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## On-line Ag Courses Available for Middle, High Schoolers

The Nelson Academy of Agricultural Sciences Online offers affordable, high quality agriculture courses to middle school and high school students across the state.

The unique learning format is ideal for



Kristen Reinhardt

students who do not have access to ag programs, explained instructor Kristen Reinhardt. She is in her first year with Nelson, whose goal is to have on-line ag teachers in every state.

Reinhardt grew up in Brevard, N.C. on a farm that now produces beef, meat and eggs,

and features a corn maze. She graduated from Clemson University with a degree in Agriculture Education and worked at LeMaster Dairy.

Nine years ago she began her career teaching Animal Science at Fort Mill High School, which has an active FFA chapter. A certified ag teacher, she also manages the school greenhouse. She lives in Rock Hill with her husband Chase, also a Clemson graduate, and their young son Boyd.

"I am excited about being a part of the Nelson Academy of Agricultural Sciences on-line family," Reinhardt said. "Since many schools no longer offer an ag program, the academy offers a way for students to take ag classes from certified ag teachers."

She has already had some students sign up and hopes many more will take advantage of the opportunity. Some students even take classes to prepare for livestock

competitions, such as dairy judging. "A lot of jobs will be coming open in ag, and the on-line courses are a great way for students to get the background they need before going off to college."

The courses are open to students from all over South Carolina who don't have access to ag programs, or for those who want additional courses that may not be offered locally, she said. Many public schools, private schools and homeschools are unable to offer agricultural courses to their students. The academy provides high quality agricultural education classes to those who might not otherwise have the opportunity

With agriculture and natural resources among the fields with the lowest unemployment rates, students can prepare themselves for rewarding careers. They can choose from 20 classes in animal and plant science, agribusiness, leadership, and marketing.

The courses offer a wide variety of interests from livestock and crop production to areas like agribusiness, horticulture and floriculture, greenhouse technology, agriculture marketing and agriculture communications. The curriculum is nationally accredited through AdvancEd and is approved by the National Council for Agriculture Education.

Livestock courses include specialties in beef, swine and sheep production, as well as equine and veterinary sciences. Farm business, financial planning and marketing are covered, plus food science, biotechnology and careers in agriculture. The courses are also suitable for adult ed students.

For information or to register, contact Ag Ed On-line Teacher Kristen Reinhardt at 828-553-1416 or [Kristen.reinhardt@k12.nd.us](mailto:Kristen.reinhardt@k12.nd.us). Visit [www.AllAgOnline.com](http://www.AllAgOnline.com) and click on any of the courses for a full description and lesson titles.