

Attention Ag Youth Leaders & Science Teachers

AgDiscovery is a two week residential outreach program sponsored by different United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) programs for high school students in partnership with selected universities. AgDiscovery is a unique opportunity for students to gain a first-hand look at the many career paths open to them in agriculture. The program allows students to live on a college campus and learn about different agriculture careers from university professors, scientists, and other professionals who work for the U.S. Government in a variety of fields.

The AgDiscovery program in Iowa is a partnership with Iowa State University (ISU) and sponsored by the following Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) programs: the National Veterinary Services Laboratories, the Center for Veterinary Biologics, and the Center for Epidemiology and Animal Health of Veterinary Services, International Services, Wildlife Services, and Investigative and Enforcement Services.

The focus of the **ISU-AgDiscovery** program is to demonstrate the interconnection between Veterinary Medicine, Animal Science, Laboratory Technology and Diagnostics and Wildlife Biology and Conservation. The students gain knowledge and experience through lectures and demonstrations, hands-on activities, field trips, team building activities and diversity workshops. Students who have completed a general biology or animal science course will benefit the most from the program activities.

The **2016 ISU AgDiscovery (July 17 – 30, 2016)** will host 16 students from multiple states, ages 15-17. Students will perform a variety of laboratory activities such as bacterial culture, animal necropsies, egg candling, viral inoculations and diagnostic testing at the USDA National Centers for Animal Health. They will be introduced to several veterinary disciplines such as hematology, parasitology, immunology, radiology, anatomy and pathology by performing hands-on activities at the ISU College of Veterinary Medicine.

The students will visit a variety of private and university farms, zoological facilities, animal shelters, wildlife conservation areas and research facilities. They will also participate in a number of cultural awareness and teambuilding activities. Every activity is being planned to enhance the student's learning experience and provide countless hands-on opportunities which will be crucial to the student's enjoyment of the program.

Students selected for the 2016 AgDiscovery summer session will pay only the cost of their transportation to get from their home to the college campus for the start of the session and back again at the end of the session. The cost of tuition, room and board, and lab supplies for the 2 week program will be covered by various programs within APHIS.

To apply for the ISU AgDiscovery the students must be at least 15 and no older than 17 as of May 31, 2016 or reach your 18th birthday before the start of the program or at any time during the program dates. See the current AgDiscovery website for age requirements on the other programs. Students can only apply for **one** program this year. Applicants will be notified on or before **May 5, 2016** if they have been selected for one of the 19 AgDiscovery programs this summer. If you have questions about the AgDiscovery program, please call APHIS at 301-851-4199 or send an email to agdiscovery@aphis.usda.gov.

Applications can be submitted as follows:

1. A **fillable PDF application** can be obtained at www.aphis.usda.gov/agdiscovery and mailed, along with the required two-page essay and 3 references to the address listed in #4 below for Ms. Sophia L. Kirby.
2. **Hard copy applications** must be postmarked no later than **March 7, 2016**. APHIS will not accept application packages that are incomplete or received after March 7, 2016.

Application package includes:

1. A **2 page typed essay** (500-1000 words) entitled “*Why I want to attend the AgDiscovery Program at Iowa State University*” or any of the other programs and “*What I want to Learn*”. In the essay, include information on your interests and hobbies and future career goals. Include information about your interest in agricultural sciences, any agricultural science-related courses you have taken, as well as any extracurricular or volunteer activities you have participated in related to agricultural, plant, animal or biological science. Be sure to include your full name, age, home address, telephone number, and email address on the first page of the essay.
2. **Three Recommendation Letters** – from people not related to you but 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.
3. A **completed fillable application form**. www.aphis.usda.gov/agdiscovery
4. **Mail the completed package to:**

USDA-APHIS AgDiscovery Program
ATTN: Ms. Sophia L. Kirby
Office of Civil Rights, Diversity, and Inclusion
4700 River Road, Unit 92, Suite 6C-04
Riverdale, MD 20737-1234

Phone: (301) 851-4192

Fax: (301) 734-3698

Sophia.l.kirby@aphis.usda.gov

Pictures from the 2015 ISU AgDiscovery program can be found at [on Facebook – AgDiscovery at ISU 2015](#). Information about the ISU program is also found at the following ISU website:
<http://agdiscovery.nrem.iastate.edu>

If there are questions about the ISU program, please contact:

ISU contact: Claudia Lemper - 515-294-3591; clemper@iastate.edu

USDA IA contact: Dr. Janet Payeur – 515-337-7003; janet.b.payeur@aphis.usda.gov