



FINANCIAL EDUCATION FROM AMERICAN CENTURY INVESTMENTS®

Yes, You Can MoneyClips eNews

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Careers in Agriculture Can Hit Pay Dirt

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Agriculture continues to be a growing industry, encompassing agribusiness and food science careers. While the number of family farmers has declined, more than 22 million Americans now work in a total of 200 ag-related careers, according to the Agriculture Council of America (agday.org). With so many ag-related careers available, and demand for these jobs increasing, careers in agriculture can be a great fit for students looking for their next step.

A study conducted by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and Purdue University reports, “Between 2015 and 2020, we expect to see 57,900 average annual openings for graduates with bachelor’s or higher degrees” in the areas of agriculture, food, renewable natural resources and the environment.

According to the study, the jobs in highest demand are plant scientists, food scientists, sustainable biomaterials specialists, water-resources scientists and engineers, precision agriculture specialists and farm-animal veterinarians. By percentage, the employment opportunities are:

- 46 percent in ag management and business
- 27 percent in science and engineering
- 15 percent in food and biomaterials production
- 12 percent in education, communication and governmental services

“Whether they grow up on a farm or in the city, many youths today are drawn to ag careers because they’re aware of the FutureFood 2050 initiative and are interested in feeding the world through science and technology,” said Russ Weathers, CEO of Agriculture Future of America (AFA).

Several organizations help prepare students for ag-related careers, including:

- **AFA**, agfuture.org, identifies, encourages and supports “outstanding college men and

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women preparing for careers in the agriculture and food industry” through scholarships, internships and training programs.

- **National FFA Organization**, formerly known as Future Farmers of America, offers career development events in ag communications, dairy cattle management, farm business management, meat and poultry evaluation, and food science and technology. Grants and scholarships are also available (ffa.org).
- **4-H** operates in every county in the U.S., offering programs that include agri-science, veterinary science and aquaculture, a method of raising vegetables and seafood (4-H.org).

For high school seniors looking into colleges and universities, Colleges of Agriculture at land-grant universities are one of the best places to obtain required degrees for today’s high-tech ag careers. All 50 states have at least one land-grant university, established through the Morrill Act in the 19th century to teach agriculture and mechanical arts, as well as to provide a well-rounded liberal arts education.

Common study areas include agricultural economics, farm management, plant breeding, agronomy animal sciences, entomology, food science, horticulture, ag education and journalism.

Interview Tips

- Interview your career counselor or science/biology teachers to gain further insight into ag-related careers.
- Interview someone in your community whose job pertains to agriculture.
- Research and provide a list of the top 10 Colleges of Agriculture as a side-bar to your main article.

About Yes, You Can

Financial education has always been important to American Century Investments, which believes one of the greatest gifts it can offer is the opportunity for children and young adults to learn how to achieve financial independence.

Yes, You Can is based, in part, on the beliefs of Jim Stowers, founder of American Century Investments and co-founder, with Virginia Stowers, of the Stowers Institute for Medical Research. For more information on the *Yes, You Can* program, visit <http://www.YesYouCanOnline.info>.

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