

**STAUNTON RIVER
MIDDLE SCHOOL**

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September 27, 2023

To the Parents/ Guardians of SRMS Agriscience Students:

This letter is to inform you of the content being taught in the 6th Grade Introduction to Agriscience (18001-9) class. I will be using anatomically correct language when discussing Animal Anatomy. This vocabulary is included under the “*define basic animal terminology*” competency as detailed below.

Definitions should include species-specific terms as they relate to animal gender, age, reproductive status, and basic anatomy and physiology for:

- *bovine*
- *ovine*
- *caprine*
- *equine*
- *porcine*
- *avian*

Process/Skill Questions addressed include:

- *What agricultural careers, other than farming, might require knowledge of animal terminology?*
- *What are the differences among breeding stock and market animals?*
- *What is a cow? A bull? A heifer? A steer? A calf?*
- *What is the rationale behind castration in animal husbandry?”*

If you would like for your student to opt-out, an alternative assignment will be provided in another classroom. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Agriscience teacher, Mrs. Brittany Lawyer, at brittany.lawyer@bedford.k12.va.us.

Sincerely,

Brittany Lawyer

Mrs. Brittany Lawyer, Ag Science Teacher