



Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Find Your
Future
With Us

AgDiscovery 2025

Summer Youth Program





Investing in the Future of American Agriculture

Are you a middle or high school student¹ looking for a one-of-a-kind summer internship with an opportunity to live and study on a college campus and improve your résumé for college?

Are you a teacher or parent looking for opportunities to expand your students' view of agriculture?

Look no further! The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) offers you an opportunity of a lifetime!

AgDiscovery is a free summer outreach program to help teenagers explore careers in agricultural sciences.

As an AgDiscovery student, you'll live on a college campus for 2–4 weeks and learn from university professors and USDA experts—plant and animal scientists, biotechnologists, veterinarians, wildlife biologists, administrative professionals, and others. You'll gain hands-on experience through labs, workshops, and field trips; participate in character- and team-building activities; and join in many other fun and educational events. It's a unique chance to get a first-hand look at the many exciting career paths in agriculture.

This year, 20 colleges and universities are participating in AgDiscovery. Each school's program focuses on a specific area of interest to our Nation's agriculture, from plant health, entomology, and biotechnology to veterinary science, animal welfare, food science, and agribusiness. Read on to learn more about this year's program, including dates, locations, and how to apply.

¹ Grade level requirements vary at participating universities. For details, see page 22.

Alcorn State University



JUNE 8–21, 2025

Explore the amazing world of **agriculture, animal science, plant and soil science, and veterinary medicine** through the AgDiscovery summer enrichment program hosted by Alcorn State University's School of Agriculture and Applied Sciences in Lorman, MS. Campers will participate in a variety of hands-on activities, visit research centers and labs, and go behind-the-scenes at a zoo. They will also learn about career opportunities from university and USDA professionals, veterinarians, and other specialists in agriculture and related fields.

Contacts

Dr. Dexter Wakefield, 601-877-6137, wakeph@alcorn.edu

Manola C. Erby, 601-877-6128, mcerby@alcorn.edu

www.alcorn.edu/extension

Founded in 1871, Alcorn State University is the oldest public historically black land-grant institution in the United States and the second oldest State-supported institution of higher learning in Mississippi. Alcorn provides access and opportunity for diverse students to excel intellectually, build character, and overcome barriers so they can become productive leaders who make meaningful contributions to society. Enhancing its historic strengths in agriculture, education, and nursing, Alcorn State offers a range of undergraduate and graduate programs, including fine arts, business, humanities, social and behavioral sciences, and STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math).

The University accomplishes its mission through high standards of academic excellence, scholarly research and discovery, and public service and outreach that address real-world challenges and the economic needs of the Southwest Mississippi River region, State of Mississippi, the nation, and the world. Some of its noteworthy alumni include Alex Haley, Michael Clarke Duncan, Medgar Wiley Evers, Donald Driver, and Steve McNair, among others.



California State University, Fresno



JUNE 9–19, 2025

In a highly interactive environment, learn about career opportunities in a broad range of fields: **animal and veterinary services, plant health and production, food safety and processing**, and the overarching business skills needed to move agriculture from farm to fork. You will be introduced to the university's 1,000-acre diversified farm and food processing facilities before being immersed in real-world experiences. Offered through the Jordan College of Agricultural Sciences and Technology, this program works to inform, prepare, and motivate young people to make positive contributions to the future successes of agriculture.

Contacts

Hannah Price, (559) 278-2971, hannahprice@mail.fresnostate.edu

www.fresnostate.edu

fresnostate.edu/jcast

California State University, Fresno, was established in 1911 and is part of the 23-campus California State University system. This 1,400-acre campus is located in the heart of the Central San Joaquin Valley, one of the most productive agricultural regions in the world. With over 400 commodities in California, students have a wide variety of opportunities in food, agriculture, and natural resources. The Jordan College of Agricultural Sciences and Technology is one of eight schools/colleges at the university. The Jordan College enjoys a strong and mutually supportive relationship with the agricultural industry.



Coppin State University



JULY 13–25, 2025

Explore careers in **plant, animal, and environmental sciences and agribusiness** through experiential learning and workshops. You'll learn directly from USDA scientists how the U.S. Government protects America's food system. You will live on the university's campus in Baltimore, MD, and interact with faculty and the neighboring community. You'll be engaged in a variety of laboratory exercises, activities, and field trips to agricultural research centers and laboratories.

Contacts

Dr. Mintesinot Jiru, (410) 951-4139, mjiru@coppin.edu

www.coppin.edu

Coppin State University is a model urban, residential liberal arts university within the University System of Maryland, located in the northwest section of the City of Baltimore. The university offers academic programs in the arts and sciences, including biology, chemistry, nursing, graduate studies, and continuing education. An HBCU (historically black colleges and universities), Coppin State has a culturally rich history of delivering quality educational programs, research, and community outreach services. It offers 53 majors and 9 graduate degree programs. A fully accredited institution, Coppin State continues to grow and diversify its academic programs to contribute to the workforce demands of the State of Maryland and the country at large.



Delaware State University



JULY 6–19, 2025

Learn about **protecting the health of plants and animals while exploring careers in agribusiness**. This program is a comprehensive agriculture business experience. You'll gain valuable information through unique learning challenges and learn about the inner workings of various careers in agriculture. You will live on the Delaware State University (DSU) campus in Dover and learn about a variety of administrative professions from university professors and agriculture employees.

Contacts

Harry Thayer, (302) 857-6434, hthayer@desu.edu

www.desu.edu

DSU has a long and proud history as one of America's HBCUs. It has a blend of both long-standing traditions and growing diversity. Founded in 1891 as the State College for Colored Students, DSU takes pride in its heritage as one of the country's first land-grant educational institutions, rooted early on in agriculture and education. DSU's current population includes 67-percent African-American enrollment and an increasing number of Caucasian, Hispanic, Asian, and international students. With a changing world comes a changing campus, and DSU prepares its students for the global challenges of the new millennium and beyond. The university is a welcome center of learning for people from many cultural backgrounds who speak several different languages and dialects. A melting pot for education, DSU today remains well in the vanguard of other 4-year institutions throughout the region and country. In keeping with the DSU motto, our students are truly "making their mark on the world."



Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University



JUNE 8–21, 2025

Explore careers in animal science and related fields, including **veterinary medicine; animal husbandry, management, and behavior; and other animal health and welfare concerns**. You may live on the Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University (FAMU), Tallahassee campus and work with various animal species. You'll apply your instruction and training in practical, hands-on activities, such as blood sample collection, animal health inspection role-playing, laboratory work, research and data processing, and field trips in various animal and related industries. This program offers many different experiences in animal science, team building, and life skills to help you better understand and refine your career path. It also gives you the opportunity to apply for early admission to FAMU.

Contacts

Dr. Carmen Lyttle-N'guessan, (850) 412-5363,
carmen.lyttlenguessa@famu.edu

Dr. Glen Wright, (850) 599-3546, glen.wright@famu.edu

cafs.famu.edu/cooperative-extension/AgDiscovery.php

FAMU is an 1890 land-grant institution dedicated to advancing knowledge, resolving complex issues, and empowering citizens and communities. The university offers a student-centered environment consistent with its core values. The faculty is committed to educating students at the undergraduate, graduate, doctoral, and professional levels, preparing graduates to apply their knowledge, critical thinking skills, and creativity in their service to society. FAMU's distinction as a doctoral/research institution will continue offering ways to address emerging issues through local and global partnerships. Expanding on its land-grant status, the university enhances constituents' lives through innovative research, engaging cooperative extension, and public service. While the university continues its historic mission of educating African Americans, FAMU embraces persons of all races, ethnic origins, and nationalities as life-long members of the university community.



Fort Valley State University



JUNE 9–20, 2025

Come and explore all areas of **veterinary medicine and animal science** while enjoying university campus life. You'll have the opportunity to work with many species, from fish to horses. There will be hands-on biotechnology and animal care laboratories. You will also interact with and learn from a diverse array of university researchers, USDA employees, and local farm owners and workers. The university's College of Agriculture, Family Sciences and Technology hosts this program.

Contacts

Dr. Brou Kouakou, (478) 827-3091, kouakoub@fvsu.edu

Karla M. Hollis, (202) 253-4218, karla.hollis@usda.gov

Terrell Hollis, (478) 827-3078, hollist@fvsu.edu

www.fvsu.edu

Fort Valley State University (FVSU), located in Fort Valley, GA, is the only 1890 land-grant university in the 26-member State University System of Georgia. FVSU offers bachelor's degrees in more than 50 majors, including education, business administration, biology, and agriculture (which is most popular), as well as master's degrees in animal science, biotechnology, and public health. As the second largest campus of public universities in Georgia, with 1,365 acres and over 2,500 students, FVSU engages the community through cooperative extension efforts with Federal, State, and county governments and agencies that enhance agriculture, the environment, natural resources, family health, and youth well-being.



Iowa State University

IOWA STATE
UNIVERSITY

JULY 13–26, 2025

Learn about **wildlife biology and conservation, laboratory technology and diagnostics, animal science, and veterinary medicine**. You'll gain hands-on experience on the farm, in wildlife environments, and in the laboratory. Activities will include field trips to several types of farms; lab exercises such as bacterial culture, egg candling and inoculations, animal necropsies (dissections), veterinary clinical procedures, and diagnostic testing; and field trips to conservation areas, zoological facilities, animal shelters, and research facilities. You will participate in team-building activities and explore the local culture. Students who have completed a general biology or animal science course will benefit most from the program activities.

Contacts

Alexis Campbell, Ph.D., (515) 294-1390

Aura Baquero, (515) 766-8134

agdiscovery@iastate.edu

agdiscovery.cals.iastate.edu

Iowa State University (ISU) is an international, prestigious, public land-grant and space-grant university with a friendly, welcoming personality, located in Ames, IA. It is the largest university in Iowa, home to the Nation's first College of Veterinary Medicine, and the place where the world's first electronic digital computer was invented. Over 35,000 students choose from over 110 majors, study with world-class scholars, and hone their leadership skills in more than 800 student organizations. ISU offers a great environment where students can enjoy reaching their potential and discovering their passions. The school's culturally diverse student body represents all 50 States and more than 126 countries.



Kentucky State University

JUNE 1–14, 2025



Welcome to horse country, the home of thoroughbreds! Experience campus life while exploring the fields of **animal science, veterinary medicine, and the business side of agriculture**. Engage in hands-on activities such as animal dissection, goat venipuncture, and field trips to a horse farm, dairy farm, and a behind-the-scenes zoo tour. These experiences are guided by university professionals, veterinarians, and specialists from various agricultural and animal science industries.

Contacts

Dr. Shawn Gardner, (502) 597-6061, shawn.gardner@kysu.edu

Brian Walker, (502) 597-6936, brian.walker1@kysu.edu

www.kysu.edu

Founded in 1887, Kentucky State University (KSU) is a historically black college that is strengthened by both its liberal arts and 1890 land-grant missions. Although KSU is the smallest of Kentucky's public universities, with a student enrollment of about 2,700 students, the school takes pride in its legacy of achievement. KSU affords access to and prepares a diverse student population of traditional and nontraditional students to compete in a multifaceted, ever-changing global society. With a strong focus on student-centered learning, the university integrates teaching, research, and service through high-quality undergraduate and select graduate programs.



Lincoln University in Missouri



JULY 6–19, 2025

Harvest products from the organic farm, examine fish species at our aquaculture center, learn how to detect plant disease in our plant and soil lab, and explore urban farming opportunities during your experience at Lincoln University. You'll gain a new understanding of **animal and plant science** and its importance on a national and global scale through hands-on activities in many different areas: animal science, such as pregnancy examinations of cattle; aquaculture; biohazards; aquaponics; nutrition; and urban gardening. The program will help you develop as a leader and critical thinker. You will also learn about different cultures, career fields, and cutting-edge practices in agriculture. Part of your stay will be in air-conditioned log cabins nestled in the woods at the university-owned Busby Farm. The remainder of your nights will be spent in student housing on the main campus.

Contacts

Callie Newsom, (573) 681-5525, newsomc@lincolnu.edu

www.lincolnu.edu

As the oldest of the 1890 land-grant schools, the 169-acre Lincoln University main campus is located in the hills with a panoramic view of Jefferson City, MO. The institution serves approximately 3,300 students, both undergraduate and graduate. Lincoln students can choose from an array of undergraduate majors, including agriculture, environmental science, agribusiness, biology, chemistry, criminal justice, medical technology, physics, and wellness. Those continuing their education can earn master's degrees in business administration, history and sociology, environmental science, and several fields of education.



North Carolina State University

NC STATE UNIVERSITY

JUNE 16–27, 2025

Learn about careers in **plant and animal science**. You'll live on campus in dorms and learn field and laboratory research techniques from university professors and practicing entomologists, botanists, plant pathologists, and veterinarians who work for the U.S. Government. Students who have completed a freshman science course will benefit most from the program's activities. The Science House at North Carolina State University (NCSU) facilitates this program.

Contacts

Jayne Carlisle (919) 515-9402, ajcarli4@ncsu.edu

Camille Morris, (919) 855-7340, camille.e.morris@usda.gov

Jason Painter, (919) 515-5585, jlpainte@ncsu.edu

sciencehouse.ncsu.edu

With more than 31,000 students and nearly 8,000 faculty and staff, NCSU is a comprehensive university known for its leadership in education and research and is globally recognized for its science, technology, engineering, and mathematics leadership. As one of the leading land-grant institutions in the Nation, NCSU is committed to playing an active and vital role in improving the quality of life for the citizens of North Carolina, the Nation, and the world. Consistently ranked among the Nation's top 50 public universities and ranked by The Princeton Review and Money Magazine as a best value for students, NCSU is a place where students can fit in—and dig in. NCSU students start work on their major as freshmen, whether it's conducting research alongside faculty or starting a challenging co-op or internship.



Prairie View A&M University



JUNE 1–13, 2025

The field of agriculture is not only about plants, animals, and farming. Agriculture covers a broad range of other industries and career possibilities. At Prairie View A&M University, you will learn about careers in animal sciences and related fields, including **veterinary medicine, plant and soil science, natural resources, environmental sciences, and food science and sustainability**. You will stay in on-campus housing, interact with our agriculture family and surrounding community, take part in team-building activities, meet with current Prairie View students, and delve into hands-on activities with professors using cutting-edge industry techniques. You will attend educational workshops and field trips to help set your career path and connect with the job industry.

Contacts

TeneInger Abrom Johnson (936) 261-2509, tabrom-johnson@pvamu.edu

Jacklyn Sanders (936) 261-2515, jssanders@pvamu.edu

www.pvamu.edu/cafnr | All inquiries please use: cafnr-summer@pvamu.edu
www.pvamu.edu/cahs

Prairie View A&M University opened its doors in 1876 as the second oldest public institution of higher learning in the State of Texas. With an established reputation for producing engineers, nurses, and educators, PVAMU offers baccalaureate degrees in more than 70 degree programs, 9 colleges and schools including agriculture, architecture, education, engineering, business, arts and sciences, nursing, juvenile justice and public and allied health. A member of the Texas A&M University System, the university is dedicated to fulfilling its land-grant mission of achieving excellence in teaching, research, and services. The College of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources, the division of land-grant programs at Prairie View A&M University, providing training for students to enter careers in animal, crop and the environmental food and human nutritional sciences, and agricultural and resource economics.



Purdue University

JULY 6–18, 2025

PURDUE
UNIVERSITY.

AgDiscovery Camp at Purdue University is a unique partnership between the College of Agriculture, the College of Veterinary Medicine, and the USDA's Agricultural Research Service. This 2-week residential experience offers participants hands-on learning opportunities in **various agriculture and veterinary science fields**. Students will engage in lab work, visit farms, interact with industry leaders, and connect with current Purdue undergraduates and veterinary students. Participants will collaborate in groups throughout the program to present their projects during a closing symposium celebration. In addition to these experiences, participants will gain valuable insights to help them consider Purdue University as their future home for undergraduate studies.

Contacts

Zachary Brown, (765) 476-9035

Dr. Pamala V. Morris, (765) 494-8293, pmorris@purdue.edu

DeJah Hall, (765) 496-4702, duhall@purdue.edu

www.purdue.edu | ag.purdue.edu

www.vet.purdue.edu

Founded in 1869, Purdue University is Indiana's land-grant institution and one of the nation's premier universities. Offering more than 200 undergraduate majors, over 70 master's and doctoral programs, and professional degrees in pharmacy and veterinary medicine, Purdue is recognized for its cutting-edge research and academic excellence. With students representing all 50 states and over 130 countries, the West Lafayette campus thrives on its vibrant, diverse community. As a top-10 public university with two colleges ranked in the nation's top four, Purdue delivers world-class education and research on an unmatched scale. Over 105,000 students are enrolled across various campuses and learning modalities, including nearly 50,000 at the West Lafayette campus alone. Demonstrating its commitment to affordability, Purdue has maintained a tuition freeze for 13 consecutive years. The Colleges of Agriculture and Veterinary Medicine are both located on the main campus in West Lafayette, IN.



South Carolina State University



JUNE 8–21, 2025

The AgDiscovery program, hosted by the College of Agriculture, Family and Consumer Sciences, offers an exciting adventure of self-discovery and an exploration of agriculture with a focus on **plant science, animal science and agribusiness**. While residing on the university's charming campus, you will participate in hands-on activities that include animal emergency response, plant and soil science, as well as go on exciting field trips. Your experience will also include interactions with agriculture industry leaders and professionals who will provide a first-hand look at potential career opportunities in the industry. A program highlight features a 2-week adventure with a 4-day, 3-night stay in McCormick, SC at the South Carolina Governor's School for Agriculture at John de la Howe. On this real working farm, you will experience equipment operations and tractor driving, beekeeping and pollination, equine lessons and horseback riding, and animal care. Additional planned activities at John de la Howe include a farm tour and nature boat tour, along with some "reel" fun with a youth fishing rodeo. The South Carolina State University (SCSU) College of Agriculture, Family and Consumer Sciences facilitates this program in collaboration with USDA partners and industry representatives.

Contacts

Ms. Demier Z. Richardson-Sanders, (803) 533-3664 or (803) 855-2502, dricha6@scsu.edu

Dr. Edoe Agbojan, (803) 533-3672 or (803) 747-0128, eagbodjan@scsu.edu
scsu.edu

Since 1896, SCSU has maintained a legacy of excellence in education. It has been home to generations of scholars and leaders in business, military service, government, athletics, education, medicine, science, and engineering technology. Located in Orangeburg, SCSU was founded as a land-grant college with a mission of providing research, education, and service to the citizens of South Carolina.



Tuskegee University

JUNE 15–28, 2025

Learn about career opportunities in **animal and plant health**, focusing on areas such as environmental science, animal science, entomology, plant science, soil science, water quality, and related disciplines. The program also has a strong leadership component designed to empower you to achieve as you work toward your future career.



Contacts

Dr. Jacqueline Jackson, (334) 724-4953, jjackson1@tuskegee.edu

www.tuskegee.edu/agritrek

Tuskegee University, founded in 1881 by Booker T. Washington, is a national, independent, and State-related institution of higher learning in Alabama that services a diverse, coeducational student body of more than 3,000. Tuskegee's College of Agriculture, Environment and Nutrition Sciences (CAENS) offers an education that prepares future professionals and leaders in the life sciences through coursework along with research and outreach activities. CAENS programs are influenced by the college's inherited legacy of George Washington Carver and his many contributions to teaching, research, and outreach in agriculture.



University of Arizona

JUNE 16–28, 2025

You will learn about career opportunities in **animal and plant health**, including agricultural sciences, soil science and conservation, crop management, natural resources, veterinary sciences, animal care, animal and plant disease eradication, plant pathology, botany, entomology, microbiology, food safety, and emerging technologies in agriculture, including the use of drones. You will experience many aspects of agricultural science, agribusiness, veterinary services, and college campus life through various field and lab activities. This program takes place at the University of Arizona's main campus in Tucson, AZ, and at the University of Arizona's distance campus in Yuma, AZ. If selected to participate, you must be able to tolerate extreme summer temperatures.



Contacts

Dustin C. Sandberg, (520) 285-5408, dustin.c.sandberg@usda.gov

Gloria Magaña, (760) 890-3213, gloria.magana@usda.gov

Dr. Baleshka Brenes, (928) 446-0253, bbrenes@arizona.edu

Dr. Gerardo U. Lopez, (520) 834-2795, lopezg3@arizona.edu

ag.arizona.edu

The University of Arizona (UArizona) is a premier, public research university. Established in 1885 as the first university in Arizona and the State's land-grant university, UArizona is building a better Arizona through access, quality, and discovery. As the primary land-grant component of the university, the College of Agriculture, Life and Environmental Sciences administers a variety of programs at its regional Agricultural Centers and engages in Cooperative Extension efforts with Federal, State, and county governments and agencies. These efforts enhance agriculture, the environment, natural resources, family and youth well-being, and the development of local communities.



University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff



JUNE 7–20, 2025

Work with plants and animals to discover the effects of insects and diseases on American agriculture. During this program, you'll engage in hands-on training activities in **regulatory science, agricultural career and educational paths, environmental biology, industrial health and safety, plant and soil science, animal science, aquaculture and fisheries, and human sciences**. A field trip to the Little Rock Air Force Base allows you to learn about the purpose and significance of wildlife management near airports. Other activities include an overnight stay at the Heifer Ranch, where you'll explore agriculture and living in other countries, a tour of the Environmental Toxicology Facility Farm Complex/Equine Center at Arkansas State University, and much more. The program also includes information on the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff (UAPB) Regulatory Science program, which offers an undergraduate major in developing and writing governmental regulations.

Contacts

Dr. Christopher Mathis, (870) 575-8543, mathisc@uapb.edu

Mr. Dameion White, (870) 575-7241, whiteda@uapb.edu

www.uapb.edu

Unique career choices are available at UAPB. The university's Department of Agriculture offers bachelor's degree programs in regulatory science (with agriculture, environmental biology, and industrial health and safety options), agricultural business, agricultural economics, plant and soil science (agronomy/horticulture), and animal science. It also offers a master's degree plan in agricultural regulations. UAPB's Aquaculture/Fisheries Center of Excellence, created in 1988, is a recognized leader in aquaculture/fisheries teaching, research, and extension programs. UAPB is the only school in the University of Arkansas system to offer bachelor's and master's degree programs in aquaculture/fisheries. A doctoral degree plan in aquaculture/fisheries is now available at UAPB as well.



University of Hawaii at Mānoa



JULY 6–19, 2025

During this exciting 2-week program, students will explore career and educational opportunities in the **plant and animal science** fields, with presentations by USDA and the University of Hawaii, and visit local agribusinesses. Students will participate in a wide range of hands-on activities, such as pest identification, chocolate tasting, DNA barcoding, and plant inspections. Students will also get to experience Hawaiian culture by engaging in canoe paddling, lei making, and managing invasive species to protect the native ecosystem—all while absorbing college life in a tropical setting.

Contacts

Kristin Matsumoto, (808) 956-2160, khalbert@hawaii.edu

Ania Wieczorek, (808) 956-6997, ania@hawaii.edu

Cheryl Young, (808) 838-2782, cheryl.l.young@usda.gov

Chrislyn DeMattos, (808) 956-2160, cdematto@hawaii.edu

www.hawaii.edu

Founded in 1907 as a land-grant college, the University of Hawaii (UH) at Mānoa offers hundreds of undergraduate, graduate, and professional degrees. Students and faculty come from across the Nation and the world to take advantage of UH Mānoa's diversity and excellence in academics, unique research opportunities, athletics, community involvement, and breathtaking natural beauty. As one of only a handful of land-, sea-, and space-grant institutions, UH Mānoa's strengths are in tropical agriculture; oceanography; astronomy; volcanology; and Hawaiian, Asian, and Pacific studies. UH Mānoa delivers a multicultural global experience in a Hawaiian place of learning, with a long history of adherence to the principles of sustainability and the essence of aloha.



University of Texas Rio Grande Valley

The University of Texas
Rio Grande Valley

JUNE 22 – JULY 3, 2025

This 2-week program allows students to explore careers in **plant and soil sciences, food inspection and distribution, natural resources, and wildlife biology**. Every student will gain valuable hands-on experiences working with professionals on the farm, in the laboratory, and in wildlife environments. A variety of unique learning activities will focus on agronomy, entomology, plant pathology, soil ecology, organic farming, forestry, habitat restoration, and pest management. Students will live on the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley (UTRGV) campus in Edinburg and travel to exciting destinations throughout the Rio Grande Valley, including government and university laboratories, conventional and organic farms, agricultural inspection stations, South Padre Island National Seashore, and several National Wildlife Refuges.

Contacts

Dr. Christopher Gabler, (956) 882-5040, christopher.gabler@utrgv.edu

Dr. Robin Choudhury, (956) 665-8810, robin.choudhury@utrgv.edu

www.utrgv.edu

Welcome to Vaquero Nation! The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley (UTRGV) was established in 2015 through the merger of UT Pan-American and UT Brownsville. With 30,000 students, including over 5,000 master's and Ph.D. students, UTRGV is currently one of the largest Hispanic-Serving Institutions in the Nation. The mission of UTRGV is to transform the Rio Grande Valley, the Americas, and the world through an innovative and accessible educational environment that promotes student success, research, creative works, health and well-being, community engagement, sustainable development, and commercialization of university discoveries. Innovation. Opportunity. Purpose. Careers. That's what UTRGV is about. With campuses throughout southernmost Texas, UTRGV empowers successful futures, enhances daily life, and lets our region shine as a global innovator in higher education, bilingual education, health education, biomedical research, and emerging technology that inspires positive change.



University of the Virgin Islands



JULY 12–26, 2025

Engage in a diverse array of agriculture sciences, along with unique cultural and historical experiences while residing on the beautiful University of the Virgin Islands (UVI) Albert A. Sheen Campus on St. Croix. This interactive, hands-on, experiential learning program will focus on **animal science, agribusiness, aqua- and hydroponics, biotechnology, horticulture, and veterinary medicine** through the lens of sustainability and food security. Experienced and novice researchers will share their work with the Senepol cattle and St. Croix White Hair Sheep, breeds of livestock now known and used extensively in beef cow-calf and sheep breeding programs around the world. Learn about, harvest, weigh and measure, and collect data on varietal trials that may include sorrel, sweet potato, and other sustainable crops. Explore backyard and commercial aqua- and hydroponic production systems. Spend time in the field and farm with local producers to build a strong appreciation for the impact that climate change is having, the need to incorporate sustainability, and the tremendous resilience and resourcefulness required to be successful. In addition to the intensive educational and research components, participants will network and build lasting relationships, experience a new, vibrant and unique culture, and meet new friends from the Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico, other U.S. territories.

Contacts

Sarah Dahl-Smith, (340) 692-4084, sdahl@uvi.edu

Marthious Clavier, (340) 692-4090, mclavie@uvi.edu

www.uvi.edu

Founded in 1962, the school slogan at UVI is “Historically American, Uniquely Caribbean, and Globally Interactive.” UVI offers a vital and exciting environment for educating future leaders of the global 21st century community in a multicultural, international, and intellectually stimulating atmosphere. Located in the heart of the Caribbean Sea with two campuses—St. Croix and St. Thomas—UVI is a public, coed, 1862 land-grant HBCU with a current enrollment of approximately 1,760 students.



Virginia State University



JUNE 16 – JULY 2, 2025

Virginia State University (VSU) AgDiscovery exposes participants to the innovative fields of **urban forestry, controlled environment agriculture, aquaculture, and food science** while fostering leadership, teamwork, and critical thinking skills. Through field trips, laboratory experiments, and interactive workshops, students learn directly from experienced faculty, researchers, and industry professionals. Participants also engage with Cooperative Extension and explore how research and education benefit communities.

Unique to the VSU AgDiscovery program is its integration of cutting-edge agricultural technology, sustainable practices, and urban agriculture, providing students with a comprehensive understanding of how agriculture intersects with public health, environmental stewardship, and economic development.

Special Requirements: The program is physically demanding, requiring participants to engage in outdoor fieldwork and laboratory activities. Applicants should demonstrate enthusiasm, physical readiness, and a willingness to fully participate in these activities.

Contacts

Dr. Janine Parker-Woods, (804) 524-5262, jpwoods@vsu.edu

www.vsu.edu

Founded in 1882, VSU holds the distinction of being the Nation's first fully State-supported historically black college or university. Since the beginning, VSU's motto has been "Greater Happens Here!" The University is situated in Chesterfield County at Ettrick on a bluff across the Appomattox River from the city of Petersburg. It serves approximately 4,500 students. As a public, comprehensive 1890 land-grant institution and historically black college/university, VSU is committed to preparing a diverse population of men and women through the advancement of academic programs and services that integrate instruction, research, extension, and outreach. The University endeavors to meet the educational needs of students, graduating lifelong learners who are well-equipped to serve their communities as informed citizens, globally competitive leaders, and highly effective, ethical professionals.



AgDiscovery 2025: General Information

COSTS

The AgDiscovery program is free. APHIS covers tuition, room and board, lab supplies, meals, and activity fees. You are only responsible for the cost of traveling to the university campus on opening day and returning home at the conclusion of the program.²

ELIGIBILITY

For admission to AgDiscovery, you must:

- ▼ Meet your selected school's grade level requirement (see "Eligible Grades")
- ▼ Be available to attend the program in its entirety, including weekends and opening and closing day activities
- ▼ Adhere to participation limits described on the next page

SCHOOL	ELIGIBLE GRADES (currently in)
Alcorn State University	7–11
California State University, Fresno	9–11 Ages 15-17 only
Coppin State University	9–11 Ages 14-17 only
Delaware State University	9–11
Florida A&M University	8–11
Fort Valley State University	9–11 Ages 14-17 only
Iowa State University	9–11 Ages 15-17 only
Kentucky State University	9–12 Ages 16-17 only
Lincoln University – Missouri	9–11
North Carolina State University	9–11
Prairie View A&M University	9–12 Up to age 17
Purdue University	10–12 Ages 15-17 only
South Carolina State University	8–11
Tuskegee University	9–11
University of Arizona	9–11 Ages 16-17 only
University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff	8–11
University of Hawaii at Mānoa	9–11
University of Texas Rio Grande Valley	9–11
University of the Virgin Islands	7–12
Virginia State University	9–10 Ages 14-16 only

² USDA and participating schools assume no liability for costs incurred by the families of AgDiscovery participants for travel or other expenses, in the event that unforeseen circumstances occur.

PARTICIPATION LIMITS

You can only apply to **one** AgDiscovery program each year.

The programs are categorized into four disciplines. You cannot repeat participation within the same discipline. For example, if you previously attended a program in the animal area of discipline, you are only eligible to participate in a program in one of the three remaining disciplines (agribusiness, plant or combination).

DISCIPLINE	SCHOOL
Agribusiness <i>(focuses on the business aspects of agriculture)</i>	Delaware State University
Animal <i>(focuses on animal science and health)</i>	Alcorn State University Florida A&M University Fort Valley State University
Combination <i>(incorporates animal, plant, and agribusiness disciplines)</i>	California State University, Fresno Coppin State University Iowa State University Kentucky State University Lincoln University North Carolina State University Prairie View A&M University Purdue University South Carolina State University Tuskegee University University of Arizona University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff University of Hawaii at Mānoa University of the Virgin Islands Virginia State University
Plant <i>(focuses on plant science and health)</i>	University of Texas Rio Grande Valley

HOW TO APPLY

- ▼ Apply online at www.aphis.usda.gov/agdiscovery.
- ▼ **Deadline: April 15, 2025 (by midnight, Eastern Standard Time)**

For best consideration, submit your application ahead of the deadline. We only accept applications through our online system.

The university will notify you the week of May 5, 2025, if you've been selected for this summer's AgDiscovery program. Applicants not selected for the program will be notified by the university they applied to.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

If you have questions, contact us at (301) 851-4199 or agdiscovery@usda.gov.

To learn more about APHIS and all of our student opportunities, go to www.aphis.usda.gov/careers.

I really enjoyed learning about careers in agriculture and working with animals at the AgDiscovery program. I had so much fun participating in many different hands-on activities. By the way, crickets taste awesome.

— Wenjie P.
AgDiscovery Participant,
Iowa State University, 2022





www.aphis.usda.gov/agdiscovery

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

APHIS-25-018 | Issued January 2025