



CHOSEN FIELDS

- A Day of Ag
- Fantastic Fields
- Career Vests
- Farmer Hats
- The Dairy Shoppe

Issue 19

Ag – The Nation's Largest Employer

Agriculture is the nation's largest industry covering over 250 career areas. The agricultural industry consists of all the people who help provide food, clothing, and many other products all over the world. In America, approximately 22 million people are employed in the field of agriculture. Agriculture does not consist solely of farmers, otherwise known as producers. In fact, only two percent of the population is involved in production agriculture.

Food Scientist –

Food Scientists use their knowledge of chemistry, bio-chemistry, engineering and microbiology to develop grain, livestock, fruit, and vegetables into new food products. They help to enhance our food supply by assuring its flavor, color, texture, nutritional quality, and safety. Food processing companies, government agencies, and food equipment and ingredient suppliers all hire food scientists. If you are curious about how things work, enjoy solving problems, and like to create new products, food science could be a career for you.

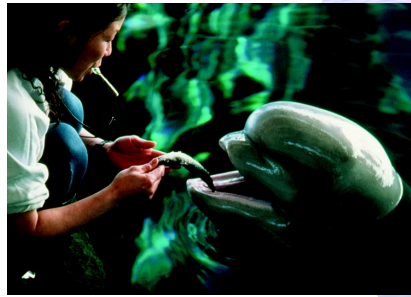


Illinois and Agriculture – A Great Combination

In Illinois, food and agricultural product-processing contributes significantly to the state's economy. One Illinois farmer feeds 94 people in the U.S. and 35 people overseas – that's 129 people per year! Illinois is one of the top ranking states in meat packing, soybean processing, dairy manufacturing, corn processing, feed milling, and vegetable processing. Illinois' fertile soil, favorable climate, availability of good transportation, and industry make it a rich agricultural empire.



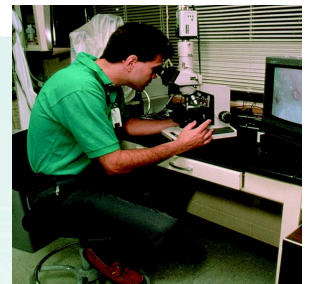
Fantastic Fields



Animal Behaviorist – Animal Behaviorists study what animals do in their natural environments. They study animal relationships such as herding instincts, hierarchy, and which species get along with one another.



Florist – A florist designs floral arrangements, works with customers, delivers flowers, and processes incoming flowers. Managers of floral shops help develop advertisements, make decisions about products to sell, and supervises employees. Managers also meet with customers to finalize arrangements for special events such as weddings.



Marine Scientist – Marine Scientists deal with issues and problems facing marine life. They gather data in the field or laboratories, interpret and evaluate the data and then write reports. Marine Scientists may work for universities, federal or state resource agencies, or consulting firms. If you are interested in marine life, conservation, and coastal and marine resources, a marine scientist could be a career for you.

The Dairy Shoppe

1. Discuss with your teacher the elements of running a small business, such as a coffee shop or soda shop. You will need to understand:

Managers: Management Styles

Kitchen Workers: Safe food handling/work ethic/responsibility

Counter Workers: Cleanliness/positive work ethic/responsibility

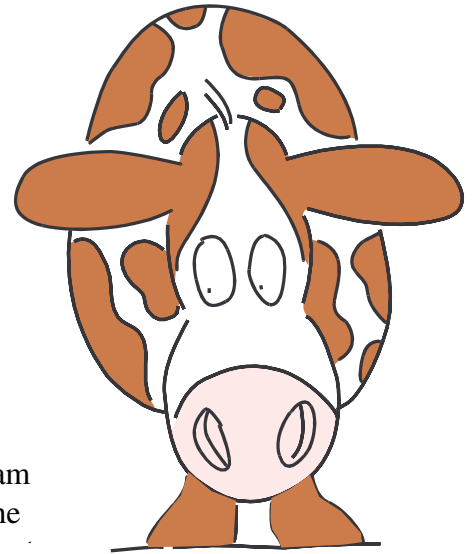
Cashier: Honesty/mathematical accuracy

Bookkeepers: Honesty/recordkeeping

Maintenance: Cleanliness/work ethic/responsibility

Advertising: Promotion/Sales

2. Each person has a vital role in the business and you must all work as a team for the business to be successful. Open a specialty drinks stand called "The Dairy Shoppe" for other students in the school. The stand could serve special drinks such as:
 - Iced Mocha: Carton of chocolate milk served over a cup of ice.
 - Double Mocha: Two cartons of chocolate milk at a discounted price served over a cup of ice.
 - Choco Latte: White and chocolate milk served together over ice.
3. Make posters to advertise the sale of your products. The posters should include information such as the name of your business, when and where you will be selling the drinks, and what types of drinks will be sold.
4. This is a great opportunity to talk with a local shop owner to learn more about a small business and what subjects in school the shop owner now finds most helpful. The students could also write resumes stating their qualifications and experiences, fill out applications, and interview for specific jobs in the small business.



Vested Interests in Careers

Materials Needed: chalkboard or overhead projector, pencils/pens/markers/crayons, brown grocery sacks (1 per student), old magazines, scissors, paper, scraps of colored paper, and glue.

1. Have a brainstorming session about careers in agriculture. List these careers on the chalkboard or overhead projector.
2. Choose a career and research it to find out what someone in that career does for a living and what type of education is needed.
3. Create a vest from a paper bag to visually demonstrate what your chosen person does for his/her career. You could also include skills on your vest that a person would need in that career.
4. Tell the class about the occupation you selected and why. Explain the education and/or training needed.
5. Put the vests on display for others to see and learn about future careers. A career show could also be given to other classrooms.

Career Corner

Jonathan R. Jones

Sous Chef
Jumer Hotels Chateau
Bloomington, IL



How is your job related to agriculture?

My job depends a lot on agriculture. I use prime beef and pork for my dinners. I expect top quality beef, pork, chicken, and lamb.

How did you become interested and get involved in your position?

I was always with my mother in the kitchen cooking, baking, and canning foods. I just loved it. Then I went to college and received a culinary arts degree and sanitation license.

What is your favorite part of your job?

Being out in public listening to all the customers. Some have lots of questions and compliments. It makes your job fun listening to customers.

Tony Rendelman

Illinois Conservation Police
Officer
Illinois Department of Natural
Resources
Jackson County, IL



How did you become interested and get involved in your position?

I became interested in becoming a Conservation Police Officer when I was in high school. I was an avid hunter and fisherman growing up and enjoyed being outdoors. I pursued the field by obtaining an Associate's Degree in Conservation Law Enforcement. I then furthered my education in Administration of Justice.

Jill Gallagher

Zookeeper
Miller Park Zoo
Bloomington, IL



How did you become interested and get involved in your position?

I have always respected animals and while in school learned about different jobs that dealt with animals. When I was old enough, I started volunteering at my local zoo. At the zoo I realized that my love for animals could be extremely useful as a zookeeper. After I received my Bachelor of Science degree, I found a job as a zookeeper.

Do animals need nutritionally balanced meals just as humans do?

All the animals get a recommended diet that generally contains all of the required vitamins and minerals that are needed on a daily basis. These diets are made to represent what an animal would eat in the wild. The zookeepers at Miller Park Zoo also add minerals just in case the diet is lacking certain nutrients.

Describe how your job impacts agriculture.

Farmers rely on Conservation Police Officers to enforce trespass laws on their property along with poaching, which mostly occurs on private property. CPO's work with farmers to issue nuisance removal permits when crop damage or waterway obstruction occurs.

What is your favorite part of your job?

My favorite part of being a Conservation Police Officer is being outdoors. I enjoy meeting new people and working with the fish and wildlife laws. I mostly enjoy the remote controlled deer and turkey decoys, which are used to apprehend poachers in problem areas. I also work very closely with farmers/landowners to take care of issues related to Conservation of our natural resources.