

Agricultural Careers

Technology, Life & Careers



Materials

- ◆ Career Investigation worksheet
- ◆ Pen and paper

Background

The agricultural industry is made up of six employment areas. These areas are:

- Production Specialist - 7%
- Social Service Professionals - 9%
- Education and Communication - 11 %
- Managers and Financial Specialists - 13%
- Scientists, Engineers and Related Specialists - 32%
- Marketing, Merchandising and Representatives - 28%

Activity Procedures

1. Draw a food product (i.e. bread or milk) in the middle of a sheet of paper and web the careers involved in getting that food product to the consumers kitchen. Focus on all the research, development, testing, manufacturing and marketing that is involved in making sure that the food product is of good quality and is safe for consumers.
2. Have students select a career from the list. It is best if there is no overlap. Have them research this career (using the Internet) and fill out the “Career Investigation” worksheet.
3. Ask the students to use the research they found to write an informative paper.
4. Have students give a short oral presentation on their findings.

Additional Activities, What’s Next?

1. Have a local representative from each of the six occupational areas come and visit the class giving first hand information about their career choice.
2. Have students put together a presentation on careers that can be given to students in lower grades.

Adapted from “Innovations in Agriculture” produced by Illionois Farm Bureau.

Discussion Questions:

1. What are the six occupational areas in the agriculture industry?
2. What areas have the most need for qualified people?
3. What percentage of the American working population works in an agriculturally related job?
4. What percentage of employed Americans work on the farm?
5. Name ten agricultural careers.

Time: 45 minutes to 1 hour

Grade Levels: 7, 8

Standard 5

The student will utilize occupational information in the career planning process.

Objectives

- Introduce students to careers in agriculture and science.
- Guide students in research technique.
- Name at least ten agriscience careers.
- Know the education needed for a specific agriscience career area.
- Understand some of the skills needed for a specific agriscience career.
- Explain how to attain these necessary skills.
 - Develop an awareness and understanding of five career fields.
 - Learn how aptitudes and abilities relate to broad career fields.
 - Connect occupations to the scientific, artistic, technical, social humanitarian, and business career fields.
 - Incorporate appropriate work-based learning experiences into the classroom, i.e. guest speakers, field studies, job shadowing, and career fairs.
 - Locate and use career information.
 - Use career information to explore various occupations of personal interest.
 - Weigh advantages and disadvantages of various school programs for the attainment of career goals.
 - Identify the requirements for secondary and post-secondary programs.

Agricultural Career Investigation

Start your Internet search at the Teen Scene, www.agclassroom.org/teen/index.htm.

1. What is the name of this occupation?
2. What duties or responsibilities go along with this job?
3. What skills are needed for this job?
4. What type of personality is needed for this job?
5. What physical requirement or limitations are associated with this job?
6. What educational background is required?
7. What courses, especially in science, should be taken in high school and in college?
8. What is the best type of school to attend to attain the necessary skills?
9. What high school course should be taken to prepare for this position?
10. What are some positive aspects of this job?
11. What are some negative aspects of this job?
12. How does this profession help to better society?
13. What is the demand for people in this position like today?
14. What is the outlook for this job in the future?