Statement of Purpose:

The new state standards for agricultural education are planning to make a dramatic change. A majority of courses in the agricultural curriculum were related to hands-on strategies that were implemented in the shop setting. However, the state has now focused our curriculum with more science emphasis. One of the new courses we are changing over to is a class called Animal Science and Technology. Within that course there is a lot of material that is lecture based. I am going to focus my curriculum map on implementing hands-on strategies into a unit of digestion.

A majority of learners in my classes tend to need a hands-on approach to education. I have a large amount of students on Individualized Educational Plans (IEP); therefore most of them learn better in a lab setting. The Animal Science and Technology class focuses more towards a lecture based curriculum. In order to meet the needs of my students I must find a way to continue having a hands-on approach to teaching and learning.

Throughout this class and our FFA program students will be able to learn beyond animal science. We will do presentations, papers, and contests. Our program is one of the best ways to make a well-rounded student. Most students come into a program like agricultural education and leave with not only the knowledge in agriculture, but the ability to hold a leadership position, speak publically, and have more confidence in them than before they started. Whether a student decides to enter into a career of agriculture they are able to take skills away from my classroom that most core classes can’t offer due to a rigorous curriculum focused towards standardized testing.

The value of animal science is crucial. Whether a student is going to be working in the industry or be a consumer of meat, they need to understand what they are looking at with livestock animals. I plan to focus this unit on both the needs of a producers stand point and the needs of consumers stand point. For instance, when looking at the nutrition of an animal a producer needs to how much to feed, what to feed, and at what weight to feed it. A consumer wants to know what is going into the animals they are consuming and is it healthy.

My goal for this course is to be able to keep it hands-on while meeting the needs of the new standards. Through dissections, field trips, and group projects I believe the class will be appetizing for any student. I want to be able to reach all diversities of learners and push their abilities to be educated. This unit will aid in visual learning, hands on learning, and auditory learning. With the pressure from our local community, we must be able to keep hands on learning in the agricultural education program at Wynford.