediate and advanced.



Introductory modules enable students to develop an understanding of the significance of agriculture to Albertans. Students will examine sample areas of production, processing and marketing, and research technologies that support sustainable agriculture practice.

Intermediate and advanced level modules develop more specialized knowledge and skills within an area of agriculture production, marketing or service. Students examine the role of agriculture in a global economy, and consider influences of emerging technologies, international trade and environmental sustainability on industry practice and society in general.