USDA 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 students[1] 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.

ALCORN STATE UNIVERSITY

JUNE 19–JULY 1, 2016

Enter the amazing world of animal science and veterinary medicine through the AgDiscovery summer camp, hosted by Alcorn State University's Department of Agriculture in Lorman, MS. During the 2-week camp experience, students will have the opportunity to interact with peers from across the country while learning the principles and techniques of animal husbandry and veterinary science, using a variety of live animals.

Contact: Dr. Cassandra Vaughn, (601) 877-6541, cfvaughn@alcorn.edu

www.alcorn.edu

Alcorn State University is a premier, comprehensive land-grant university that develops diverse students into globally competitive leaders and applies scientific research through collaborative partnerships that benefit the surrounding communities, State, Nation, and world. The university's low student-to-faculty ratio (17:1) is vital to its graduates' success. At Alcorn, students form close, collaborative relationships with faculty mentors. Noteworthy alumni include Alex Haley, Michael Clarke Duncan, Medgar Wiley Evers, Donald Driver, and Steve McNair, among others.







DELAWARE STATE UNIVERSITY

JULY 5–18, 2016

Learn about the business aspects of protecting plants and animals while exploring careers in agribusiness. Students 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.
Contact: Harry Thayer, (302) 857-6434, hthayer@desu.edu
www.desu.edu

DSU, founded in 1891 as the State College for Colored Students, 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 a 76-percent African American enrollment and an increasing number of Caucasian, Hispanic, Asian, and other international students.





FLORIDA AGRICULTURAL AND MECHANICAL UNIVERSITY

JUNE 5–18, 2016

Students will live on the Tallahassee campus and work with a variety of animal species. In addition, students are exposed to opportunities in animal science to help them better understand and refine their career paths.
Contacts: Dr. Glen Wright, (850) 599-3546, glen.wright@famu.edu; Carmen Lyttle-N'guessan, (850) 412-5363, carmen.lyttlenguessa@famu.edu
www.famu.edu/herds

Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University (FAMU) was founded as the State Normal College for Colored Students and, on October 3, 1887, began classes with 15 students and 2 instructors. Today, "FAMU," as it has become affectionately known, is the premier school among historically black colleges and universities. Prominently located on the highest hill in Florida's capital city of Tallahassee, FAMU remains the only historically black university in the 11-member State University System of Florida.





FORT VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY

JUNE 6–17, 2016

Students will be exposed to all areas of veterinary medicine and animal agriculture through hands-on experiences while enjoying university campus life. They will have the chance to work with many species, from fish to horses. Participants will learn about educational and job opportunities in animal and plant health-related fields on campus and through educational, agriculture-related field trips. The program is administered by the university's Department of Veterinary Science and Public Health.

Contacts: Dr. Cristopher A. Young, (770) 922-7860, cristopher.a.young@aphis.usda.gov; Dr. George W. McCommon, (478) 825-6424, mccommog@fvsu.edu; Karen Capps-McMullan, (478) 825-6424, mcmullank@fvsu.edu

www.fvsu.edu

Fort Valley State University (FVSU), located in Fort Valley, GA, is the only 1890 land-grant university in the 35-member State University System of Georgia. FVSU offers bachelor's degrees in more than 50 majors, including education, business administration, and agriculture (which is most popular), and master's degrees in animal science, biotechnology, and public health. As the second largest public university in Georgia, with a 1,365-acre campus and over 2,500 students, FVSU engages in cooperative extension efforts with Federal, State, and county governments and agencies that enhance agriculture, the environment, natural resources, and family and youth well-being; support the development of local communities; and provide career opportunities for graduates.





IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

JULY 17–30, 2016

Learn about the interconnection between wildlife biology and conservation, laboratory technology and diagnostics, animal science, and veterinary medicine. Every student will have 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, veterinary clinical procedures, and diagnostic testing; and field trips to conservation areas, zoological facilities, animal shelters, and research facilities. Students who have completed a general biology or animal science course will benefit most from the program activities.

Contacts: Janet B. Payeur, D.V.M., M.P.H., Ph.D., (515) 337-7003, janet.b.payeur@aphis.usda.gov; Claudia Lemper, (515) 294-3591, cllemper@iastate.edu

http://agdiscovery.nrem.iastate.edu

Iowa State University (ISU) is an international, prestigious university with a friendly, welcoming personality, located in Ames. Over 33,000 students choose from over 100 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 110 countries.





KENTUCKY STATE UNIVERSITY

JUNE 5–18, 2016

Welcome to horse country, home of the thoroughbreds, where students will experience life on campus while learning about the many aspects of animal science and veterinary medicine. The program will stimulate and promote students' interest in and knowledge of veterinary medicine through a series of hands-on, experiential activities, such as animal dissection, venipuncture of goats, field trips to a horse farm and a dairy farm, and a behind-the-scenes tour of a local zoo. These experiences are facilitated by university professionals, veterinarians, and other specialists from various agricultural and animal science industries.

Contacts: Dr. John Hollis, (502) 682-1402, john.hollis@aphis.usda.gov; Shawn Moore, (502) 597-6672, shawn.moore@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 10–23, 2016

Harvest products from the farm and sell them at the campus Farmer's Market, learn how to develop value-added products for the Farmer's Market in a certified kitchen, and examine urban farming opportunities, aquaculture, and care of animals during the program at Lincoln University. 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 a dormitory on the main campus.
Contacts: David Kiesling, M.S., (573) 681-5357, kieslingd@lincolnu.edu; Julius T. Moody, (573) 681-5108, moodyj@lincolnu.edu
www.lincolnu.edu

As the oldest of the 1890 land-grant schools, the main Lincoln University campus has 169 acres located on a hilly prominence 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

JUNE 20–JULY 1, 2016

Learn about careers in plant science, including entomology (the study of insects), plant pathology (the study of plant diseases), botany (the study of plants), agronomy (the science of soil management and production of field crops), and animal science. Students will live on campus in dorms, learning 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: Jason Painter, (919) 515-5585, jason_painter@ncsu.edu; Camille Morris, (919) 855-7340, camille.e.morris@aphis.usda.gov

www.science-house.org

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 Princeton Review 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.





SOUTH CAROLINA STATE UNIVERSITY

JUNE 19–JULY 3, 2016

Learn the business aspects of protecting plants and animals while exploring careers in agribusiness. Students will also gain exposure to other career paths in the agricultural sciences, such as veterinary medicine, plant pathology and physiology, chemistry, marketing, public affairs, and computer science. The 2-week program, held on the South Carolina State University (SC State) campus, features a series of interactive activities, presentations, and educational field visits. Participants should be prepared to join in some outside activities during extreme summer temperatures.

Contact: Christopher C. Mathis, Jr., Ph.D., (803) 536-8974, cmathis@scsu.edu

www.scsu.edu

Since 1896, SC State 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 City, SC State University was founded as a land-grant college with a mission of providing education and service to the citizens of South Carolina.





NEW

TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY AND PRAIRIE VIEW A&M UNIVERSITY

JUNE 19–JULY 1, 2016

New to the AgDiscovery program in 2016 is a joint partnership between Texas A&M University and Prairie View A&M University. The two universities, located approximately 30 minutes apart, bring a new and exciting learning experience to students. Participants will interact with members of our agriculture and life-science family on both campuses. This 2-week experience exposes students to on-campus housing at both universities, team building with current students, and hands-on activities with professors using cutting-edge techniques from industry. Participants will also attend educational workshops to help them set career paths and field trips that connect campus knowledge with community needs in Texas. The goal of this program is to promote knowledge and interest in plant, environmental, and animal-related fields.[2]

Contacts: Dr. Danielle Harris, (979) 845-3712, danielleh@tamu.edu;
Dr. Laura Carson, (936) 261-5010, lecarson@pvamu.edu

http://aglifesciences.tamu.edu

www.pvamu.edu/cahs





[2] Accepted students must submit a high school transcript directly to Texas A&M University upon notification of acceptance.

Texas A&M University. Texas A&M opened its doors in 1876 as the State's first public institution of higher learning. Today, we stand as a research-intensive flagship university dedicated to sending "Aggie" leaders into the world prepared to take on the challenges of tomorrow. The university is dedicated to the discovery, development, communication, and application of knowledge in a wide range of academic and professional fields. With over 140 undergraduate majors and 1,000+ student organizations, students can find their own unique path. Our campus welcomes and seeks to serve people of all racial, ethnic, and geographic groups as we address the needs of an increasingly diverse population and a global economy. In the 21st century, Texas A&M University seeks to assume a place of preeminence among public universities while respecting its history and traditions.

Prairie View A&M University. Founded in 1876, Prairie View A&M University is the second oldest public institution of higher learning in the State of Texas. With an established reputation for producing engineers, nurses, and educators, Prairie View offers baccalaureate degrees in 50 academic majors, 37 master's degree programs, and 4 doctoral degree programs through 9 colleges and schools. A member of the Texas A&M University System, Prairie View is dedicated to fulfilling its land-grant mission of achieving excellence in teaching, research, and service. The College of Agriculture and Human Sciences trains students to enter careers in the human sciences; animal, crop, and environmental sciences; and agricultural and resource economics.



TUSKEGEE UNIVERSITY

JUNE 5–18, 2016

Students will learn about career opportunities associated with 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 students to achieve as they work toward their future careers.

Contact: Dr. Olga Bolden-Tiller, (334) 727-8403, obtiller@mytu.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 20–JULY 1, 2016

Learn about career opportunities and possibilities in animal and plant health, including agricultural sciences, veterinary sciences, animal and plant disease eradication, plant pathology, and entomology. Students will experience many aspects of agribusiness and college campus life through various field and lab activities. The first week is spent on the University of Arizona satellite campus in Yuma, AZ, and the second week concludes on the main campus in Tucson. Students selected to participate must be able to tolerate extreme summer temperatures.
Contacts: Tanya Hodges, (928) 271-9560, thodges@cals.arizona.edu; Gloria Magana, (760) 768-2557, gloria.magana@aphis.usda.gov; Glen Ball, (928) 248-3246, glen.a.ball@aphis.usda.gov
http://ag.arizona.edu

The University of Arizona (UA) is a premier, public research university. Established in 1885 as the first university in Arizona and the State's land-grant university, UA is building a better Arizona through access, quality, and discovery. As the primary land-grant component of the university, the College of Agriculture and Life 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 11–24, 2016

Students will work with plants and animals to discover the effects of insects and diseases on American agriculture. Students will also learn about the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff (UAPB) Regulatory Science program, which offers an undergraduate major in developing and writing governmental regulations.
Contact: Willie Columbus, M.S., (870) 575-7252, columbusw@uapb.edu
www.uapb.edu

Unique career choices are available at UAPB. The university's Aquaculture/Fisheries (AQFI) 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.







UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII AT MĀNOA

JULY 10–23, 2016

In this highly intensified learning program, students will explore career and educational opportunities in the fields of animal and plant health, including agricultural sciences, veterinary sciences, animal and plant disease eradication, plant pathology, entomology, wildlife services, investigative enforcement, and activities of APHIS' Center for Plant Health Science and Technology. Students will experience many aspects of agribusiness and college campus life through various field and lab activities.

Contacts: Charles Kinoshita, Ph.D., (808) 956-6997, kinoshitac@ctahr.hawaii.edu; Yolisa Ishibashi, (808) 838-2789, yolisa.c.ishibashi@aphis.usda.gov

www.hawaii.edu

Founded in 1907, the University of Hawaii at Mānoa (UH Mānoa) is the flagship campus of the University of Hawaii System. 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. UH Mānoa is grounded in the traditional values of the Native Hawaiian culture, helping students find their individual academic passions in life and, ultimately, pursue their callings.





UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

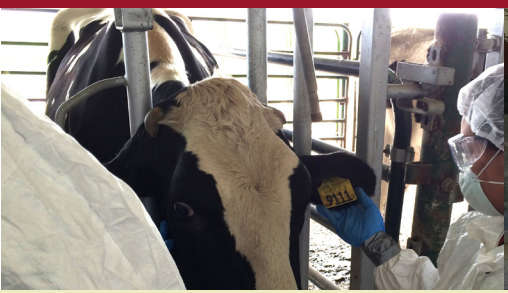
JULY 5–30, 2016

Learn about career possibilities in the plant, animal, and veterinary sciences and how USDA protects America's food supply. Over a period of 4 weeks, students will live on the university's campus and have hands-on experiences in animal and plant laboratories under the supervision of plant and animal scientists and veterinarians from the university and USDA. Field trips allow students to experience the vast aspects of the U.S. food and agriculture system.

Contact: Dr. Jesse C. Thompson, (217) 333-3380, jthomps5@illinois.edu

academics.aces.illinois.edu/diversity

The University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (UIUC) is a world-class, comprehensive research university, established in 1862 as the land-grant institution in Illinois. The university's College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences (ACES) is recognized as a leader in many sciences, particularly in the disciplines of agricultural and biological engineering and the crop, animal, and nutritional sciences. ACES serves a key role in providing programs and instruction aimed at educating the next generation of future managers and scientists.





UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND AT COLLEGE PARK

JULY 10–29, 2016

Learn about plants and animals, the importance of protecting America's food supply from insects and disease, the role of regulation in genetically engineered organisms, and the challenge of managing and resolving wildlife conflicts. The 3-week academic program at the University of Maryland's College Park campus provides an educational odyssey exploring food, culture, and the environment. Participants will earn 3 hours of university-level course credits through the Young Scholars Program.[3] All admitted students must complete the entire 3 weeks of the program and academic course.

Contacts: Dr. Evelyn E. Cooper, (301) 405-7044, ecooper@umd.edu; April Brohawn, (301) 314-7222, abrohawn@umd.edu; Tyra Gallman-Monnity, (301) 405-2078, tgallman@umd.edu

www.agnr.umd.edu

The University of Maryland at College Park is the flagship campus of the University System of Maryland and the State's original 1862 land-grant institution. It is one of only 62 members of the Association of American Universities, which is composed of the leading research universities in the United States and Canada. The University of Maryland is committed to achieving excellence as the State's primary center of research and graduate education and the institution of choice for undergraduate students of exceptional ability and promise. The university counts among its greatest strengths the diversity of its faculty, staff, and students.







[3] Accepted students will be required to submit a high school transcript directly to the University of Maryland at College Park to complete the selection process for the Young Scholars Program. Upon notification of acceptance, fax transcript to (301) 314-9146.

UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND EASTERN SHORE

JULY 10–23, 2016

Explore careers in plant biotechnology, plant microbiology, horticulture, small ruminant management, and natural resource sciences. Students will have experiential learning opportunities through research, education, and field trips to conservation areas, a historical family farm, and agricultural research centers. Students will reside on the campus located in Princess Anne, MD, and interact with diverse faculty and other agricultural professionals.

Contacts: Corrie Cotton, (410) 651-6630, cpcotton@umes.edu; Lisa Purnell, (410) 651-6313, lisa.purnell@osec.usda.gov; Dr. George S. Shorter, (410) 651-6193, gsshorter@umes.edu

www.umes.edu

The University of Maryland Eastern Shore (UMES), the State's historically black, 1890 land-grant institution, is a student-centered and doctoral research university that nurtures and prepares highly valued graduates to compete in a global, knowledge-based economy. UMES, founded in 1886, has been ranked in the top tier of the Nation's best black colleges and universities, according to several recent annual rankings by *U.S. News & World Report.* The university's Department of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resource Sciences offers three Bachelor of Science degree programs in agribusiness, urban forestry, and general agriculture (with concentrations in plant and soil science, animal and poultry science/pre-veterinary/pre-professional, agriculture education, and agricultural studies); a Master of Science in food and agricultural sciences; and a Doctor of Philosophy in food science and technology.





NEW

UNIVERSITY OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

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.

Contacts: Dr. Louis E. Petersen, (340) 693-1083, louis.petersen@uvi.edu; Dr. Robert Godfrey, (340) 692-4042, rgodfre@uvi.edu; Sarah Dahl-Smith, (340) 692-4084, sdahl@uvi.edu

www.uvi.edu

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.



VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY

JUNE 19–JULY 2, 2016

Students will explore the Small Ruminant and Food Science Program in the College of Agriculture. Activities will follow an animal science theme through the lens of food production, with a focus on livestock production, food processing, and food safety. Students will gain experience in the disciplines of animal science, aquaculture, and food science through a series of hands-on activities with small ruminants, farmed fish, on-farm processing, and field and laboratory research. Field trips and guest speakers provide exposure to a variety of related professions in agricultural production and research. Students will live in a university dormitory for the 2-week program. This program is facilitated by the Virginia State University (VSU) College of Agriculture/Agricultural Research Station, with collaboration from USDA partners and industry representatives.

Contacts: Roz Stein, (804) 524-1533, rstein@vsu.edu; Wondi Mersie, (804) 524-5151, wmersie@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. With a mission emphasizing the integration of academic instruction, research, and public service, VSU welcomes students of any race, religion, or ethnic heritage. The VSU School of Agriculture has strong programs in small ruminants, food science, and high-value crops. VSU also owns and operates a 416-acre farm and agricultural research center.





HOW MUCH WILL IT COST?

There is no cost to attend the AgDiscovery 2016 summer program. Tuition, room and board, lab supplies, and activity fees will be covered by APHIS. Students selected for the program are only responsible for costs that may be associated with traveling to the university campus on opening day and returning home at the conclusion of the program on closing day. *(Note: AgDiscovery does not provide a shuttle or other such transportation services at those times.)*

HOW DO I APPLY?

Applications must be mailed directly to APHIS. **Emailed, faxed, or hand-delivered applications to APHIS or host universities will not be accepted for consideration under any circumstances.** Incomplete applications will also not be considered.

A complete application package includes:

- The four-page AgDiscovery 2016 application form. You can download a fillable PDF from the APHIS Web site at www.aphis.usda.gov/agdiscovery. We strongly suggest that you complete the form by typing information directly into it. If you prefer to complete the form by hand, please ensure that all information is neatly printed and clearly legible.
- A two-page essay entitled, "Why I Want to Attend the AgDiscovery Program at _____ (indicate the participating university you would like to attend), and What I Want to Learn." In the essay, include information about your interests, hobbies, future career goals, and how you plan to achieve your goals. Be sure to include your full name, age, home address, telephone number, and email address on the first page of the essay.
- Three letters of recommendation from people not related to you who know you well. At least one recommendation must come from a teacher or school counselor. Each letter of recommendation must be sealed in a separate envelope and then placed in one large envelope with the application form and essay.

Only ONE large envelope containing the application form, essay, and sealed letters of recommendation will be accepted per applicant. Do NOT include any of the following in your application package: photographs, birth certificate, report card, transcript, news clippings, awards, or other extra documents.

ALL APPLICATIONS MUST BE POSTMARKED BY MARCH 7, 2016.
PLEASE DO NOT WAIT UNTIL THE LAST DAY TO APPLY!

ELIGIBILITY

Specific age requirements for admission apply to some of the participating universities. **Please check that you meet the age requirement for your selected school before submitting your application.**

Applicants selected to attend the AgDiscovery program must attend the program in its entirety. Please **do not apply** if you have any obligations (i.e., vacation plans, summer camps, etc.) that will keep you from attending the entire AgDiscovery program, which includes weekends and opening- and closing-day activities.

Alcorn State University	ages 12–16
Delaware State University	ages 14–17
Florida A&M University	ages 14–17
Fort Valley State University	ages 14–17
Iowa State University	ages 15–17
Kentucky State University	ages 14–17
Lincoln University in Missouri	ages 14–17
North Carolina State University	ages 15–17
South Carolina State University	ages 14–17
Texas A&M University/Prairie View A&M University	ages 15–17
Tuskegee University	ages 15–17
University of Arizona	ages 15–17
University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff	ages 14–17
University of Hawaii at Mānoa	ages 14–17
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign	ages 15–17
University of Maryland at College Park	ages 15–17
University of Maryland Eastern Shore	ages 14–17
University of the Virgin Islands	ages 14–17
Virginia State University	ages 14–17

(Note: You must be at least the minimum eligible age as of May 31, 2016 to apply. You are not eligible to apply if you have reached your 18th birthday before the start of the program or at any time during the program dates.)

Mail your complete application package to:
USDA-APHIS AgDiscovery Program
ATTN: Sophia Kirby
Office of Civil Rights, Diversity, and Inclusion
4700 River Road, Unit 92, Suite 6C-04
Riverdale, MD 20737-1234

You will be notified on or before **May 5, 2016** if you have been selected for this summer's AgDiscovery program. Meanwhile, if you'd like to learn more about APHIS or this year's participating universities, visit these Web sites:

USDA
www.aphis.usda.gov

Iowa State University
http://agdiscovery.nrem.iastate.edu

Alcorn State University
www.alcorn.edu

Kentucky State University
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FOR MORE INFORMATION

If you have questions about the AgDiscovery program, please call APHIS at (301) 851-4199 or send an email to agdiscovery@aphis.usda.gov.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT AGDISCOVERY APPLICATIONS

Applicants can only apply to **one** AgDiscovery program each year. The programs are categorized in the three disciplines listed below. Applicants cannot repeat participation within the same discipline. For example, if a student has previously attended a program in the animal area of discipline, he or she is only eligible to participate in a program in one of the two remaining disciplines (agribusiness or combination).

Agribusiness *(focuses on the business aspects of agriculture)*	**Animal** *(focuses on animal science and health)*	**Combination** *(incorporates animal, plant, and agribusiness disciplines)*
Delaware State University	Alcorn State University	Iowa State University
	Florida A&M University	Lincoln University
	Fort Valley State University	North Carolina State University
	Kentucky State University	South Carolina State University
	Virginia State University	Texas A&M University/ Prairie View 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 College Park
		University of Maryland Eastern Shore
		University of the Virgin Islands

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Issued December 2015