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HOW VOCATIONAL AGRICULTURE FITS IN WITH AN INTERDISCIPLINARY PROGRAM OF VOCATIONAL EDUCATION

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At Paola, Kansas, an interdisciplinary program in vocational education enrolls students with two years of study in traditional vocational education areas (Business, T and I, Home Economics and Agriculture) in a Junior level course called "Commonalities in Occupations." The Junior year program for the Vocational Agriculture participants permits them to study agricultural occupations of interest to them, experience exploratory activities planned to test their affinity to the selected occupation and to self-analyze their true feelings for the occupation under the leadership of the team of teachers and employers working with the program. During the Senior year, the students work a minimum of fifteen hours per week in the occupation selected during the Junior year exploratory program. For the agricultural student this can be farm related agricultural occupations or the farm directly. Students during both years continue their traditional vocational courses plus remedial instruction indicated as needed for the Senior year.

The program has been reviewed by an evaluation committee, the Regional Educational Laboratory, and selected by the NEA TEPS Commission as one of their Non-Conference Year Demonstration Centers. Vocational educators are invited to visit the center and will be met at the Kansas City Airport for such a visit upon notification of the staff in Agricultural Education at Kansas State University.

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