**Agriculture in Society**

**Unit 1:** Agriculture in Society

**Activity 2:** The SAE Budget Challenge

**Objective:** For this activity, you will be working independently to create a budget for a potential SAE project. You need to make it something that you actually have an interest in and could actually do. Examples are listed below. In the blank area under this, please write out your potential SAE.

* Raising and showing livestock
* Planting and maintaining a garden
* Running an agricultural business
* Conducting an agricultural experiment
* Working at a farm or agricultural operation
* Working for or running a lawn care

Your potential SAE: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Part 1:** You will need to identify potential expenses you could encounter. These could include supplies, equipment, labor, transportation, or miscellaneous costs. Some SAEs will have much more expenses than others, but you will need to identify at least 5 potential expenses. List those expenses below.

**Part 2:** Now, you will need to create a potential budget for tracking those expenses. Using the table below, input your expenses. After writing down at least 5 potential expenses, you need to estimate what those will cost. IMPORTANT: Do this **without** looking up the actual cost of each expense.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Expense Item | Estimate Cost | Actual Cost | Difference |
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**Part 3:** Now that you have “projected” your expenses and their associated costs, you will now need to determine what an actual cost would be. Using your teacher, online resources, or a classmate, determine what the actual cost of an item would be. You will then input that number in the table on the previous page. For instance, if fuel is a potential cost and you project the cost per gallon to be at $2.45, but the actual cost was $3.10, you will put $2.45 in the projection, $3.10 in the actual, and $.65 in the difference.

**Part 4.** Answer the quests below about the exercise. Each question will require 3-5 complete sentences.

1. If you were to start this SAE today, would you have the funds to cover the project? How would you get the needed funds?

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1. Did you correctly project the potential price of your expenses? Do you think managing the financial aspects of your SAE will be more difficult than this? Why or why not?

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1. How might you reduce or adjust your potential to make your project more affordable or profitable? What are some resources that could help offset the cost of your SAE?

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