



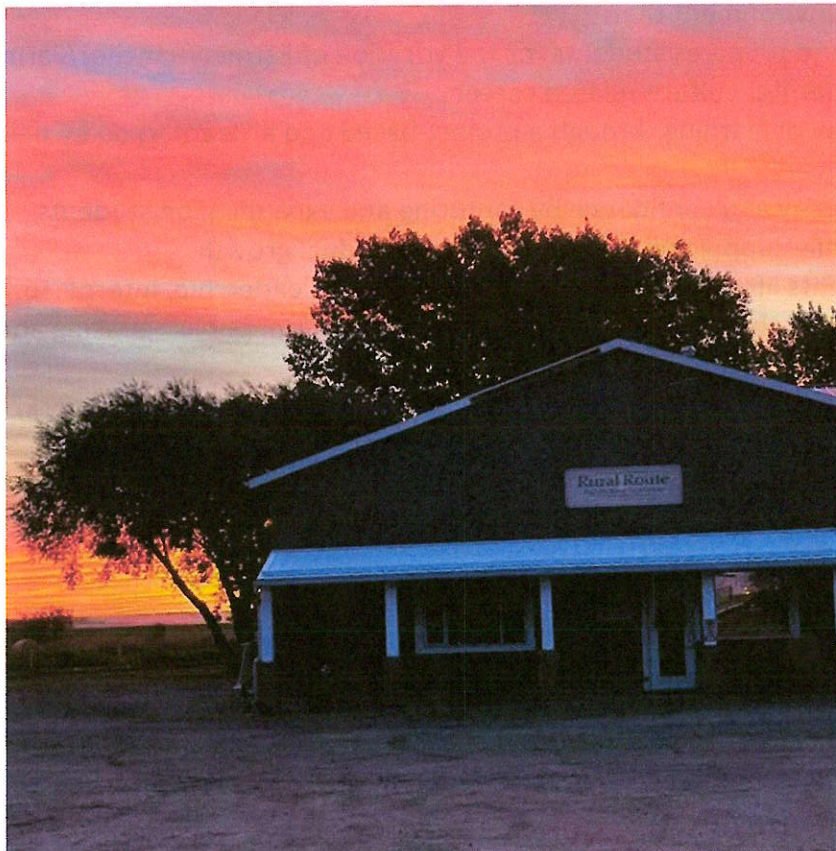
Agriculture Charter School Society

Rural Route

Agriculture Academy

GROWING FUTURES | CULTIVATING COMMUNITY

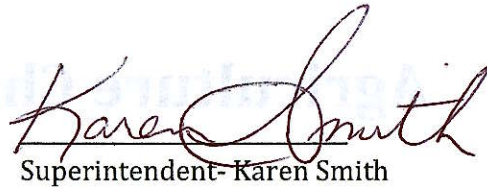
Three Year Education Plan 2026-2029



Accountability Statement

The Education Plan for Rural Route Agriculture Academy commencing August 26, 2026 was prepared under the direction of the Board in accordance with the responsibilities under the Education Act, the sustainable Fiscal Planning and Reporting Act and Alberta Education's Assurance Framework. The Board has used its current reality and Charter document to develop the plan and is committed to implementing the strategies contained within this plan to improve student learning and results.


Board Chair- Brittany Sigfusson


Superintendent- Karen Smith

Vision

To cultivate a daily, dynamic learning environment where students develop a deep understanding and appreciation for agriculture, sustainable food production, and environmental stewardship.

Mission

The students of Rural Route Agriculture Academy will experience a unique educational environment that:

- Promotes and prepares students for the vocation of Farmer/Rancher/Farm Hand and other Agriculture related careers
- Creates a joy of learning through a project-based and a "learn to do by doing" approach.
- Instills curiosity and confidence by capturing and expanding on students' strengths, while supporting their needs and individual growth.
- Gives students life-long skills such as co-operation, leadership, interpersonal relations, critical thinking, decision making, organization, public speaking and community service.
- Implements programs focusing on developing self-confidence, teamwork, interpersonal and leadership skills.

Core Values

- Respect
- Responsibility
- Hard work
- Cooperation and Collaboration



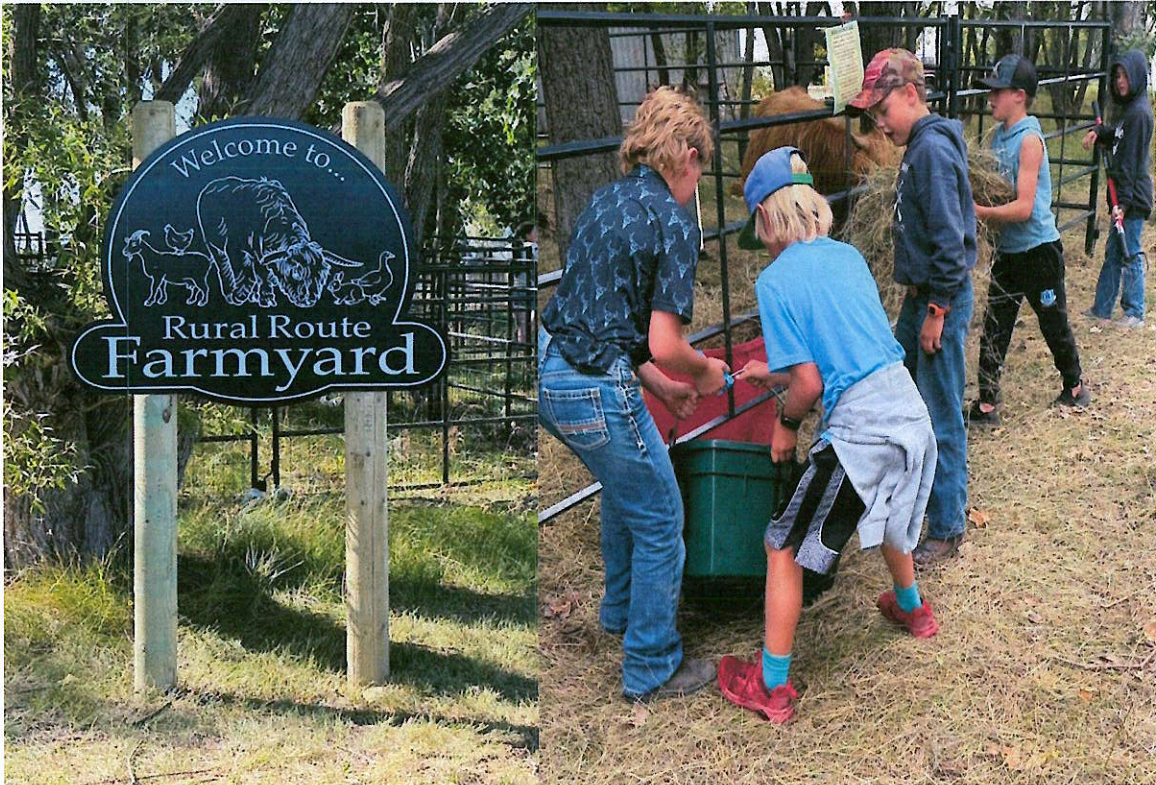
School Profile

Rural Route Agriculture Academy is a K–12 public charter school in southern Alberta currently serving approximately 130 students, with a projected enrolment of 230 students for the 2026/27 school year. The school specializes in

1. **Hands-on farming experiences:** Provide students with **daily** opportunities to work on school's mini-farm, local large-scale farms, feedlots, gardens, green houses, or agricultural projects to develop practical skills and understanding of agricultural practices.
2. **Integrated curriculum:** Integrate agricultural concepts into various subjects such as science, math, and environmental studies to demonstrate the interconnectedness of agriculture with other disciplines.
3. **Project-based learning:** Present students with real-world agricultural challenges and encourage them to develop solutions through critical thinking, collaboration, and creativity.
4. **Technology integration:** Incorporate agricultural technologies such as precision farming, GPS use, drone technology, and data analytics to expose students to modern farming practices and innovations.
5. **Field trips and guest speakers:** Organize field trips to farms, agricultural research centers, and food processing facilities to provide students with exposure to different aspects of the agricultural industry. Invite guest speakers from the agricultural community to share their expertise and insights with students.

6. **Community engagement:** Encourage students to participate in community gardening projects, farmers markets, and 4H achievement days to foster a sense of connection to the local agricultural community and promote civic engagement.

7. **Sustainability education:** Emphasize the importance of sustainable agriculture practices such as organic farming, conservation agriculture, and agroecology, and teach students about the environmental, social, and economic benefits of sustainable food systems.



Charter Focus

1. **Sustainability:** Promote environmentally responsible and resource-efficient agricultural practices.
2. **Innovation:** Embrace technological advancements and innovative approaches to enhance productivity, efficiency, and sustainability in agriculture.
3. **Community Engagement:** Foster partnerships with local communities, farmers, industry stakeholders, and government agencies to promote collaboration, knowledge sharing, and community development.
4. **Experiential Learning** (learn to do by doing): Provide daily hands-on learning experiences, practical training, and real-world application of agricultural concepts to enhance student understanding and skill development.
5. **Holistic Development:** Support the holistic development of students by integrating academic learning with personal growth, leadership and career development, and ethical values such as stewardship and responsibility.

6. **Interdisciplinary Approach:** Emphasize the interconnectedness of agriculture with other disciplines such as science, technology, engineering, mathematics, economics, and social sciences to provide students with a comprehensive understanding of agricultural systems and their broader impacts.
7. **Diversity and Inclusion:** Create an inclusive learning environment that celebrates diversity, promotes equity, and values individual students strengths and talents.

Alignment to Alberta Assurance Framework

This Three-Year Education Plan is aligned with Alberta Education's Assurance Framework and addresses the following domains:

- Student Growth and Achievement
- Learning Supports
- Teaching and Leading
- Governance
- Local and Societal Context

Goal 1: Student Growth and Achievement



Outcomes

- Students will demonstrate strong achievement in literacy and numeracy.
- Students will demonstrate deeper learning of concepts, through a wide range of cross-curricular, experiential, and hands-on learning.
- Students will achieve academic success in their grade level curriculum
- Students will pursue areas of personal interest and passion through individual projects, leading to an appreciation of lifelong learning.
- Students will enjoy attending school and will be able to identify their strengths and areas of growth.

Performance Measures

Measure	Baseline	2027	2028	2029
Student Learning Engagement	92.2	94	95	95
Parent (55)	93.3			
Student (72)	83.3			
Teacher (8)	100			
Citizenship	91.2	92	93	94
Parent (55)	91.3			
Student (72)	84.9			
Teacher (8)	97.4			
PAT 6 Acceptable Standard	NA	75	78	80
PAT 6 Excellence Standard	NA	10	15	18
PAT 9 Acceptable Standard	NA Prov-62.6	65	70	75
PAT 9 Excellence Standard	NA Prov-15.5	10	15	18
Diploma - Acceptable	NA Prov-81.3	75	80	83
Diploma- Excellence	NA Prov-22.3	12	18	22
Percentage of High School courses completed successfully				
Number of credits earned/student/ year				

Strategies and Implementation

- Implement structured literacy programming using common resources (K to Gr.3 teachers)
- Provide targeted literacy/numeracy intervention blocks/supports for students identified below Grade level
- Utilize project-based, experiential learning that makes connections between curriculum and practical application
- Engage students by making their learning fun and focused on real life activities
- Keep class sizes small plus utilize small group and individual instruction to meet the learning needs of the students.
- Keep schedules and instruction flexible so that all students have access to quality learning opportunities.

Goal 2: Students will have access to needed Learning Supports for individual success.



Outcome

- Students will learn in welcoming, caring, respectful, and safe environments.
- Students' physical, emotional and mental wellbeing will be a focus to ensure students have the necessities for academic success.
- First Nations, Metis and Inuit students will receive extra supports if required for them to achieve at the same level as non-FNMI students
- Students will acquire and apply foundational knowledge of FNMI experiences and teachings.

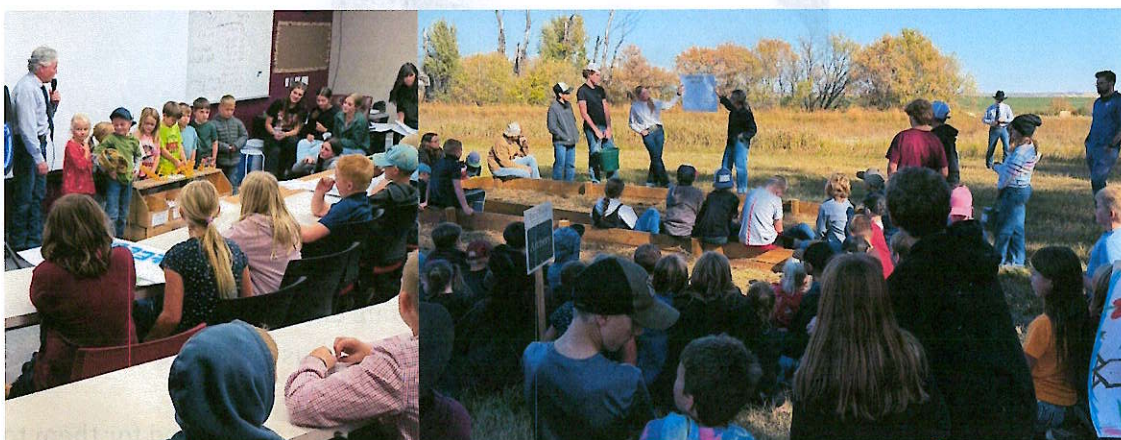
Performance Measures

Measure	Baseline	2027	2028	2029
Access to Supports and Services	92.1	93	94	95
Parent (55)	83.9			
Student (72)	92.4			
Teacher (8)	100			
WCRSLE (overall)	90.6	92	95	95
Parent (55)	90.1			
Student (72)	85.4			
Teacher (8)	96.4			
Safe and Caring	92.5			
Parent (55)	91.1			
Student (72)	88.8			
Teacher (8)	97.4			

Strategies and Implementation

- Implement school-wide wellness initiatives- cross-grade outdoor school challenges, school wide events, companion/emotional support animals
- Provide counselling and mental health supports if required
- Provide numerous opportunities for outdoor daily physical activity
- Community connections- variety of events/activities
- Buddy grades – older grades partnered with younger
- Student Handbook which clearly outlines expectations

Goal 3: Teaching and Leading



Outcomes

- Teachers and leaders will engage in continuous professional growth using the Teacher Quality Standards/Leadership Quality Standards as a road map for their learning.
- Connections made between curriculum and agriculture/sustainability knowledge, skills and practices.
- Document showing cross-curricular connections between Alberta Education's program of studies and agriculture for each grade level
- The culture of the school will continue to be welcoming and supportive so that all staff feel respected and valued.

Performance Measures

Measure	Baseline	2027	2028	2029
Education Quality	95.3	96	97	97
Parent (55)	92.1			
Student (72)	93.8			
Teacher (8)	100			
Staff Retention (excluding retirement)	93%	95%	95%	95%

Strategies and Implementation

- Implement new pilot curriculums
- Focus on our RRAA learning community to develop cross-curricular document
- Attend Charter Schools Conference
- Provide mentorship for new teachers
- Support leadership development
- Maintain open, honest communication amongst staff and parents
- Empower staff by encouraging risk taking and involving them in decision making

Goal 4: Governance

Outcome

The Board will ensure responsible governance and fiscal accountability.

Performance Measures

Measure	Baseline	2027	2028	2029
Balanced Budget	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Parental Involvement	91.6	92	93	95
Parent (55)	83.2			
Teacher (8)	100			

Strategies and Implementation

- Maintain transparent budget reporting
- Engage stakeholders in planning processes
- Conduct annual policy reviews
- Align resource allocation with strategic priorities

Stakeholder Engagement

- Superintendent consultation with Student Council
- Superintendent/Principal consultation and development with staff
- Principal involvement/consultation with Parent (school) Council
- Consultation and review of current year's plan with society members at AGM

Goal 5: Local and Societal Context

This goal is addressed through Rural Route Agriculture Academy's Charter goals, outcomes, strategies and measurable outcomes.

Charter Goal 1:

Students will thrive academically in a project-based, experiential learning environment.



Outcomes:

- Students demonstrate deeper learning of concepts, through a wide range of cross-curricular, experiential, and hands-on learning.
- Students demonstrate year-over-year improvement in the areas of the Alberta Program of Studies related to literacy and numeracy.
- Students are engaged in learning through connections to their own lives and experiences, plus the surrounding community,
- Students are able to pursue areas of personal interest and passion through individual projects, leading to an appreciation of lifelong learning.
- Students enjoy attending school and are able to identify their strengths and areas of growth.

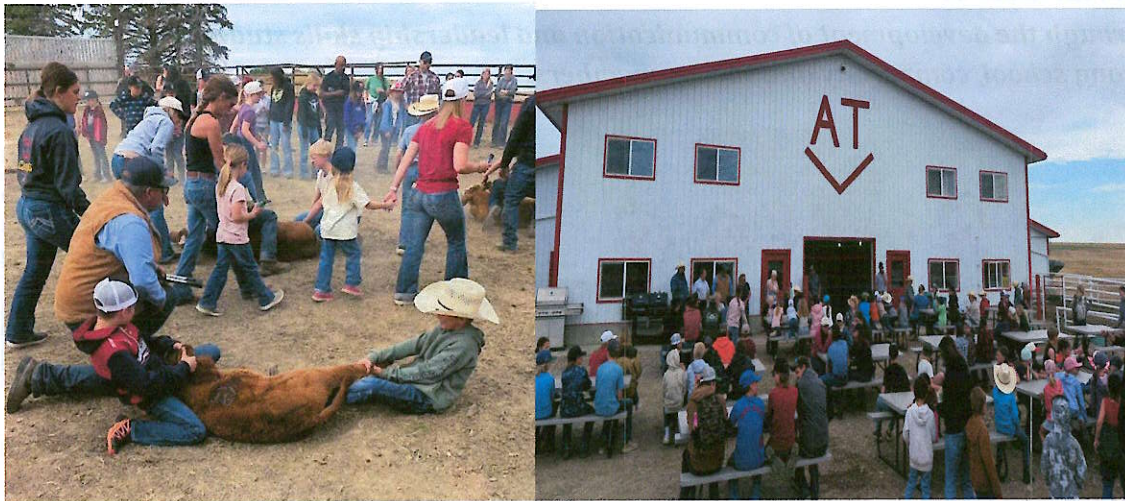
Strategies:

- Students will be presented with real-world agricultural challenges and encouraged to develop solutions through critical thinking, collaboration, and creativity. Example - learning how to calculate perimeter and area while designing an optimum chicken coup.
- Students will engage in individual and group projects (within their cohort class and multigrade cohorts) to encourage discussion and develop an understanding of the value of various perspectives and the power of collaboration.
- Unique and innovative learning environments, beyond the confines of the traditional four walls of a classroom, will provide students with a wealth of opportunity to engage in active learning and problem solving that are inherent in real-life situations.

- RRAA will employ a multigenerational approach, including the community in matters as deemed appropriate, respecting the experience, knowledge and perspective members can provide for students.

Charter Goal 2:

Students will develop and display a deep understanding and appreciation for the agriculture industry (past, present and future), sustainable food production, and environmental stewardship.



Outcomes:

- Students will have an appreciation and understanding of the interconnectedness of agriculture with other disciplines such as science, technology, engineering, mathematics, economics, and social sciences.
- To provide students with a comprehensive understanding of agricultural systems and practices which impact sustainable food production and environmental stewardship.
- Students will recognize the significant economic and social impacts the agriculture industry has on Alberta.

Strategies:

- Agricultural concepts will be integrated into various subjects such as science, math, and environmental studies to demonstrate the interconnectedness of agriculture with other disciplines.
- Students will be provided with daily opportunities to work on school's mini-farm, local large-scale farms, feedlots, gardens, green houses, or agricultural projects to develop practical skills and understanding of agricultural practices.
- Incorporate agricultural technologies such as precision farming, GPS use, drone technology, and data analytics to expose students to modern farming practices and innovations.

- Organize field trips to farms, agricultural research centers, and food processing facilities to provide students with exposure to different aspects of the agricultural industry. Invite guest speakers from the agricultural community to share their expertise and insights with students.
- Students will connect and collaborate with community members of all ages and backgrounds because intergenerational learning helps students to understand the current needs and challenges, in a historical context.

Charter Goal 3:

Through the development of communication and leadership skills students will become strong school, community and society members.



Outcomes:

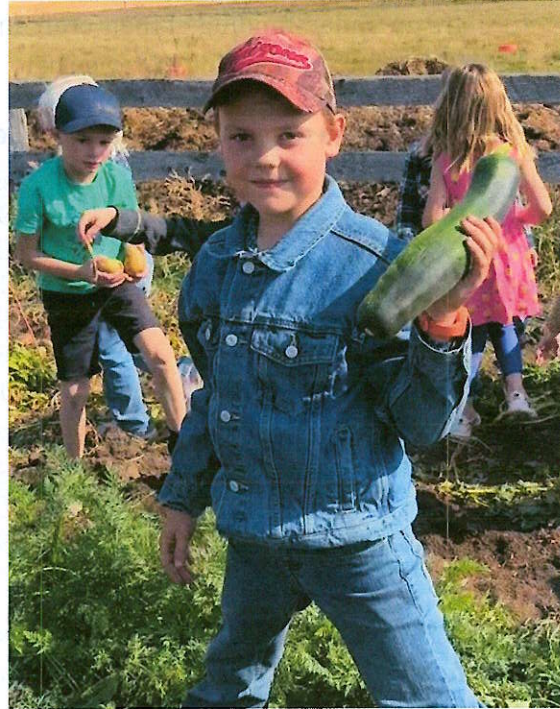
- Students will demonstrate and maintain strong interpersonal relationships with peers, teachers, and other members of the school community.
- Students will demonstrate leadership skills through volunteering efforts and participation in one or more community projects each year.
- Students will demonstrate confidence when engaging with peers, industry experts, and community members on topics related to agricultural literacy and environmental stewardship.

Strategies:

- Students in agricultural lead roles will demonstrate public speaking and interpersonal skills by leading presentations and RRAA tours for school guests.
- Students will acquire communication skills through dialogue with community members, participation in community activities and required 4 H public speaking events.
- Students will engage in multigrade cohorts to allow for leadership opportunities and mentorships.

Charter Goal 4:

Students will be exposed to, explore, and experience agriculture and rural related careers.



Outcomes:

- Students will evaluate their skills and abilities, and develop interests and career goals, with the benefit of practical, hands-on learning, mentoring and exposure
- to a wide variety of careers related to the agriculture sector and rural Alberta.
- Students will be supported in their pursuit of a career pathway through exploration, engagement and work integrated learning experiences. They will acquire knowledge, skills and attitudes required in the current and future workplaces.
- The school will cultivate strategies for building strong and productive relationships with local farmers, ranchers, tradespeople, businesses and industry, to partner in the education of students.

Strategies:

- Regular opportunities will be organized for local industry and producers to engage with students through presentations, as mentors for in-school projects and to host workplaces visits.
- Students will have the opportunity to explore, engage in and experience viable career paths through workplace visits and work integrated learning (work experience and career internships).

- Students will receive extensive agriculture and environmental experiential learning. This will set students up for future success by easing the transition to agricultural and environmental post secondary learning and/ or the workplace.
- Local experts (tradespeople, professionals, hobbyists and entrepreneurs) will be invited to share an understanding of their craft and the skills necessary in their field, enriching and deepening the learning experience for students.

Performance Measures & Local Measures

Measure	Baseline	2027	2028	2029
Work Preparation (overall)	94.5	95	96	97
Parent (55)	89.1			
Teacher (8)	100			
Lifelong Learning	94.5	95	96	97
Parent (55)	89			
Teacher (8)	100			
Program of Studies	85.7	87	89	90
Parent (55)	79.4			
Student (72)	84			
Teacher (8)	93.6			

- School (classroom)administered assessments of learning outcomes
- Anecdotal statements gathered from students, parents, and staff to gauge attitudes and perceptions in areas such as academic mindset, enjoyment of learning, student engagement and life-long learning and career path development
- School enrolment, attendance, and high school completion data
- Track the number of students engaged in leadership and community activities
- School research progress and findings shared with others
- Observations and reflections by staff, students, parents and community
- Community connections

Budget Summary

Area	2026-27
Base Instruction (# of Students 230)	\$1532843
Services and Supports	\$458185
Operations & Maintenance	\$211097
Transportation	\$107815
School Technology	\$10300
Community	\$84625
Jurisdictions	\$251023
Provincial Priorities Funding	\$52936
Total Alberta Education Operational funding	\$2708824

Facilities and Capital Plan

- Purchase of Property
- Classroom expansion/reconfiguration of space
- Expansion of CTS learning spaces
- Expansion of horticulture/farm animal structures

Communication Plan

Links to Social Media

Web page : www.rragacademy.ca

Instagram : ruralrouteagacademy

Facebook : Rural Route Agriculture Academy

