

# Agri-Entry Level Careers

Incorporating Agriculture into Academia

## Agri-Entry Level Careers

*Landscape Worker*

*Lawn Care Technician*

*Rancher*

*Animal Caretaker*

*Animal Groomer*

*Truck Driver*

*Welder*

*Nursery Worker*

*Excavation*

*Support Technician*

*Custom Hay Silage Operator*

*Food Preparer*

*Meat Cutter*

*Logger*

*Packager*

*Machine Operator*

*Food Processor*

*Floral Design*

*Kennel Personnel*

*Ferrier*

*Laboratory Animal Technician*

*Sod Farmer*

*Farmer*

*Hatchery Laborer*

*Lumber Mill Operator*

*Pest Control Manager*

*Auctioneer*

*Feed Lot Operator*

*Livestock Seller*

*Food Preparer*

*Station Mechanic*

## Agriculture wants you!

Agriculture is a dynamic industry that offers a wide range of career and job opportunities!

This brochure showcases careers relating agriculture, introduces you to different career areas, and discusses skills needed by workers in many areas.

It is designed to be used with the publication "An Agricultural Career for You" from the Wisconsin Agribusiness Council, which showcases the seven agricultural career pathways.

Not all jobs in agriculture require a four-year degree



or a technical education. There are many rewarding jobs that require a high school education, good work ethic, and basic skills in math, reading, and other subject areas.

Following directions, working well with others, being prompt, and paying attention to details are very important in your job setting.

Agriculture offers a variety of work places that offer opportunities to work with machines, animals, people, and plants.

These jobs can be very fulfilling, satisfying, and offer possibilities for promotion and advancement.

The list is endless of how you can use your interest in agriculture teamed with good work habits in a rewarding job.

Agriculture wants and needs you to help keep the industry strong and vibrant!

## But I'm not from a farm . . .

A common misconception is that you must be from a farm in order to pursue an agricultural career.

That's not true!

Understanding agriculture will certainly help you pursue a career in that field.

How do you learn about agriculture if you're not from a farm?

- If your school offers agricultural education classes take some.
- Get involved in FFA contests that offer you
- chances to develop your business skills, i.e., farm management, career development events, job interview contests.
- Get a job working on a farm or in a related interest.



**I like to**

- **Help people**
- **Work with my hands**
- **Build or create things**
- **Make things look nicer**
- **See what I've accomplished every day**
- **Work with machines and tools**



## What classes should I take?

Math skills, writing, reading, computer skills, and understanding personal finance are very important for any job or career you might consider.

With our world becoming reliant on computers, technology, and machines, the ability to read and understand directions is very important.

If your school offers agriculture education, an introductory class to agriculture will help you find areas that might be of particular interest.

Many agriculture education programs offer specialized courses. If you like animals, you can choose animal science classes. If you prefer working outside and with plants, then horticulture

or landscaping might be good choices. You might enjoy a general agriculture class if you're not sure what to choose.

Some schools have shop facilities and offer hands-on classes in welding, woodworking, mechanics, and other technical areas.

Keyboarding, personal finance and accounting classes are useful, too.

## Skills that everyone can use

Good work habits are essential for all employees.

It is important that you practice these traits in your school work, after school jobs, in sports, and other activities you are in.

- Good personal hygiene—good grooming habits, clean

and brushed hair, clean teeth, fresh breath, and clean clothes make a good impression.

- Timeliness—getting to class or work on time, using your time wisely, and not watching the clock are good traits to practice.

- Good social skills—being nice to other people, smiling, greeting people when you meet them, and listening will help you make friends, develop good customer relations, and make you feel better, too!

## Food Products and Processing Systems

Working with producers that raise fruits, vegetables, and other products for farmers' markets, local stores, and for the industry requires workers to have an understanding of how plants grow, how to identify ripe and quality

products, and careful handling of the crop.

Many workers are needed from the time the crop is planted, harvested, transported from the field to processing facility, and then packaged for the consumer. Careful attention to food safety is always needed.

Restaurants offer many jobs including food preparation, dish washing, bussing and waiting on tables, and cleaning. Restaurants depend on good workers to practice safe food handling and preparation techniques.

## Plant Systems—it's a growing field!

There are many jobs related to field crops, vegetable and fruit production, lawn care, and turf management.

The vegetable and fruit industry relies on workers from planting to harvest and processing.

Some work needs to be done manually and involves picking or harvesting the crop, sorting, and packaging in the processing plants. Attention to detail and a good eye for quality are important.

Workers may assist with preparing crops for sale at local farmers' and roadside markets. Working with customers and watching for product quality is

essential.

Field crops offer opportunities such as detasseling corn or harvesting hay for summer work.

Farming involves many types of machinery. Workers that have taken tractor safety courses or are trained to operate tractors and other farm machinery will find many rewarding jobs doing various types of field work. This might involve tasks such as cutting hay, disking, hauling loads, scraping lots, and unloading silage.

Safety is a must and never should be taken for granted.

The ability to handle all situations must be considered before operating any type of machine.

Other types of equipment and machines are needed in the turf and landscape area. Workers are needed for mowing and trimming lawns, helping install and plant landscaping plants, and working with irrigation and watering systems.

The bonus is working outside and seeing a job completed every day.



## Animal Systems—it's all about animals!



Agricultural jobs can include animals ranging from dairy cows to cats and fish.

Taking care of animals can be a very rewarding career. To see animals grow, thrive, and mature is an opportunity not all people get.

If you like smaller companion animals, then jobs such as

working in a pet shop, for a dog kennel, or grooming pets might be just for you.

Paying close attention to the animals pens, cages, and their grooming is important for animal health and comfort.

Many farm operations require workers that enjoy milking cows, feeding animals, waste removal, and other day-to-day tasks.

You need to have good observation skills to notice when animals aren't healthy, aren't eating as they normally do, or show signs of illness.

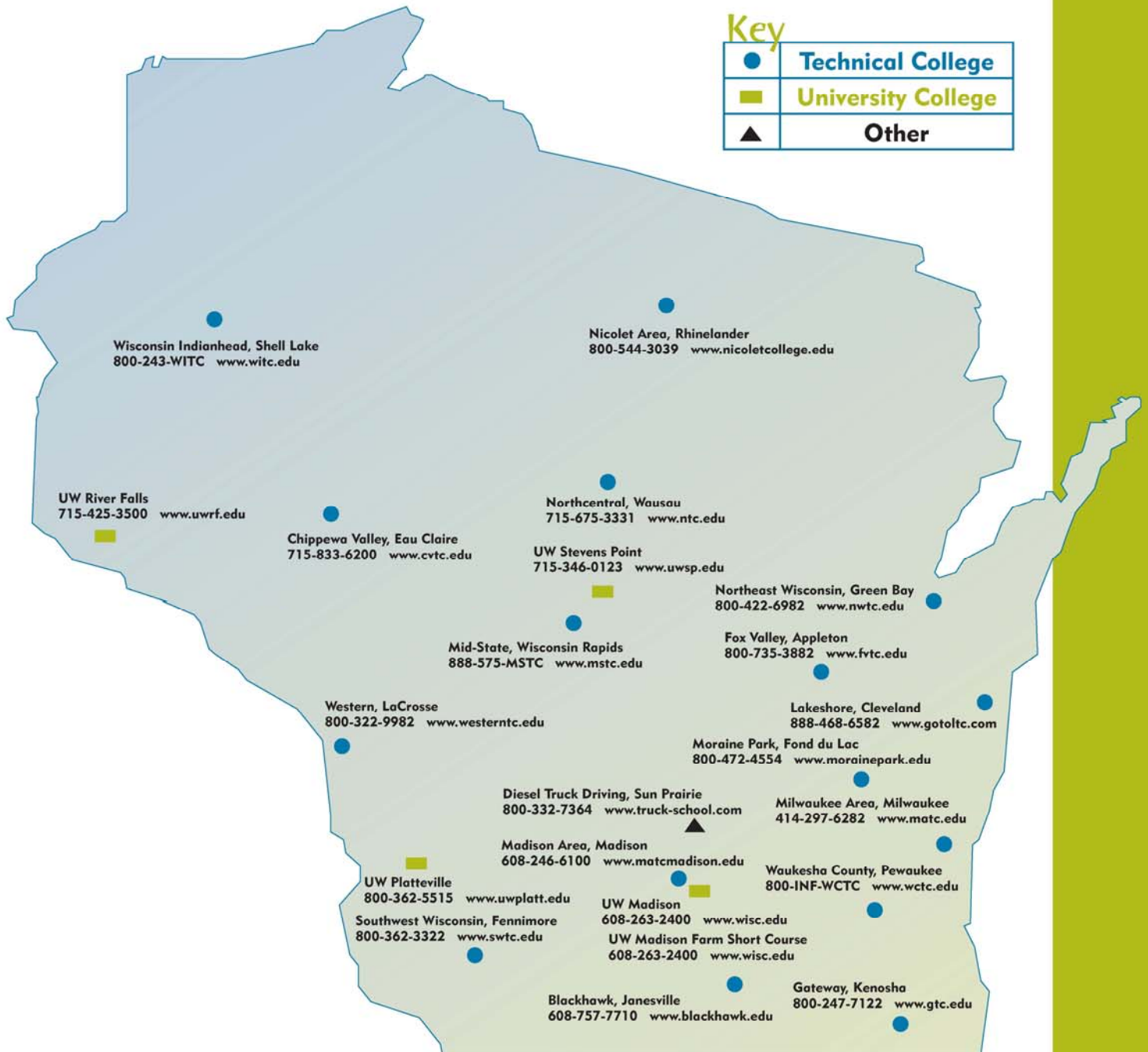
Zoos and other animal based businesses require people that are willing to learn about unique animals, their habits,

and the care necessary for their well being.

There are several educational opportunities such as farm and industry short course, technical school night classes, beginning farmer classes, and online courses that can help workers learn more about basic animal care and production.



# After You Graduate



**“Incorporating Agriculture into Academia”** is a project coordinated by the Wisconsin Farm Bureau– Ag in the Classroom Program and the Wisconsin Agribusiness Council. The project was funded with a USDA Ag in the Classroom Enrichment Grant. To learn more about these programs, visit their websites–



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