

FUN FACES OF WISCONSIN AGRICULTURE AGRICULTURAL CAREERS DESCRIPTIONS



Below are brief descriptions for the careers on the student's worksheet, What Do They Do? Before having students complete the worksheet, go through the different careers with the students and discuss what some of the job responsibilities may be for each of them.

- **Plant Scientist (Agronomist)**—can work out in the field doing research or work in a lab conducting experiments. They are responsible for developing new varieties of crops and making crops more efficient to grow.
- **Flower Scientist (Horticulturist)**—can work outside, in a greenhouse, or in a lab to improve and develop new varieties of flowers, trees and vegetables.
- **Soil Scientist**—studies the different soil types and learns what types of soil best grow which specific crop. A soil scientist understands and enjoys working with chemistry. They also know the importance of soil conservation and the impact erosion has on soil.
- **Animal Scientist**—studies animal behaviors and habits and knows animals from the inside out. An animal scientist may work in a lab, on a farm or at a university. They can specialize on one specific animal or work with a variety of animals. They may research ways to help animals grow faster or be healthier.
- **Food Scientist**—Works to discover and develop new ways to grow food and new varieties of food that provide more nutrients in the same serving. They are also responsible for developing new food products and different combinations and flavors for food. Ensuring a safe and healthy food supply is important to them.
- **Greenhouse Owner or worker**—operates and maintains a store of growing plants for the public to buy. They must understand which plants require light or shade conditions, what to do to treat plant disease, be able to work with people, and have a business understanding to be profitable.
- **Orchard grower**—plants and cares for trees in a fruit orchard. They need to be able to manage people to pick their fruit or work with customers that want to come and pick their own. A good understanding of disease and fruit production helps to make this job easier.

- **Pesticide applicator**—willing to drive machinery and sometimes airplanes to apply products to fields to decrease pests and help plants grow better. This person must understand the relationship between plants and insects, be able to follow clear directions, and enjoy working with people.
- **Animal Nutritionist**—studies and knows the nutritional needs that animals have. They must understand which feeds provide which nutrients and how too much or too little of each nutrient can make an animal sick or cause certain disorders. A nutritionist often works with computers to develop rations for the farmers, and also works with feed mills and the farmer to make sure that the animals are as healthy as possible.
- **Animal Geneticist**—works with the genetic make-up of animals to discover which genes are responsible for disease, high production or many other factors. A geneticist may sometimes work in the field, but is often in the lab. They are also responsible for developing new technologies to help animals produce high quality animals.
- **Sales person**—responsible for selling items to farmers and agricultural businesses. May sell products, feed, animals, machinery or any other agriculture related item. A sales person must be good at working with people and knowledgeable about whatever they might be selling. This often includes continued learning when new products are developed.
- **Mechanic**—fixes machinery, computer equipment, feeding equipment...that is used in the agricultural industry. They must have a broad knowledge of how things work and the safest way to fix them. Sometimes may work in a shop, or may work at various locations on calls to farms.
- **Heavy Equipment operator**—understands the importance of safety and knows how to operate many different machines and tractors. Is able to work in different conditions and understands the best way to operate each machine to get the best production. This person may work on a farm or may work at a building site.
- **Professor of plant or animal science**—teaches students in universities or colleges about their specific area. Have completed substantial research about a specific topic and are able to teach a variety of classes. May also teach lab sections which requires students to work hands on with the plant or animals that are being taught about.
- **Agriculture Teacher**—educates students about agriculture and the different careers in the agriculture fields. Encourages students to try new things and helps them to find the opportunities to explore their careers before graduating from high school. Takes students on field trips and contests to help them see the different areas of agriculture.

- **Environmental Relations person**—has a good understanding of environmental policies and is able to advise farmers on how to meet the environmental policies the best and is also able to help farmers be more productive while also getting the most out of the environment.
- **Soil Conservationist**—knows the importance of soil care and conservation. They may take samples in the field or run lab tests to see the quality of soil. They work with people to plan and attend workshops about how to properly care for the soil.
- **Store manager or owner**—owns, runs or works in a store that sells agriculture products to or for farmers. They are able to work with people and understand the needs of their customers. They also have a good understanding of economics and can price items to make a profit while also being sold at a competitive price.
- **Veterinarian**—understands the way that animals work on the inside so that they can diagnose health problems and help farmers to be profitable. They are also able to help check health and perform surgeries when necessary. A veterinarian has to be able to work with people and animals while also being able to learn new techniques and enjoy learning.
- **Truck Driver**—responsible for transporting products to processing facilities, to stores or to farms. Understands the importance of safe driving and machinery operation, is able to meet guidelines for the loads they carry and meet deadlines for loads.
- **Advertising/Marketing**—helps to sell products and ideas by knowing how to effectively use color, words and phrases to tell the strengths of what is being marketed. This person works with computers to create advertisements, and works with people to find the need for advertising and marketing. They have to be a creative thinker to meet the demands of a competitive market and get their idea out before others do.
- **Food Plant worker**—knows and follows the policies set forth by the United States Department of Agriculture to produce safe and quality foods. They are responsible for food changing from raw to processed form. This is often a job that occurs inside and sometimes with the use of computers or machinery.
- **Inspector**—knows and enforces the government policies for food and animal production sites. Must be able to work with people and be willing to travel to conduct inspections.

- **Dairy Farmer**—understands the needs of dairy cows and is able to work with nutritionists, sales people, genetics companies, crop growers, veterinarians and the public to meet those needs and find a market for the finished product. A dairy farmer also needs to understand the environmental regulations and abide by them.
- **Beef Farmer**—understand the needs of beef or pork animals and provide an environment that allows them to grow and stay healthy as possible. Must also be able to work with people in feed, sales, veterinarian and purchasing roles.
- **Crop Farmer**—know how to efficiently grow each specific crop and understand the importance of crop rotation and soil type for each specific crop. Also be able to work with farmers and feed companies to effectively market their crop and get the best price.
- **Vegetable or Fruit Farmer**—knows the important climate, soil and nutrient requirements to grow your specific fruit or vegetable. Is able to work with sales people, service people and the public to grow and market your crop.
- **Agricultural Broadcaster (TV or radio)**—serves as a ‘voice for agriculture’ over TV or the radio to talk about important farm issues, answer questions, inform the public of agricultural happenings and events, and interview experts in these areas.
- **Agricultural Journalist**—interviews and researches topics to write stories for news papers, radio or TV to inform people about agricultural news and events. This person must have good writing skills, like to work with people, and have an ability to work with different computer programs to publish their work.