Building a Model Experimental-Based Agricultural Food Safety Program
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Introduction
An essential component of the agricultural system is food safety and Carroll County, Virginia, seeks to position itself as a regional leader in this burgeoning industry.

- Educational opportunities in this growing field are lagging behind industry interest in the region.
- Rigorous preparation in the STEM disciplines is crucial for the next generation of farmers, ranchers, and agricultural leaders to be prepared for the changing face of agriculture (National Research Council, 2009).

Program Model
Virginia Tech, Carroll County High School, and Wytheville Community College are developing a model program for enhancing community viability through connecting STEM education to agriculture with opportunities for employment at multiple levels of educational attainment.

Project Objectives
1. Develop an Agriculture and Food Safety Internship program with capstone experience for students at Carroll County High School.
2. Revise Biotechnology courses sequence at Carroll County High School to utilize the STEM tab for agriculture, emphasizing on aligning the new Agricultural Food Safety program at Wytheville Community College.
3. Establish an Agricultural Food Safety program at Wytheville Community College.
4. Strengthen cooperative linkages between partner institutions, existing food science programs and businesses to create multiple pathways into the agricultural food safety industry.

Anticipated Results
Table 1: Project, methods, and outputs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Objective</th>
<th>Methodology</th>
<th>Practices</th>
<th>Products/Outputs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.0: Learning</td>
<td>Group Program</td>
<td>CCLS</td>
<td>Immersive model program developed and implemented in CCLS.</td>
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<tr>
<td>2.0: Agriculture and Technology</td>
<td>Program</td>
<td>CCLS</td>
<td>Courses focused on food safety and pathogen elimination.</td>
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<tr>
<td>3.0: Biological Applications</td>
<td>Program</td>
<td>CCLS</td>
<td>Biological applications to food safety.</td>
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<td>4.0: Cooperative Board</td>
<td>Program</td>
<td>CCLS</td>
<td>Establishment of a Food Safety Advisory Board.</td>
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Project Partners

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References

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