

Name: _____

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 log in information.

Part One – Careers in Agriculture

1. Log into the *Ag Career Network* using the username and password provided.
2. In the left menu, select **Discover Ag Careers**.
3. 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.
4. 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.
5. 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.
2. Select **Explore My Interests** from the left menu.
3. Begin the *Matchmaker and My Skills* by clicking on the **Start Matchmaker** button. Read the onscreen instructions and complete the assessment as instructed.
4. 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.
5. 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**.
6. When this assessment is complete you will see a *Score* next to the careers in your list.
7. 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?

2. List three characteristics that make these careers appealing to you.

Activity 1.3.1 Student Worksheet

Table 1 Agriculture Pathways			
Pathways	Overview	Careers	College Majors
Agribusiness	connecting business and agriculture with a variety of different careers	accountant, ag. lawyer	High school diploma or ; a bachelor degree
animal systems	working directly with animals or animal products	beef cattle farm worker, animal geneticist	high school diploma; bachelor's degree
environmental service systems	combine science and engineering to make a better place	environmental engineer, ecologist	bachelor's degree; bachelor's degree
food products and processing systems	work w/ the physical, biological, and chemical apparel of foods	food production supervisor, food safety specialist	bachelor's degree; bachelor's degree
natural resource systems	develop, maintain and manage earth's natural environments	conservationist, geologist	bachelor's degree; bachelor's degree
plant systems	understand plants and how they impact our world	crop advisor, crop scout	bachelor's degree; no needed
agriculture education	preparing students to be successful in their ag. professions	ag. science teacher, intern	bachelors; associate/bachelor's degree

Table 2 My Career Options		

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