

Career Exploration

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Goal (learning objective)

Youth will learn about animal agricultural careers and how they connect to each other to make the industry function.

Supplies

- Handout 1- “Animal Agriculture Career Description Cards” (one copy for instructor and make enough copies so each child gets one career card once they have been cut up)
- Handout 2- “Career Bank” (one for each member)
- Handout 3 - “Description of Agricultural Areas (one copy)
- Handout 4 - “Animal Agriculture Careers” (one copy for instructor)
- Four bowls (buckets or bins)
- Pencils (or pens) enough for group
- Flip chart paper and marker or chalkboard and chalk

Pre-lesson preparation

- Make copies of Handouts:
- Cut out Animal Agriculture Areas from Handout 3, tape one to each bowl (bucket or bin)
- Cut out Career Description Cards from Handout 1
- Read/review lesson and resource materials

Lesson directions and outline

Share the following information with the youth:

There are a wide variety of animal agricultural careers that many people do not know or think about when searching for a field to enter in to. If you are involved in 4-H animal science project, it shows interest in the animal science field. There are many potential careers

in animal agriculture and learning about all the options may help you decide what field to enter in to.

These careers can be separated into four major areas:

- **Production-management:** This area is for individuals who enjoy the opportunity to work directly with animals. These careers allow you to be involved with the production of animals for human use or consumption. Some careers may involve most of your time being outdoors. Other options in production-management pertain to the health treatment and care of animals.
- **Agribusiness:** Careers in this area can be for individuals who enjoy being around animals but not the direct production or treatment of them. Many people are employed to produce goods and services that are necessary to produce livestock.
- **Government Agencies:** Opportunities in government agency careers are varied. Government agencies careers are best fit for individuals who want to assist and service producers and consumers. This area does not provide direct connections to animals but allows an individual to help people in all disciplines of animal science.
- **Research and Teaching:** Research and teaching careers are for individuals who enjoy speaking and helping others learn about animal agriculture. These careers offer opportunity to advance agriculture through technology, information, and even the potential to help others discover their passion for animal agriculture.

Conducting the activity (DO)

Activity 1

1. Ask for a volunteer to handout to each member one Career Description Card (from Handout 1) and a Career Bank (Handout 2).
2. Make sure every member has a pen/pencil. Ask the youth write any additional things that they believe a person in that career does.
3. Have youth come up one by one and share just the facts about their career without revealing what the career is. Have the rest of the group guess what the career is based on the Career Bank provided (Handout 2).
4. Once the group has guessed their career, have the youth who has the card determine what area of agriculture (Production Management, Agribusiness, Government Agencies, or Research & Teaching) their career belongs in and drop it into the respective receptacle (help the youth as needed).
5. Go through as many different careers as possible.

Activity 2

1. Once the youth have placed their career cards into the correct place, the next step is to place the careers into a logical order of how they are all connected.
2. You may split the youth into groups (make as many groups as you are comfortable with).
3. Provide groups with scissors, have one youth cut out each of the careers from their word bank for their group.
4. Once the group has identified the order ask members how each career is connected to the career behind and in front of it.

What did we learn? (REFLECT)

- Ask: What are careers in agriculture that you learned about that you didn't know before?
- Ask: How are careers in animal agriculture influenced by other careers?

Why is that important? (APPLY)

- Ask: How can you contribute to animal agriculture with your career choice?
- Ask: What are other areas of agriculture besides animal based, that you may be able to start a career in?
- Ask: How can you begin preparing for a career in agriculture?

Resources

- Agriculture Council of America. (2017). National Ag Day. *Careers in Agriculture*. Retrieved from: <https://www.agday.org/careers-in-agriculture>
- Ohio State University Extension. (2011). Careers in Animal Science. *Beef resource handbook* (page 15-1 through 15-5).
- Ohio State University Extension. (2008). Careers in Animal Science. *Goat resource handbook* (pages 173-174).
- Ohio State University Extension. (2011). Careers in Animal Science. *Sheep resource handbook for market and breeding projects* (pages 131-133).
- Ohio State University Extension. (2000). Careers in Animal Science. *Swine resource handbook for market and breeding projects* (pages 25-1 through 25-4).

ADVOCACY: CAREER EXPLORATION – HANDOUT 1

Animal Agriculture Career Description Cards:

Livestock Producer

A person that raises animals to sell to others interested in raising livestock. A person is considered a producer whether they have one or many animals.

Agricultural Broadcaster

they use radio or television to report on stories that will be found relevant by agricultural viewers, but that also may be used by regional and national outlets reaching non-ag viewers.

Artificial Insemination (AI) Technician

Someone trained to use semen collected from the male animal and used to breed a female animal. This person usually uses semen that has been frozen. The technician thaws the semen and uses the proper tools to inseminate or breed the female,

Veterinarian

A person that has received a college degree to be able to provide animal care. A vet is similar to a medical doctor for people except they only work to keep animals healthy.

Animal Geneticist

Analyzes the genetic makeup of animals to discover which genes cause them to behave certain ways. Geneticists may also study animal health to determine what causes animals be immune to specific diseases or fail to thrive in certain environments.

Nutritionist

A person with a college degree that determines the types of feed ingredients and feed formulations that will help animals grow the most efficiently.

Feed Salesperson

A person that works for a feed company to sell feed to feed stores, large ranches and feedlots. This person usually travels to places that sell feed to let them know about the product he has available.

Herd Manager

This person is usually hired by a farm or ranch owner to see that the animals are provided the proper daily care. This would include proper feed, proper health care and make sure there are good facilities to house the animals.

Extension Educator or Specialist

A person with a college degree that works for the state university to provided educational, researched based information to the local community. They may have a knowledge in agriculture or home and family issues.

Breed Association Representative A person that works for animal breed associations to help breeders with knowledge about those animals and to promote the breed to other people that may be interested.

Ag Magazine Editor

A person that puts together an agriculture information magazine to share latest products, successful practices, etc. This person may assign writers to research and write stories based on current industry topics.

Ag Loan Officer

This person has experience in the banking industry. They work with farmers and ranchers or others involved in agriculture to provide funding. They help producers determine the best ways to repay loaned monies.

Waste Disposal Specialist

This person works with owners of livestock facilities to help them determine how to manage the animal waste (manure and feed) from the farm, ranch or feedlot.

Livestock Transporter

This person has a truck and trailer to haul animals for other people. They provide the opportunity for people to buy animals and then have them hauled to the new location.

Livestock Buyer

A person that buys livestock for his own operation, buys livestock for others to feed, buys livestock for other producers. The buyer usually has an order of what livestock is needed and an acceptable price range to pay.

Processing Plant Manager

This person works to make sure that the agriculture product or commodity processed by the plant is done efficiently. They may manage employees and oversee all aspects of getting the product ready to be used or marketed.

USDA Meat Inspector A Meat Inspector ensures that meat is safe from contamination and that the process it goes through follows quality assurance regulations. They inspect all meat products including, poultry, seafood, beef, pork, etc. before the initial packaging.

Meat Cutter

A person that works in a meat packing plant or grocery store. This person knows how to break down animal carcasses into wholesale and retail cuts. They may also prepare and package the meat to be sold.

Food Technologist

Food technologists oversee all aspects of product development, reviewing and approving nutritional data, writing product specifications and enforcing USDA labeling regulations on new and modified food products.

Quality Assurance Auditor

Monitors companies' production process to ensure they are in compliance with governmental regulations.

Restaurant Manager

Oversee the day to management of a restaurant for the owner. They make sure the commodities needed to make food are available and the employees are trained to take care of customers.

Feedlot Manager

oversee daily operations of feed yards. They provide knowledge and support for heard nutrition, marketing, and environmental conditions for livestock in feedlots.

Social Media Strategist

Develop, manage and track internet content on their employer's social media pages. Because of the popularity of social media, social media strategists play a crucial role in defining agriculture's brand to the masses.

Marketing Specialists Are responsible for getting the appropriate communication message and medium delivered to the public. By doing so, they ensure that the company meets their sales goals. Marketing Specialists also watch over companies'/clients promotions for their products and services through their marketing skill sets.

Veterinary Technician

Responsible for the well-being of animals. They work hand-in-hand with veterinarians providing the essential medical procedures to ensure that animals are healthy.

Embryologist

An embryologist provides reproductive services and research in the areas of embryo creation, IVF (in vitro fertilization), cloning, and transgenic animal production.

Food Safety Specialist

Food Safety Specialists are responsible for meeting food safety standards. They oversee that foods are processed, packaged, and prepared according to those specific standards. he standards can be implemented by their company or regulatory organizations.

Agricultural Science Teacher Responsible for the education of agriculture, food science, and natural resources for students. Using these topics, agricultural science teachers can give students vital skills that are important in the ag industry. These skills include: math, science, leadership, technology, communications, and management. They can also go the extra step in providing strong agricultural education by advising their school's FFA Chapter.

Brand Inspector Brand Inspectors must check brands on livestock. They check any documents that show ownership such as bills of sale and shipping manifest. They issue brand inspection papers when cattle are sold or are going to be transported they are a law enforcement official.

Game Warden

Game wardens work at the state or federal level, enforcing laws related to hunting and fishing. Work to arrest offenders as well as assist with wildlife conservation efforts.

Agricultural Lobbyist Agriculture lobbyists work to make sure government officials hear the voice and position of companies, organizations, industries or even communities. It is their goal to influence policy development and look out for the interests of the individuals they represent.

ADVOCACY: CAREER EXPLORATION – HANDOUT 2

Career Bank

Livestock Producer

Agricultural Broadcaster

Restaurant Manager

Livestock Buyer

Food Safety Specialist

Food Technologist

Feedlot Manager

Agriculture Science Teacher

Feed Salesperson

Embryologist

Quality Assurance Auditor

Marketing Specialist

Artificial Insemination Technician

Ag Loan Officer

Agricultural Lobbyist

Brand Inspector

Game Warden

Veterinary Technician

Waste Disposal Specialist

Livestock Transporter

Meat Cutter

Livestock Producer

Nutritionist

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USDA Meat Inspector

Breed Association Representative

Extension Educator or Specialist

Processing Plant Manager

Descriptions of Agricultural Career Areas

Production Management

This area is for individuals who enjoy the opportunity to work directly with animals. These careers allow you to be involved with the production of animals for human use or consumption. Some careers may involve most of your time being outdoors. Other options in production-management pertain to the health treatment and care of animals.

Agribusiness

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Government Agencies

Opportunities in government agency careers are varied. Government agencies careers are best fit for individuals who want to assist and service producers and consumers. This area does not provide direct connections to animals but allows an individual to help people in all disciplines of animal science.

Research & Teaching

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ADVOCACY: CAREER EXPLORATION – HANDOUT 4

Animal Agriculture Careers



(Figure 15.01)