



NATIONAL
FFA ORGANIZATION

Agricultural
Proficiency
Awards

Example Application

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NOTE:

**RESUME'S HAVE BEEN REFORMATTED SINCE
2015 APPLICATIONS. MAY APPEAR DIFFERENT
IN EXAMPLE PROVIDED**

Turf Grass Management Entrepreneurship



National Proficiency Application

Turf Grass Management

55

55\$\$\$%

)) \$\$\$\$\$\$

Entrepreneurship vs Placement Percentage

Entrepreneurship: **100%**

Placement: **0%**



Applicant Information

Applicant Name

Blake Ga Jh

Chapter Name

5bnk \YfY FFA

Statement of Candidate and Parent/Guardian

We have prepared this application and certify that the records are true, complete and accurate and we hereby permit for publicity purposes the use of any information included in the application with the exception of the following:

Date

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

Candidate's Signature

Certification

We have verified the application and find that the statements contained herein are such that we are able to recommend him/her for the Degree/Award. Furthermore, we verify that he/she has conducted themselves in a manner to be a credit to the organization, chapter, school and community.

Date

Chapter Advisor Signature

Date

Superintendent or Principal Signature

Date

Employer Signature (Placement applicants only)

Date

State Advisor or State Executive Committee Signature



National Proficiency Application

Basic Award Setup Information

I. Application Dates

Began Agricultural Education
7/1/2011

Application Ending Date
12/31/2014

II. Proficiency Type

Proficiency Type

Turf Grass Management

Entrepreneurship vs Placement Percentage

Entrepreneurship: **100%** Placement: **0%**

Primary Pathway of SAE

Plant Systems

III. Assets

1. Current/Operating Assets

	Value at Beginning Date	Value at Ending Date
a. Current/Operating Inventory (Entrepreneurship Experiences)		
1. Investment in harvesting and growing crops	\$0	Itemized ending inventory values are reported on "Ending Current Inventory" page.
2. Investment in feed, seed, fertilizer, chemical, supplies, prepaid expenses, and other current/operating assets	\$0	
3. Investment in merchandise, crops and animals purchased for resale	\$0	
4. Investment in raised market livestock & poultry	\$0	

2. Non-Current Inventory

	Value at Beginning Date	Value at Ending Date
a. Investment in non-depreciable draft, pleasure, and breeding animals	\$0	Itemized ending inventory values are reported on "Ending Non-Current Inventory" page.
b. Investment in depreciable draft, pleasure, and breeding animals	\$0	
c. Investment in depreciable machinery, equipment, and fixtures	\$5,275	
d. Investment in depreciable land improvements, buildings, and fixtures	\$0	
e. Investment in land	\$0	





National Proficiency Application

Performance Review A

1. Briefly explain your SAE and how it related to this award area.

All my life I have loved to be outside and was never afraid of hard work. I became interested in turf grass management and always enjoyed being with my mom in the yard. I also liked helping my grandparents complete small lawn and gardening projects. My parents have taught me the basic principles needed in order to be successful at any endeavor in which I choose to pursue. I learned how to care for turf and proper mowing techniques throughout the various seasons. Certainly by trial and error, I have taught myself how to edge and trim hedges. My dad has helped me learn more about weed control in both lawns and bedding areas. I have learned how to research and purchase the proper equipment needed for maintaining clients' yards. I began my own business Ója^C Lawn Care and mow several residential and commercial properties. After visiting with my agricultural education instructor about my program, I then decided to expand upon my business and continue to increase the size and scope of my SAE. I have been able to learn more horticulture skills from my agricultural education classes that are necessary to becoming more successful in the turf grass management business particularly using plant species that are drought resistant. I plan to continue my SAE by increasing the number of properties in which I manage. I know that my SAE experience will continue to benefit me throughout my life.

2. Briefly explain how your roles, responsibilities, and/or management decisions related to this award area changed.

As the owner and operator of Ója^C Lawn Care my primary role and responsibilities over the span of my SAE has been to provide my clientele with the best service possible and provide them with a lawn that fulfills their wants and desires. To accomplish this task, I made a management decision to increase my inventory from \$5275 to \$11000. This decision allowed me not only to increase my clientele but also to expand the services available to existing customers. Providing the customer with a beautiful and healthy product is the key to success. While gaining experience, I now use a variety of grasses that blend well together but are also contrasting to achieve the natural effect of the land. I know the best time to plant the desired types of turf grass depending on the variety desired. This year I acquired a 19 acre gated housing addition where I mow the turf and help care for the flower beds. I provide services for seven commercial and seven residential properties and also help with some landscaping. I have 100% returning customers for next year. I am a hard working individual that sets high goals. I never underestimate the value of my work and my ability to succeed at a given task. I plan to give my best effort in all I undertake.

3. Briefly explain what is the single greatest challenge you faced in this award area and how did you overcome that challenge?

The weather and mother nature has been my greatest challenge within my Turf Grass Management SAE. Some of my disadvantages in years past were the drought which hindered the number of times which I could care for most properties without sprinkler systems. Extended periods of drought in the summer months impede the growth of flowers, shrubs, and grass. However, this year the rainfall and warm temperatures worked to my advantage and extended the growing season from mid-March through mid-October. I had to learn about the use, care, and maintenance of my equipment. I had to learn to properly use fertilizers and pest control methods to ensure good turf appearance. When I decided to start my own business I went to the bank and got a loan for all my new equipment. I know that this sounds like a disadvantage but in the future it will work to my advantage in regards to building my personal credit score. During my experiences, I have seen the importance of gaining customer relation skills. Another challenge that I used to prosper was to increase my knowledge and skills of planting and caring for different types of turf grass that are prolific in our area. This combined with the knowledge I had already gained allowed me to increase the size and scope of my SAE. I truly enjoy and love the FFA, and I know all the skills I have learned will help me in my future. These challenges have helped tremendously with my SAE project.





National Proficiency Application

Performance Review B

Briefly explain your three greatest accomplishments or findings in this award area.

Accomplishment/Finding #1

Learning and identifying the specific plant hardiness zones for **Orlando** has been very beneficial to my SAE success. The properties I maintain with **Orlando Lawn Care** are located in zones 6a, 6b, and 7a. This seems like zones with little difference but calculates to a 15 degree differentiation. Knowing this information has allowed grass survival rate to increase dramatically in customer's lawns. Other factors that influence turf grass survival rate that are not calculated into the formula include wind, humidity, and winter sun. The wind is a factor that I have learned to take into high consideration. Lawn locations and wind exposure are factored before making final determination of grass species that are included in a lawn.

Accomplishment/Finding #2

Visual appraisal of turf grass has been a great accomplishment for me over the span of my SAE program. I am now acutely aware of the turf and landscape of my client's properties. This is a skill that certainly has helped **Orlando Lawn Care** prosper. I now am able to recognize a pest or a weed issue before it becomes a huge problem. Herbicides and pesticides can be used when needed. I can assist my client on turf and lawn suggestions when considering what to apply as a pre-emergent or when spraying as a preventative. This not only allows for a more beautiful appearance but is more cost effective for the property owner. This is very beneficial to me and helps build my reputation as a conscious business owner and manager.

Accomplishment/Finding #3

Another skill that has a tremendous effect on the success of my business is using soil testing and assistance from experts to my advantage. By running soil test on client's properties, the appropriate type and levels of fertilizer if any can be applied. This not only exhibits outstanding stewardship for the land, but also proves to be more cost effective for my clients. The skill of taking soil tests and obtaining a nice sample to be tested is something else that I have accomplished. I have learned from specialists in the field and now also can detect problems myself. Proactive treatment of the land helps keep the property looking its best over the long growing season. Customers are satisfied which is profitable for business.





National Proficiency Application

Performance Review C

What are three ways your experiences or opportunities in this award area will impact your future.

Impact #1

My SAE has allowed me to develop relationships with customers and clients that will have a tremendous impact on my future plans to be an agribusiness man and business owner. Providing customers with the best service possible lends to them having confidence in your character, commitment, and work ethic. This impact has allowed Óðá^© Lawn Care to increase in size, scope, and the reputation of honesty and hard work. After graduation from high school, I believe that I will have the opportunity to expand the number of clients I am able to serve as I continue operating Óðá^© Lawn Care while attending college. This will allow me to pursue my dreams in agriculture while earning income along with a schedule that is flexible to my other endeavors.

Impact #2

This endeavor has provided me experience marketing myself and a product. The turf grass that I maintain is a direct reflection of Óðá^© Lawn Care. Creating an image and providing a well-manicured landscape for clients has helped me establish a reputation as a business owner. I have business cards available when potential customers approach me about caring for their lawns. I have learned to take time and visit with existing clients as well as others with questions about my business. My communication skills along with the ability to listen to new ideas and take constructive criticism have been a tremendous learning experience. The skills I have obtained from real life encounters will help me as a future agribusiness owner.

Impact #3

Creating invoices, billing customers, and maintaining a flexible yet strict schedule will certainly benefit me in the future. All of my customers prefer to be billed monthly. This allows me to also be more flexible in the times and dates which I maintain their properties. I have been able to enhance my computer skill by creating computer generated invoices. I am diligent to document the dates of jobs completed, or in return I will not get paid. The other impact which will help me is being cognitive of my personal bills and financial situation. I have learned to manage my income and expenses monthly and always plan for equipment failure and repair costs. I believe this will be extremely beneficial to me at college and in the future.





National Proficiency Application

Supervised Agricultural Experience - Placement and Exploratory

Total

Unpaid Hours	Paid Hours	Total Hours	Gross Earnings	Current Expenses





National Proficiency Application

Supervised Agricultural Experience - Entrepreneurship

2011

Pathway	Name & Description	Size/Scope of Enterprise
Plant Systems	Ólæ^©Lawn Care I maintained the turf of my client's properties, watered, fertilized, and weed control as needed. I included seasonal work to Ólæ^©Lawn Care } /Óæ^ to increase the size, scope, and income of my business.	7 properties

2012

Pathway	Name & Description	Size/Scope of Enterprise
Plant Systems	Ólæ^©Lawn Care } /Óæ^ I increased the number of properties and made different types of services available to my customers. I manage the turf, plant grass, water, and monitor weed control.	9 properties

2013

Pathway	Name & Description	Size/Scope of Enterprise
Plant Systems	Ólæ^©Lawn Care } /Óæ^ I increased the number of commercial properties and this proved to be very beneficial. I added some seasonal work to increase profit and keep up cash flow. Definitely profitable to business.	11 properties

2014

Pathway	Name & Description	Size/Scope of Enterprise
Plant Systems	Ólæ^©Lawn Care } /Óæ^ The size and scope of Ólæ^©Lawn Care } /Óæ^ continues to increase. More commercial properties were added and this helps with flexibility to keep them maintained. The residential jobs are manageable and I am learning more about different varieties of grass.	14 properties





National Proficiency Application

Income and Expense Summary of Entrepreneurship SAE Program

	2011	2012	2013	2014	Total
1. Revenues from Operations					
a. Closing Current Inventory	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
b. Beginning Current Inventory	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
c. Change in Current Inventory	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
d. Cash Sales	\$16,825	\$22,370	\$22,600	\$22,950	\$84,745
e. Value Used at Home (Non-cash)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
f. Value of Production Transferred to other enterprise, Transferred to Non-Current, Bartered or Labor Exchanged (Non-cash)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
h. Gross Revenues (Change in Current Inventory and Total Sales)	\$16,825	\$22,370	\$22,600	\$22,950	\$84,745
2. Expenses from Operations					
a. Inventory Purchased for Resale (Cash)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
b. Inventory Purchased for Resale (Non-Cash Transfers)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
c. Cash Expenses (all other types)	\$1,900	\$1,173	\$6,073	\$2,352	\$11,498
d. Non-Cash Expenses (Transferred, Bartered, or SAE Labor Exchange)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
e. Contributed Non-Cash Expenses (Gift or non-SAE Labor Exchange)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
f. Total Operating Expenses	\$1,900	\$1,173	\$6,073	\$2,352	\$11,498
3. Net Income from Operations	\$14,925	\$21,197	\$16,527	\$20,598	\$73,247
4. Non-Current Inventory					
a. Closing Inventory	\$10,750	\$10,575	\$10,250	\$11,000	\$11,000
b. Transfer in from Operations (Non-Cash Transfers of non-current assets)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
c. Contributed Inventory (Outside contribution of non-current assets - gift)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
d. Purchases	\$10,400	\$0	\$600	\$750	\$11,750
e. Beginning Inventory	\$5,275	\$10,750	\$10,575	\$10,250	\$5,275
f. Sales	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
g. Non-Cash Sales	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
h. Net Non-Current Transactions	-\$4,925	-\$175	-\$925	\$0	-\$6,025
5. Net Income From Operations & Net Non-Current Transactions	\$10,000	\$21,022	\$15,602	\$20,598	\$67,222
6. Annual Profitability Measures					
a. Operating Profit Margin (OPM) Net Operating Income/Totals Sales = % of sales related to profit	89%	95%	73%	90%	86%
b. % of Total Returns from Net Non-Current Gains (Net Non-Current Gains/Total Gains)					
c. Review Non-Current Ending Inv. Value					





National Proficiency Application

Candidate Inventory Statement - Current Inventory

A. Harvested and Growing Crops/Plants on 12/31/2014

Description	Quantity	Value
	TOTAL	

B. Feed, Seed, Fertilizer, Chemicals, Supplies, Prepaid Expenses, and other Current Assets on 12/31/2014

Description	Quantity	Value
	TOTAL	

C. Merchandise, Crops, and Animals Purchased for Resale on 12/31/2014

Description	Quantity	Value
	TOTAL	

D. Raised Market Animals on 12/31/2014

Description	Quantity	Value
	TOTAL	





National Proficiency Application

Candidate Inventory Statement - Non-Current Inventory

E. Non-Depreciable Draft, Pleasure, or Breeding Animals on 12/31/2014

Description	Quantity	Ending Total Value
	TOTAL	

F. Depreciable Draft, Pleasure, or Breeding Animals on 12/31/2014

Description	Quantity	Acquisition Cost	Depreciation Claimed	Value
	TOTAL			

G. Depreciable Machinery, Equipment, and Fixtures on 12/31/2014

Description	Acquisition Cost	Depreciation Claimed	Value
Hustler Super Z Mower	\$12,000	\$4,000	\$8,000
Honda Push Mower	\$600	\$350	\$250
Stihl Weed Eater	\$210	\$105	\$105
Stihl Edger	\$295	\$115	\$180
Landscape Trailer	\$2,400	\$700	\$1,700
Honda Push Mower	\$750	\$150	\$600
Stihl Weed Eater	\$190	\$100	\$90
Stihl Blower	\$200	\$125	\$75
TOTAL	\$16,645	\$5,645	\$11,000

H. Depreciable Land Improvements, Buildings, and Fences on 12/31/2014

Description	Acquisition Cost	Depreciation Claimed	Value
TOTAL			

I. Land on 12/31/2014

Description	Quantity	Acquisition Cost
	TOTAL	





National Proficiency Application

Learning Outcomes & Efficiency Factors

Learning Outcome or Efficiency Factor		Beginning Level	Level Attained	Description
1	Days of Down Time Due to Equipment Failure	Year: 2011 Level: 2% 4 out of 183 days	Year: 2014 Level: 1.4% 3 out of 205 days	Down time during the prime mowing season can be devastating to business. It was very important to keep equipment in working order so times and scheduled jobs could be performed.
2	Days of Work Without Injury	Year: 2011 Level: 100% 183 days	Year: 2014 Level: 100% 205 days	Working in a safe environment is crucial to my SAE. By carefully maintaining equipment and using safe practices, this task can be accomplished.
3	Increasing the quality of turf and managing lawns that thrive in their particular climate	Year: 2011 Level: 0	Year: 2014 Level: 4 400% increase	This facet has become a growing area of the services that I can provide to my existing customers. Knowledge of grasses helps enhance properties that I maintain.
4	Number of Clients	Year: 2011 Level: 7	Year: 2014 Level: 14	Increasing the number of clients and customers allowed me to increase the size and scope of my SAE, which in turn increased profit.
5	Residential Clients Needing Help Extra Help During Early Spring and Fall Seasons	Year: 2011 Level: 2 200% increase	Year: 2014 Level: 5 25% increase	This provided extra income to my SAE. Time with my school and FFA schedule allowed me to keep this level at a number that was obtainable and fair to my customers.





National Proficiency Application

Skills, Competencies, and Knowledge

A. Five Primary Skills, Competencies, and Knowledge within your Pathway

	AFNR Performance Indicator	Contributions to Success
1	PS.02.01 Determine the influence of environmental factors on plant growth.	Considering the overall aspect of environment and determining plant species, I have increased my knowledge and skill level. I have implemented resources of growth and hardiness zones and factor in the wind and winter sun when choosing grasses to plant. Due to this, my client's lawns have flourished. Using proper grasses that will thrive enhance the look of the yards, and it is more cost effective. Proper mowing techniques also provide a healthy plant.
2	PS.02.03 Develop and implement a fertilization plan for specific plants or crops.	Acquiring a soil sample and work with an expert in that field has been very beneficial to my program. The right type of fertilizer to be applied along with the appropriate amount is much more cost effective to my clients and more environmentally friendly to the land. I am diligent to watch the weather and use Mother Nature to get the maximum benefit from the fertilizer that is used. I believe it is very important to be a good steward of the land when it comes to fertilizer application.
3	PS.03.03 Develop and implement a plan for integrated pest management.	With the drought and extreme weather conditions that are faced in our region, pests especially grasshoppers usually become a problem. Early detection is important to pest management and then remains on close watch for reoccurrence after treatment is applied. Without pest management beautiful and expensive lawns can be destroyed. This is one of the most important facets of O'Connell Lawn Care to maintain client's properties.
4	PS.01.03 Apply knowledge of plant physiology and energy conversion to plant systems.	With the knowledge I have gained from my Agricultural Education classes and the help from experts in the field, I have been able to apply what I have learned and increase plant survival. The placement of the seed and arrangement of the sunlight to the lawn to increase energy conversion or decrease exposure to the sun is also factored into the process. The combination of awareness and knowledge gained is proving to be beneficial to the success of my SAE.
5	PS.02.02 Prepare growing media for use in plant systems.	Media within the turf is crucial for long term growth and plant success. Soil is added as needed to decrease erosion from wind and water. Mulch and/or soil is added to lawns as needed in specific spots of low growth. Treating and spraying yards with a specific purpose helps decrease weeds and not having to reapply chemical which minimizes expenses and maximizes profit. By maintaining the media in the turf, the lawns have more eye appeal and my customers are pleased with the results.

B. Five Supporting Skills, Competencies, and Knowledge outside your Pathway

	AFNR Performance Indicator	Contributions to Success
6	CS.01.02 Relationships: Build a constituency through listening, coaching, understanding and appreciating others.	When I began my SAE in 2011, I had to build a relationship with the customers who believed in my work ethic as a young boy. It was important to me to gain their respect. Over time I have increased my clientele, but I have most of my initial customers. They have helped me along the way by giving my advice not only about their property and lawns but also about operating my own business. This is definitely been a lifelong skill that I will continue to use in my future as a business owner.



7	CS.01.04 Character: Conduct professional and personal activities based on virtues.	Character and commitment to any task is an area that is very important to Óláð ^C Lawn Care. My parents and teachers have instilled that quality into me. It is important to always be professional as a business owner and treat everyone equally and with respect. I firmly believe that this quality is one of the reasons the size and scope of my SAE has increased and been successful over time. I know that having good character and dedication to my toil will help me be successful in the future.
8	CS.05.02 Examine the components of the AFNR systems and address their maintenance requirements.	Maintaining and servicing equipment is very crucial to Óláð ^C Lawn Care and preventing days of down time. By regularly servicing equipment, I am able to prolong the lifetime of equipment. This is certainly cost effective to the operation. Understanding the equipment is helpful and knowing which gauges, filters, wiring, and plugs to check regularly. Over time, I have increased inventory and upgraded equipment. This has saved time and allows me to run the business much more efficiently.
9	CS.03.03 Flexibility / Adaptability: Describe traits that enable one to be capable and willing to accept change.	Owning your own operation teaches one to adapt to always changing schedules and being flexible with times. When I converted and switched to monthly invoicing it created a much more flexible schedule for me. It allowed me to maintain properties on the weekends and after hours. I have great clients who understand a busy FFA and school schedule and are very understanding. I know these traits will help me tremendously in the future not only with customers but also with my future employees.
10	ABS.05.01 Maintain and interpret financial information (income statements, balance sheets, inventory, purchase orders, accounts receivable and cash-flow analyses) for businesses.	With the increased number of commercial clients, I began printing monthly invoices with detailed billing. This became very popular with my clientele and gave them documentation for their records. Not only did it allow me to monitor my income but also taught me how to better manage my financial situation from a business perspective. I learned to create invoices, make spreadsheets, and maintain detailed records. These skills will prove to be beneficial to me throughout my life and career.





National Proficiency Application

Resume

1. Career Objectives

I will graduate from Okeechobee High School in the spring of 2015. Upon graduation, I plan to attend Okeechobee Community College then transfer to Okeechobee State University and pursue a degree in Animal Science/Agriculture Business and be on the livestock judging team. I plan to be involved in production agriculture and the swine industry with hopes of operating my own business in the future.

2. Agricultural Science Courses

Okeechobee Public Schools, 2000-2005
Okeechobee Public Schools, 2005-2010
Okeechobee Public Schools, 2010-2014
Okeechobee Public Schools, 2014-Present
Agricultural Explorations, 2010-2011
Agriscience I & II, 2011-2013
Ag Power and Technology I & II, 2013-Present

3. Supervised Agricultural Experiences

My supervised agriculture experience program consists of many facets. I am an entrepreneur that focuses on raising swine, cattle, and owning my own lawn care business. I have been fortunate over my FFA career to increase the size and scope of my operation both in herd numbers, sales of show prospects, along with increasing the number of properties I manage with Okeechobee Lawn Care. I am passionate about my SAE program and I know that it has helped me become a dedicated, hard working, and responsible individual. I plan to maintain my involvement with the livestock industry in my future as an agribusiness man. I know that these experiences will help me be successful in my future.

4. FFA Involvement and Leadership

Chapter President 2012-2014
National FFA Convention 2012, 2014
C.O.L.T. Conference 2012, 2013
Advanced Leadership Development 2014
Alumni Camp 2011, 2012
Made for Excellence 2011
Chapter Reporter 2010-2011
State FFA Convention 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014
FFA Meat Sales 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014
FFA High Meats Salesperson 2010
Leedey Trophy Auction 2014
FFA Labor Auction 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013
FFA Parent Member Banquet 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014
Livestock Judging Contests 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014
Swine Shows 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015

5. Community Service

Okeechobee Junior Chamber Member
Twelve Month Celebration 2015
Lion's Club Food Drive/Flag Display
Referee Basketball Games
Umpire at Little League Games
Sentinel Bizarre & 4th of July Parade
National FFA Week Activities-Tractor Pull, Community Appreciation Lunch



6. Accomplishments

Emerging Technology National and State FFA Proficiency Winner 2013
National Finalist FFA Swine Proficiency 2014
State FFA Swine Proficiency Winner 2014
Emerging Technology State FFA Proficiency Runner Up 2012
State Reporter Contest Third Place 2011
State Fair Livestock Judging Contest High Individual and High Junior FFA Team 2011
State Fair 2nd High Individual 2014
Interscholastic Livestock Judging Contest High Senior FFA Individual 2014
State Fair Premium Sale Barrows 2011, 2013, 2014
Youth Expo Premium Sale Barrows 2011, 2013
American Royal Grand Champion Barrow 2012
American Royal Premium Sale Barrow 2013
Youth Expo Champion Overall Swine Showman 2011
Road to the Ring 2013

7. Certifications, Skills, and Memberships

National Junior Swine Association
Team Purebred Swine Association
National Hereford Junior Association
National Miniature Hereford Junior Association
Junior Swine Association
Junior Swine Association

8. Recommendations

FYXUjcbg'Ya cj YX'Zf`YI Ua d`Ydi fdcgYg'

[Red outlined box]

[Red outlined box]

[Red outlined box]





National Proficiency Application

Project Photos



Managing the turf grass is the key component to having a healthy lawn. With the longer growing season this year, most of the grass recovered which allowed for a more pleasing appearance. U_Yij Lawn Care manages fourteen different properties. Zero Turn Mowers are more efficient since it requires less turning. I change mowing directions frequently and adjust mowing height depending on the length of grass, time of year, and amount of moisture received.





National Proficiency Application

Project Photos



In some instances using the push mower has its advantages over using a riding lawn mower. I can control the speed a little better and the levelness of cut due to the smaller deck and single blade. Also the push mower is just simply more suited to certain lawns due to size and feasibility. Mowing diagonally gives the lawn a more aesthetically pleasing look. I have learned that mowing the grass in a different pattern each time will increase the growth of the lawn.





National Proficiency Application

Project Photos



Turf grass care and maintenance adds challenges yet enjoyment on the job. I am flexible and adapt my mowing schedule to the appearance of the turf grass along with monitoring the weather. Late in the summer, mowing at different heights will help the turf survive and look its best. Watering and weed control is also closely monitored and managed on properties where available. Aesthetically pleasing turf grass helps enhance properties and increases the overall value on the market.





National Proficiency Application

Project Photos



A perfectly manicured yard is very important to my clients. By providing precise detail on the job, my customers are very pleased with the overall appearance of their properties and lawns. This component of my business is crucial especially with my commercial customers. I have certainly learned useful techniques and skills using the Stihl weed eater and edger. With my hard work and dedication, 6`U_Y@ Lawn Care's business will continue to grow and thrive in the future.





National Proficiency Application

Project Photos



Weed control helps allow turf and grass to grow to its full potential. With my dad's help, we apply pre-emergent in February or March depending on the customer's wishes. After the weeds are killed, I then scalp the yard to give the turf its best opportunity to flourish. Along with weed control, the use of fertilizer gives the grass the maximum potential for growth.





National Proficiency Application

Project Photos



Most of the customers I have prefer to be invoiced monthly. I keep record of the dates that I care for their properties and include it on their invoice. This also allows me to easily track my income, expense, and profit. Visiting with my customers weekly establishes effective communication and customer relation practices. By having feedback with each other, a positive outcome is most always obtained with the lawns and property.





National Proficiency Application

Checklist of Minimum Qualifications

- All items must be "MET" to qualify.
- Only computer-generated checks are shown here.

Item	Value
Candidate has fully described and selected one to five Learning Outcomes or Efficiency Factors.	MET
Candidate has fully described all ten Skills, Competencies, and Knowledge.	MET
All pictures include captions.	MET
All pictures include a digital upload.	MET
Application includes at least one full calendar year of records.	MET
If graduated, applicant must have completed at least three full years of agriculture, or all of the agriculture offered at the school last attended.	MET
If graduated, applicant must have been out of high school for no more than one year	MET
Ending Date is Dec 31 of the year prior to the National Convention which you are applying to receive an award.	MET
Employer or Instructor's Statement must be printed and submitted with the application.	MUST ATTACH
Personal Page must be printed and submitted with the application.	MUST ATTACH





National Proficiency Application

Manual Review Sheet & List of Attachments

Reviewed By: _____

To improve the quality of applications submitted, and to eliminate the need to disqualify an application at the national finalist level of competition each agricultural proficiency award the state advisor should certify application submitted.

Note: The following are manual reviews of the application and a listing of attachments and page limitations for the complete application. Please review each item and exactly follow the instructions for each attachment.

Manual Review of Application:

Approve (Check if Yes):

- 1. Applicant has in operation, and has maintained at least one calendar year of SAE records to substantiate an outstanding SAE program, which exhibits comprehensive planning, managerial and financial expertise, SAE Details page(s)
- 2. Applicant, parent or guardian, chapter advisor, school superintendent or principal and State FFA Advisor properly sign the application.
- 3. I hereby confirm there are no exaggerated, misleading, deceptive or false statements or claims about the applicant's experience, or performance in this application. Additionally, I confirm this supervised agricultural program has been conducted with the highest possible regard for the quality and human production practices as the products and/or services impact public safety and consumer confidence.

Attachments & Manual Review (Instructions Below)

Approve (Check if Yes):

- 1. Applicant has included a written evaluation limited to one page by the most recent employer or agriculture instructor describing the progress that the applicant has made in developing the skills and competencies necessary for success within the award area in which they are applying. (Limit to ONE Page 8 1/2 x 11)
- 2. Applicant has included a maximum of one page (maximum size 8 1/2" X 11") of additional information. This may **NOT** include the following: videos; CDs, DVDs, flash drive; etc.



Anywhere Public Schools

February 2, 2015

To Whom It May Concern:

Blake Smith is an outstanding candidate for the Turf Grass Management Entrepreneurship/Placement proficiency award. He has decided to embark on an endeavor that can only be positive for him.

I have observed Blake during this time as his Agricultural Education Instructor and FFA advisor. He has taken advantage of the opportunities he has received and continued to make them better. Blake is a diligent worker who pays great attention to detail and organization. He is very conscientious of his business and his Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE) program.

Blake puts out a lot of effort and shows a great deal of pride for his business and his accomplishments. He is not only a leader in school and his FFA chapter, but a community leader as well.

He has been very active in leadership activities throughout FFA, as well as garnering several national awards through other endeavors in his SAE programs. He has been very successful in Landscape Management entrepreneurship SAE.

FFA Advisor Name/Signature

PERSONAL PAGE UNAVAILABLE