

## CASE Major Concepts

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Concepts are the principles, theories, and recurring themes important to a student's understanding of a CASE™ course of study. Teachers use concepts to define what students are learning. In CASE curricula, each lesson has a list of concepts that are directly related to the major topics of that lesson. Major concepts reach beyond a lesson and are emphasized in all CASE courses. The following major concepts are underlying themes throughout CASE curricula.

1. Agriculture, food, and natural resources systems produce the food, fiber, and fuel that are essential to daily life as well as contribute to the nation's economic wealth.
2. Individuals who pursue a program of study in agricultural education will benefit from leadership development, personal growth, and career exploration.
3. Agriculture is a science that contributes to the development, improvement, and sustainability of living things.
4. Agricultural education establishes a relevant setting for the application of mathematical practices and principles.
5. Effective interpersonal communication skills facilitate group processes and aid in solving complex problems and the achievement of common goals.
6. Reading and writing interpretation skills are necessary for educational and professional development.
7. Safety is an attitude of personal responsibility that must be practiced in the agricultural classroom, laboratory, shop, greenhouse, and facilities.
8. Inquiry activities are important in the practice of scientific processes and in the world of research.
9. The use of technology and computer applications is critical to modern agricultural practices.
10. Consideration of the ethical, environmental, social, and economic impacts of agricultural practices is essential to being a responsible, involved citizen.
11. Individuals involved with the processes of agricultural production must perform specific technical skills proficiently.
12. Critical thinking involves using a variety of problem-solving techniques in real-life contexts.