

Incorporating Agriculture into Academia

Career Day Outline

An agricultural career day will give students an opportunity to meet people involved in a variety of agricultural careers. The two formats outlined will give two options for carrying out a career day in a middle school or high school setting.

Suggested time: within one month of students signing up for high school classes

Option 1: Half Day Career Day Rotations

Space needed:

- Auditorium, gym or room for all students to meet in at the beginning and end of the career day
- Individual classrooms for the presentations

Presenters:

- Ideally, two presenters from each of the seven agricultural career pathways. More presenters could be asked depending on the size of the student body.
 - Plant Systems
 - Animal Systems
 - Power Structural & Technical Systems
 - Natural Resources Systems
 - Environmental Service Systems
 - Agribusiness Systems
 - Food Products & Processing Systems
- Refer to “An Agricultural Career for You” booklet for specific careers
- Where to contact information for presenters in each area
 - Agriculture education instructors and FFA Alumni members
 - Chamber of Commerce or Local Telephone Book
 - Wisconsin Agribusiness Council – www.wisagri.com
 - County Extension Office
 - Wisconsin Farm Bureau- Ag in the Classroom – www.wisagclassroom.org or County Farm Bureau Office
 - County Agribusiness Organizations

Schedule:

1. Have a welcome session in the large room. Introduce presenters and give specifics for rotations.
2. Divide the students and dismiss them to their first rotation. The size of student groups will be determined by the number of students and presenters.
3. Each presentation should be 15 minutes. Encourage presenters to bring handouts, hands-on activities and interactive demonstrations to use in their presentation. Encourage presenters to refer students to the Ag Pathways page in “An Agricultural Career for You” booklet that their job fits in.
4. Students could fill out **Career Trivia Hunt** from “An Agricultural Career for You” booklet

5. Have a three minute passing time between presentations
6. At the end, everyone gathers for a closing session. Thank the presenters and ask for questions. Agriculture education instructor gives comments on classes offered. FFA President gives information about chapter activities.

Option 2: Career Fair

Space and equipment needed:

- Gym or cafeteria
- Tables and chairs for exhibitors
- Speaker system

Invite a variety of exhibitors to the event. Try to have at least 2-3 from each of the career pathways. The number of exhibitors will be dependent on the size of the student body and the time allocated for this event. Ideally students would be dismissed into the exhibit area by classes (i.e. 8th grade, freshmen) so presenters are working with the same age groups.

Presenters will set up their displays. Encourage them to have a handout as well as hands-on and interactive demonstrations.

The amount of time will be dependent on the number of students and exhibitors. There should be a time period at the beginning for students to browse through the exhibit area to see who is there and what peaks their interest.

For example: If each class (i.e. 8th grade students) is allocated one hour:

- First 15 minutes is allocated for the students to browse through the exhibit areas
- At the bell or cue, students must go to one of the exhibits for a 10 minute presentation
- At the bell or cue, students move on to another 10 minute presentation
- At the bell or cue, students move on to another 10 minute presentation
- At the bell or cue, students move on to their last 10 minute presentation
- Students have the last five minutes to visit with any exhibits they didn't get to yet.

The next class would enter and go through the same rotations.

You could have the students have a survey to fill out during each of the ten minute presentations. Or an interview type handout could be filled out featuring one of the presenters.

Wisconsin Model Academic Standards

| | | | | | | |
|------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Science | G.8.1 (8 th) | G.8.2 (8 th) | | | | |
| Personal Finance | A.1 (8 th) | A.1 (12 th) | | | | |
| Foreign Language | J.2 | K.1 | K.2 | | | |
| Agriculture | A.9-12.2 (8 th) | B.6-8.2 (8 th) | B.12.5 (12 th) | B.12.6 (12 th) | C.6-8.2 (8 th) | C.12.4 (12 th) |
| | C.9-12.2 (12 th) | D.6-8.1 (8 th) | D.6-8.2 (8 th) | D.12.4 (12 th) | D.9-12.2 (12 th) | E.6-8.2 (8 th) |

Student _____

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|--|--|
| <p>#1- Name of Exhibitor -</p> <p>What does the person do?</p> <p>What type of education is needed?</p> <p>What type of classes should students take in school?</p> <p>What does the presenter like best about his/her job?</p> | <p>#2- Name of Exhibitor -</p> <p>What does the person do?</p> <p>What type of education is needed?</p> <p>What type of classes should students take in school?</p> <p>What does the presenter like best about his/her job?</p> |
| <p>#3- Name of Exhibitor -</p> <p>What does the person do?</p> <p>What type of education is needed?</p> <p>What type of classes should students take in school?</p> <p>What does the presenter like best about his/her job?</p> | <p>#4- Name of Exhibitor -</p> <p>What does the person do?</p> <p>What type of education is needed?</p> <p>What type of classes should students take in school?</p> <p>What does the presenter like best about his/her job?</p> |

Career Fair Interview Sheet

Student _____

Exhibitor's name

Position

Duties

Education needed

High school classes that were helpful

What do they like best about their job?

Other comments