STRATEGY/APPROACH IN TEACHING AGRICULTURE

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Teaching agriculture in high school students should be simple and basic but result-oriented. Teachers need to get the attention and interest of the students during the whole lesson. Active learning refers to strategies where students do more than simply listening to a teacher discussing (Mckinney, 2005). Active learning allows the students to participate in the learning process (Deeter, 2003). Agriculture teachers, like other teachers can use active learning strategies for motivation. Innovative teaching strategies must be used because it will increase the students’ learning and participation in class.

One of the innovative teaching strategies is simulation, it can be used for teaching practical oriented topics such as soil preparation, technologies for crop farming and so forth. Models or mock-ups of machinery can be used and given to the students for them to experience how to operate those machines as they would eventually do in the real world. Videos about farming are also used in giving instructions and giving students an idea.

Field trips to farms, agricultural centers etc, where students can experience the real world of agriculture is very helpful. However, students must have assignments and projects to make them focus and participate effectively in the field trips.

Discovery method of instructional delivery is also innovative, teacher can give learners a real situation in a farm and asks them to discover and explain the situation or problem and how it can be remedied. The students will learn effectively about agricultural methods, chemicals etc, through discovery. Teacher should also be focus on teaching real life situation about agriculture rather than its history.
Role playing and games can also be used when teaching students, these approaches have a high group member involvement that the students will learn at the same time have fun. The importance of learning strategies is that students as well as teachers receive and process information differently. Teacher should always think of the strategies and diversify the instructional methods he/she uses in teaches.

References:

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