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THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF MANATEE COUNTY FEATURES A STUDENT AND A CAREER & TECHNICAL EDUCATION TEACHER

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SCHOOL Biz & Buzz



Rabbits, Laptops, and More!

Buffalo Creek Middle School (BCMS) students blossom under the leadership of Alicia Sears. Alicia, a first-year teacher and longstanding member of FFA, thrives on being the advisor for the school's FFA chapter as well as teaching the Introduction to Agriscience and Exploration of Agriscience classes.

"I love the opportunities FFA provides to young students," she says. "I enjoy watching the students learn and compete in career development events (CDE's). Floriculture, Ornamental Horticulture, Vegetable Judging, and Tool Identification are just a few of the events my FFA students compete in. Competitors travel around the state to various CDE's and will celebrate with an end-of-the-year awards banquet."

Alicia is growing the BCMS agriscience program at lightning speed. New this year to the program is the addition of a 10' x 20' shade house, four rabbits, an aquaculture tank, an incubator, microscopes, and laptops. What's in the works for next year? Their very own chapter swine.

Alicia Sears brings flexibility, passion, and enthusiasm to the agriscience classroom where hands-on learning is exciting for everyone.



KIDZ Biz & Buzz



Impressive Plans and a Fabulous Future

Rebecca Keefe, a seventh grader at Buffalo Creek Middle School (BCMS), is an impressive young woman with a passion for parliamentary procedure. She is the vice president of BCMS FFA, a student-based national organization dedicated to providing a path to achievement in leadership, personal growth, and career success through agricultural education. Rebecca's favorite parts of FFA are the competitions and meeting new people. Over the past two years, Rebecca has been a top-three winning competitor in Parliamentary Procedure, Forestry, FFA General Knowledge, and Ornamental Horticulture events. She excels at properly running a business meeting, public speaking, presenting information in a persuasive manner, and leadership skills.

Rebecca is currently fundraising with a dual purpose. She is growing and selling plants to support future FFA projects while raising money to travel to Europe this summer. Rebecca and fellow BCMS students and staff are embarking on an Education First (EF) tour of Italy, France, and England. Her future plans include attending the University of Florida and Harvard Law School, and then becoming President of the United States. Rebecca is on her way to achieving a fabulous future!

InnoVators

Agriscience Specialties

Agriculture is the science, art, and business of developing food and other products through farming, from cultivating crops to the care and breeding of livestock. Agricultural science, or *agriscience*, pertains to the application of science and technology in the various fields of agriculture, including horticulture, floriculture, aquaculture, forestry, and more.



Horticulture is the specific science of gardening and plant cultivation. Horticulture specialists research how to improve crop quality as well as quantity, and the study of different ways to breed and genetically engineer plants. Horticulturalists may also work in golf course and sports turf management and landscape design.

Floriculture is a division of horticulture which focuses on the growth, market, and sale of non-edible plants, usually ornamental plants and flowers. Floriculturalists are knowledgeable about growing seasons of flowers and plants, and may research the spacing, pruning, chemical treatments, and packaging of plants. Floriculturalists may also work in the cosmetic and perfume industry.

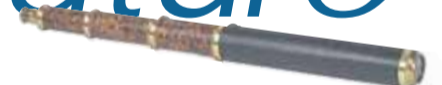
Aquaculture is the farming of freshwater and saltwater animals and plants, including mollusks, crustaceans, fish, and algae. Unlike fishing, aquaculture has a controlled environment where organisms are "harvested." Aquaculturalists may work in research, at fish hatcheries, or as marine biologists.



Forestry involves the management of forests and its natural resources. Foresters are concerned with areas such as providing timber for construction, managing water quality, protecting the environment, and recreation. Foresters may also provide technical assistance to farmers and ranchers regarding soil and water conservation.

These specialties are just a small part of the vast agriscience industry, an entity which provides food, resources, and careers to countless people all over the globe.

DISCOVER the Future



Regional Careers: Here are examples of agriscience occupations and current wages in the Suncoast Workforce Region.

Occupation Title	Entry Level	Experienced
Agricultural Inspectors	\$14.52	\$19.29
Biological Scientists	\$18.23	\$39.96
Managers of Farming, Fishing	\$13.89	\$21.95
Managers of Landscaping	\$13.27	\$24.92
Foresters	\$17.96	\$21.72
Grounds Maintenance Workers	\$10.48	\$16.69

Source: <http://fred.labormarketinfo.com>
 FL Labor Market Statistics, Occupational Employment Statistics & Wages Program

Career Pathway: Students desiring a career in agriscience can find related educational programs at these area schools*:

Buffalo Creek Middle School,
 Palmetto High School,
 University of South Florida

*Other Manatee schools may offer similar programs. Listed schools are related to today's issue.

WEB Wise

Check out the following websites:

www.FSA.usda.gov
www.ahs.org
www.ffa.org
www.flaffa.org

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Explore IT

Farmer's Ragdoll Test

What if you were a farmer and you planted an entire field of beans...only to discover that nothing grew! Farmers perform a test—called a *ragdoll test*—to see that seeds are still viable. You can do a similar test to find out the percentage of seeds that germinate. You'll also experiment with variables of light and darkness.

You will need: 20 dried lima beans, 2 paper towels, 2 plastic sandwich baggies, and water.

1. Moisten the paper towels.
2. Add ten lima beans to each towel, fold the towel around the beans, and squeeze out the excess water. (This is the "ragdoll.")
3. Place a paper towel (with seeds) in each plastic bag.
4. Place one of the bags in sunlight and the other in a dark place, like a shoebox.
5. Check the bags every few days. If a bean sprouts, take it out of the bag.
6. Keep track of how many beans germinate, and calculate the percentage. For example, if 5 beans from the sunlit bag sprouted, then your sprouting rate is 50%.
7. At the end of the experiment, determine which had a higher percentage of germination—the seeds from the light or dark bag?



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