



United States Department of Agriculture



AgDiscovery 2017:

Investing in the Future of American Agriculture

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
Program Aid No. 2213



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, agribusiness, and much more! 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 2017 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 other events.

¹ Age requirements vary at some of the participating universities. See pages 28–29 of this publication for specifics.

WHO SPONSORS AGDISCOVERY?

USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) partners with various universities and colleges throughout the country 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 2017, there are 22 universities participating in AgDiscovery: Alcorn State University; California State University, Fresno; Coppin 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; Purdue University; South Carolina State 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, food science, 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.

AGDISCOVERY PROGRAM LEADERSHIP

APHIS, Office of Civil Rights, Diversity, and Inclusion

Sophia L. Kirby, Deputy Director

Tammy H. Lowry, AgDiscovery Program Manager

Email: agdiscovery@aphis.usda.gov

Telephone: (301) 851-4200

JUNE 18–30, 2017

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.





JUNE 11–24, 2017

In a highly interactive environment, students will 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. Students 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.

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www.fresnostate.edu

<http://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.





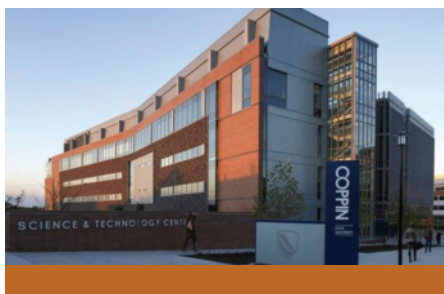
JULY 10–21, 2017

Over a period of 2 weeks, students will explore careers in plant, animal, and environmental sciences and how USDA protects America's food system. Students will live on the university's campus in Baltimore, MD, and interact with faculty and the neighboring community. Students will engage in experiential learning opportunities through research, education, and field trips to agricultural research centers and laboratories.

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

www.coppin.edu

Coppin State University is a model urban, residential liberal arts university located in the northwest section of the City of Baltimore. The university offers academic programs in the arts and sciences, teacher education, nursing, graduate studies, and continuing education. An HBCU (historically black colleges and universities), Coppin State has a culturally rich history as an institution that delivers quality educational programs and community outreach services. It offers 53 majors and 9 undergraduate 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.



JULY 9–22, 2017

Learn about the business aspects of protecting plants and animals while exploring careers in agribusiness. This program is a comprehensive agriculture business experience, which allows youth to gain valuable hands-on information through unique learning challenges. It offers an opportunity to fully understand the inner workings of various careers in agriculture. 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 has a long and proud history as one of America's historically black colleges and universities (HBCU). 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 other 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 for 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 11–24, 2017

This 2-week program allows students to explore careers in animal science and related fields, including aspects of veterinary medicine; animal husbandry, management, and behavior; and other animal health and welfare concerns. Students will live on the Tallahassee campus and work with a variety of animal species. They will apply their instruction and training in practical, hands-on experiences, such as blood sample collection, hoof trimming, labs and field trips in the various animal industries, and other activities. The program gives students many different opportunities in animal science to help them better understand and refine their career paths.

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www.famuedu/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.



JUNE 5–16, 2017

Students will explore 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. There will be hands-on biotechnology and animal laboratories. Participants will learn about academic and job opportunities in animal and plant health on campus and through educational, agriculture-related field trips. The program is administered by the university's Department of Veterinary Science and Public Health.

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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 16–29, 2017

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 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. Follow us on Facebook: AgDiscovery at ISU 2016.

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<http://agdiscovery.nrem.iastate.edu>

Iowa State University (ISU) is an international, prestigious 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 36,000 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 100 countries.



JUNE 11–24, 2017

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.

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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 9–22, 2017

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.

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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.



JUNE 19–30, 2017

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.

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

<http://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 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.



JUNE 19–30, 2017

Participants will interact with our agriculture family and surrounding community for an enriching 2-week experience. They will stay in on-campus housing, take part in team-building with current Prairie View students, and delve into 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.

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www.pvamu.edu/cahs

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.





JULY 9–23, 2017

New to the AgDiscovery program in 2017 is a joint partnership between Purdue's College of Agriculture (CoA) and Purdue Veterinary Medicine (PVM). These two colleges bring together a new and exciting learning opportunity for students. This 2-week experience will immerse participants in various fields of study through a series of hands-on labs, workshops, and field trips. These are designed to give real-life experiences within animal, plant, veterinary, and environmental science; agribusiness and related disciplines; and the various aspects of Indiana agriculture and veterinary health care. Participants will complete and deliver research projects and presentations as one of the program requirements. They will also acquire information and tools to become competitive college applicants, specifically within the Purdue CoA and PVM admissions framework.

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www.purdue.edu

<https://ag.purdue.edu>

www.vet.purdue.edu

Founded in 1869, Purdue is Indiana's land-grant university. It is one of the Nation's premier institutions, with more than 200 majors for undergraduates, over 70 master and doctoral programs, professional degrees in pharmacy and veterinary medicine, and renowned research initiatives. Purdue routinely ranks highly in accredited national and world university rankings like the *U.S. News & World Report* "Best Colleges" and the QS World University Rankings for its distinguished academic programs. Students from all 50 States and more than 130 countries bring rich diversity to the main campus in West Lafayette. Although a large university, Purdue maintains an intimate atmosphere that highly values individual needs and achievements. The Colleges of Agriculture and Veterinary Medicine are both located on the main campus in West Lafayette, IN.



SOUTH CAROLINA STATE UNIVERSITY

JUNE 18–JULY 2, 2017

Students will learn about the business aspects of protecting plants and animals while exploring careers in agribusiness. They 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, hands-on labs, workshops, presentations, and educational field trips. Students will also participate in character- and team-building activities. The program allows students to learn about a variety of agriculture-related careers, jobs in the Federal Government, and opportunities at APHIS. Students 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, SC State was founded as a land-grant college with a mission of providing research, education, and service to the citizens of South Carolina.



June 4–17, 2017

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.



June 19–29, 2017

Learn about career opportunities and possibilities in animal and plant health, including agricultural sciences, veterinary sciences, animal and plant disease eradication, plant pathology, entomology, and the benefits of using drones in agriculture. Students will experience many aspects of agribusiness and college campus life through various field and lab activities. The program takes place at the University of Arizona satellite campus in Yuma, AZ, and the main campus in Tucson. Students selected to participate must be able to tolerate extreme summer temperatures.

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<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 10–23, 2017

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, (870) 575-7252, columbusw@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; plant science (agronomy/horticulture); animal science; agricultural education; and general agriculture. It also offers a master's degree plan in agricultural regulations. UAPB'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. A doctoral degree plan in aquaculture/fisheries is now available at UAPB as well.



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII AT MĀNOA

JULY 9–22, 2017

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

JUNE 25–JULY 30, 2017

Learn about career possibilities in the plant, animal, and veterinary sciences and how USDA protects America's food supply. Over a period of 5 weeks, students will live on the university's campus, engaging in academic sessions in math, biology, and technical writing and 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 will 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 9–28, 2017

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 Terp Young Scholars.² All admitted students must complete the entire 3 weeks of the program and academic course.

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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.



² Accepted students must submit a high school transcript directly to the University of Maryland at College Park to complete the selection process for the Terp Young Scholars. Upon notification of acceptance, fax transcript to (301) 314-9146.

UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND EASTERN SHORE

JULY 9–22, 2017

Explore careers in plant and soil science, food science and technology, microbiology, horticulture, animal science, veterinary medicine, entomology, forestry, and natural resource sciences. Students will receive 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 university campus located in Princess Anne, MD, and interact with diverse faculty and other agricultural professionals.

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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/business technology and pre-veterinary/pre-professional, agricultural education, and agricultural studies); a Master of Science in food and agricultural sciences; and a Doctor of Philosophy in food science and technology.



UNIVERSITY OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

JULY 31–AUGUST 11, 2017

During this 2-week 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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www.uvi.edu

APHIS welcomed 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.



JUNE 18–JULY 1, 2017

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: Dr. Charlie Nealis, (804) 524-3084, cnealis@vsu.edu; Dr. Marcus Comer, (804) 524-5467, mcomer@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 2017 summer program. Tuition, room and board, lab supplies, meals, 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 2017 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 1, 2017.

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 (such as 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
California State University, Fresno	ages 14–17
Coppin State University	ages 15–17
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	ages 14–17
North Carolina State University	ages 15–17
Prairie View A&M University	ages 15–17
Purdue University	ages 14–17
South Carolina State University	ages 14–17
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, 2017 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: Tammy Lowry

Office of Civil Rights, Diversity, and Inclusion

4700 River Road, Unit 92, Suite 6C-04

Riverdale, MD 20737-1234

You will be notified the week of **May 8, 2017** 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:



www.aphis.usda.gov



www.desu.edu



www.alcorn.edu



www.famu.edu/herds



www.fresnostate.edu



www.fvsu.edu



www.coppin.edu

**IOWA STATE
UNIVERSITY**

<http://agdiscovery.nrem.iastate.edu>



www.kysu.edu



www.uapb.edu



www.lincolnu.edu



www.hawaii.edu

NC STATE UNIVERSITY

<http://sciencehouse.ncsu.edu>



ILLINOIS
academics.aces.illinois.edu



www.pvamu.edu



www.agnr.umd.edu

PURDUE
UNIVERSITY
www.purdue.edu



www.umes.edu



www.scsu.edu



www.uvi.edu



www.tuskegee.edu/agritrek



www.vsu.edu



<http://ag.arizona.edu>

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 <i>(focuses on the business aspects of agriculture)</i>	Animal <i>(focuses on animal science and health)</i>	Combination <i>(incorporates animal, plant, and agribusiness disciplines)</i>
Delaware State University	Alcorn State University	California State University, Fresno
	Florida A&M University	Coppin State University
	Fort Valley State University	Iowa State University
	Kentucky State University	Lincoln University
	Virginia State 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 Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
		University of Maryland College Park
		University of Maryland Eastern Shore
		University of the Virgin Islands

