



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](http://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<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>1</sup> 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.

***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](mailto:cfvaughn@alcorn.edu)

**[www.alcorn.edu](http://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](mailto:hthayer@desu.edu)

**[www.desu.edu](http://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.



***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.

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Carmen Lyttle-N'guessan, (850) 412-5363, [carmen.lyttlenguessa@famu.edu](mailto:carmen.lyttlenguessa@famu.edu)

**[www.famu.edu/herds](http://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. Christopher A. Young, (770) 922-7860, [cristopher.a.young@aphis.usda.gov](mailto:cristopher.a.young@aphis.usda.gov); Dr. George W. McCommon, (478) 825-6424, [mccommog@fvsu.edu](mailto:mccommog@fvsu.edu); Karen Capps-McMullan, (478) 825-6424, [mcmullank@fvsu.edu](mailto:mcmullank@fvsu.edu)

**[www.fvsu.edu](http://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.



***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](mailto:janet.b.payeur@aphis.usda.gov); Claudia Lemper, (515) 294-3591, [cllemp@iastate.edu](mailto:cllemp@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.



***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](http://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](mailto:kieslingd@lincolnu.edu);  
Julius T. Moody, (573) 681-5108, [moodyj@lincolnu.edu](mailto:moodyj@lincolnu.edu)

**[www.lincolnu.edu](http://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](mailto:jason_painter@ncsu.edu);

Camille Morris, (919) 855-7340, [camille.e.morris@aphis.usda.gov](mailto:camille.e.morris@aphis.usda.gov)

**[www.science-house.org](http://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](mailto:cmathis@scsu.edu)  
**[www.scsu.edu](http://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.<sup>2</sup>

**Contacts:** Dr. Danielle Harris, (979) 845-3712, [danielleh@tamu.edu](mailto:danielleh@tamu.edu);

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**[www.pvamu.edu/cahs](http://www.pvamu.edu/cahs)**



<sup>2</sup> 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](mailto:obtiller@mytu.tuskegee.edu)

**[www.tuskegee.edu/agritrek](http://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.

