

Beef Checkoff – Contractor Updates May 18, 202

AFBFA

Summer Professional Development -

After careful consideration, we have canceled all in-person workshops for this summer. We have pivoted our efforts toward virtual events and asynchronous eLearning modules to support professional development. Things have changed a bit from past updates as we want to be sure we provide the best, most impactful virtual event we can. Given the likelihood of "virtual fatigue," we have moved toward two events rather than a week of online learning.

These events and materials are completely Free. Participants can sign up for one or both of these events. Check-in at www.onthefarmstem.com often as we are updating the site to reflect these exciting changes to our programming. Here is a high-level overview of what will be offered:

- July 21: Focus on HS genetics unit and storyline elements
- July 23: Focus on MS ecosystems unit and storyline elements
- Connect with field experts and scientists related to our curricular materials (farmers and ranchers, geneticists, animal scientists, ornithologists, rangeland scientists and more!)
- Support your understanding of storyline routines with three eLearning modules focused on Anchoring Phenomena, Navigation Routines and Discussion Types/Talk Moves
- Graduate credits available for purchase through University of Florida; CEU's for NY teachers available through Cornell University

We believe these new approaches to our summer PD offering will be both impactful and fun. I mean, who doesn't want to explore the crazy behaviors of prairie chickens and how cattle grazing helps to ensure this fascinating bird's survival? Or discuss cattle genetics with actual scientists while also learning about storyline pedagogy? Bring your friends; it's going to be a great experience! Sign up, and details will be available soon at www.onthefarmstem.com.

Unit Badging -

As some of you may have already been aware, Achieve, the organization that reviews educational materials for quality standards and awards the design badge, no longer exists. That said, WestEd has stepped in and picked up their work. We have been in contact with them since the transition and are back on track with review efforts, including a new path forward with a peer review process for our third unit. To date, here is where the reviews of each unit stand:

- High School Genetics: How can we design cattle to meet human needs better?

- o Initial feedback received December 2019
- o Revisions nearing completion
- o Final submission: early summer
- Middle School Ecosystem Dynamics & Interactions: What do prairie chickens need to survive in today's prairie?
- o Initial feedback received April 2020
- o Revisions underway
- o Final submission: early summer
- High School Interactions Among Ecosystems: How do ecosystems that don't have access to the outside world impact Earth's systems?
- o Will be submitted for Peer Review Process (PRP)
- o PRP submission date TBD

On the Farm -

As of now, On the Farm, the immersive event connecting science teachers to the science of beef production is scheduled to move forward as planned. We are monitoring the health crisis carefully and a final decision will be made soon as to whether this event will proceed.