

The American Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture (AFBFA), as a contractor to the Beef Checkoff, has been working in FY20 to promote units of instruction that use beef science and production practices to teach high school and middle school science.

Due to the pandemic, many of our programs changed in the last couple of months. One large change we've made is our professional development offerings for educators and educational influencers being moved to a virtual environment. This change does however open up the opportunity for any educator and educational influencer to participate.

AFBFA hosted two free workshops on NGSS for high school and middle school science teachers. These workshops will introduce the storyline/phenomenon way of teaching science using beef production science and practices. A featured workshop was, "How can we design cattle to better meet human needs?" This was a Storyline unit on genetics and heredity, students were introduced to 'SuperCows' and explored the vast variety of cattle breeds, discovered that cattle are specialized for different purposes and while similar, the 'SuperCows' are clearly unique. This led to investigations about the role of inheritance, DNA and proteins.