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## Activity 1.3.1 Agriscience Careers and Me

### **Purpose**

Science and technology are instrumental in the production and processing of food, fiber, and renewable natural resources, and are the basis for many careers in agriculture. Studying agriscience careers may help you determine that an agriscience career is right for you and guide you to get the appropriate training and experience necessary for a successful and rewarding career.

An estimated 300 different careers await you if you decide to stay in the field of agriculture. There is a need for approximately 400,000 people to fill positions in agriscience careers each year. Of those positions, there are typically only 100,000 filled by people who are educated and trained in agriscience. The remaining openings go to people who are trained in fields outside of agriculture. Openings in agriscience include areas such as mechanics, sales, genetic engineering, nutrition, and extension.

### **Materials**

#### **Per student:**

Computer with Internet access  
Agriscience Library  
Pencil  
*Agriscience Notebook*

### **Procedure**

In this activity, you will be exploring the career opportunities awaiting you in the fields of agriculture and natural resources. First you will need to join the *National FFA Ag Career Network* if you are not already registered. Your teacher will provide you with login information.

#### **Part One – Careers in Agriculture**

Log into the *Ag Career Network* using the username and password provided.

In the left menu, select **Discover Agcareers**.

Next select **Explore** from the choices on the right. A pop-up window will open. You may have to allow pop-ups for this site.

Select **Learn About Careers** from the left menu. Then select **16 Career Clusters** from the Menu tabs along the top. Finally, select the **Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources** cluster from the list.

Within the AFNR cluster, you will see seven pathways. Take some time to explore each pathway. On *Activity 1.3.1 Student Worksheet*, record the following information for each pathway in Table 1.

Brief overview

Interesting careers

Interesting majors

## Part Two – Finding Your Strengths

1. Return to the main menu by clicking on the **Career Cruising** logo in the top left corner of the screen.

Select **Explore My Interests** from the left menu.

Begin the *Matchmaker and My Skills* by clicking on the **Start Matchmaker** button. Read the onscreen instructions and complete the assessment as instructed.

When you have completed the assessment a list of potential careers that match your interests will be displayed. You can further refine your results by selecting **Answer More Questions** from the *Improve My Results* box on the left side of the screen.

When you have a list of careers that fits you, complete the *My Skills* assessment located in the left menu by clicking on **Start My Skills**.

When this assessment is complete you will see a *Score* next to the careers in your list.

Select three to five careers from your list that interest you and review the attributes of the career. Record your findings in Table 2 of your student worksheet.

## Conclusion

1. Of the careers you reviewed in Part One, which three interest you the most?

Animal systems, Plant systems and environmental service systems.

List three characteristics that make these careers appealing to you.

Animal systems:

1. I like working with animals.
2. There are many kinds of animals to work with.
3. There will always be jobs in this field.

Plant systems:

1. Good to feed many people.
2. Plants are interesting to work with.
3. There are many options and kinds of crops.

Environmental service systems:

1. Involves work outside.
2. Chance to help improve nature.
3. Will always be important career.

## Activity 1.3.1 Student Worksheet

Table 1 Agriculture Pathways			
Pathways	Overview	Careers	College Majors
Animal systems	Work directly with animals or with products that come from animals.	Animal Geneticist Animal physical therapist	Biology Agriculture
Plant system	Understand plants and explore how they impact our world.	Agronomy sales and management Analytical chemist	Chemistry Botany
Natural resources system	Develop, maintain and manages Earth's natural environments.	Aquaculturist Aquaculture hatchery manager	Biology Conservation
Agricultural education	Prepare students to be successful in their agricultural professions.	College recruiter Extension faculty	Agriculture Education

Power, structural & technical systems	Apply technology and science while working with equipment.	Benefits manager Bioinformatic scientist	Engineering Science
Agribusiness systems	Connect the business world and agriculture with a variety of diverse careers.	Administrative Assistant Crops system specialist	Business Agriculture
Environmental service systems	Combine science and engineering to make Earth a cleaner and healthier place.	Biological technician Environmental engineer	Engineering Biology

Table 2 My Career Options		
Animal systems	Plant systems	Environmental service systems
This career is where you work with animals or animal products such as beef or pork production dairy. Dairy would be animal products such as milk and cheese.	Working with plants as a direct source of food for people to eat or as a feed for livestock. Plants can also have many other uses as well.	Working with environmental assessment to be able to determine impacted areas. This can also be used as information to improve the environmental health of an area.