



United States Department of Agriculture



AgDiscovery 2016:

Investing in the Future of American Agriculture

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
Program Aid No. 2183

www.aphis.usda.gov/agdiscovery

ARE YOU...

- a middle or high school student looking for a unique summer internship with an opportunity to live and study on a college campus?
- a high school student looking to improve your resume for college?
- a teacher looking for opportunities to expand your students' view of agriculture?
- a parent looking for learning opportunities for your teen?

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

WHAT IS AGDISCOVERY?

AgDiscovery is a summer outreach program to help teenagers explore careers in plant and animal science, wildlife management, and agribusiness. The program allows students to live on a college campus and learn about agriculture from university professors, scientists, and administrative professionals who work for the U.S. Government in a variety of fields. They study the life cycles and habits of insects (entomologists); research micro-organisms, such as bacteria and viruses (biotechnologists); examine cells and tissues under a microscope to identify diseases (plant pathologists); work to conserve and manage wild animals and their habitats (wildlife biologists); carry out animal health programs (veterinarians); provide education on the humane care and treatment of animals (veterinarians and animal care inspectors); and manage the business aspects of protecting plants and animals (agribusiness).

This 2- to 4-week summer outreach program for 2016 targets middle and high school students¹ who are interested in learning more about plants, animals, and agribusiness. Students chosen to participate in AgDiscovery will gain experience through hands-on labs, workshops, and field trips. Students will also participate in character- and team-building activities and a variety of workshops.

¹ Age requirements vary at some of the participating universities. See page 26 of this publication for specifics.

WHO SPONSORS AGDISCOVERY?

USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) partners with various universities and colleges to deliver the AgDiscovery program. Many of the Federal Government's professional plant scientists, biotechnologists, veterinarians, and wildlife biologists work for APHIS. The agency funds AgDiscovery each year, and partner universities host program participants on their local campuses.

In 2016, there are 20 universities participating in AgDiscovery: Alcorn State University, Delaware State University, Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University, Fort Valley State University, Iowa State University, Kentucky State University, Lincoln University in Missouri, North Carolina State University, Prairie View A&M University, South Carolina State University, Texas A&M University, Tuskegee University, University of Arizona, University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff, University of Hawaii at Mānoa, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, University of Maryland at College Park, University of Maryland Eastern Shore, University of the Virgin Islands, and Virginia State University. Each university's AgDiscovery program focuses on a specific area of interest to our Nation's agriculture, such as plant health, entomology, veterinary science, animal care, biotechnology, and agribusiness.

AgDiscovery is a unique opportunity for students to gain a first-hand look at the many career paths open to them in the agricultural sciences. For those interested in an agricultural career, AgDiscovery is a great way to get started. Read on to learn more about this year's program, including dates, locations, cost information, eligibility, and how to apply.

AUGUST 1–13, 2016

During the 2-week AgDiscovery program at the University of the Virgin Islands (UVI), students will engage in a diversity of learning experiences while residing on the beautiful St. Croix campus. The interactive curriculum will focus on animal science, veterinary medicine, aquaponics, biotechnology, and agribusiness. Participants will learn from experienced researchers about the internationally recognized aquaculture program at UVI, as well as the world-famous Senepol breed of cattle and the Virgin Islands/St. Croix hair sheep—both developed on the island of St. Croix. The UVI Cooperative Extension Service and the UVI Agricultural Experiment Station facilitate this program. In addition to the academic experience, students will interact with other participants and residents from culturally diverse areas of the Caribbean region while exploring the rich history and traditions of the U.S. Virgin Islands.

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APHIS welcomes UVI to AgDiscovery in 2016, where the school slogan is “Historically American, Uniquely Caribbean, and Globally Interactive.” Founded in 1962, 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, land-grant HBCU (historically black colleges and universities) with an enrollment of approximately 2,500 students.

