

# ANIMAL SCIENCE

What can I do with this major?

## AREAS

### FARM RANGE PRODUCTION AND MANAGEMENT

#### Livestock Production

Beef and Dairy Cattle, Swine, Poultry, Sheep, Horses

#### Livestock Feed

Production, Development, Quality Control, Distribution/Marketing

#### Meat and Dairy Foods

Production, Development, Quality Control, Distribution/Marketing

## EMPLOYERS

Farm and ranch operations

Feed companies and operations

Meat and dairy processors

Processing plants

Inspection services

Extension services

Government agencies including:

U.S. Department of Agriculture

Food and Drug Administration

## STRATEGIES

Develop physical stamina, outdoor skills and comfort being in close proximity with large and small animals.

Gain work experience in area of interest through internships, summer jobs or part-time work.

Minor in business if interested in management or self-employment.

Participate in related clubs and competition teams.

Become familiar with federal job application procedure for government work.

### AGRIBUSINESS

#### Sales

Livestock

Feed

Pharmaceuticals

Agriculture Chemicals

Livestock Supplies

Equipment: Farm and Feedlot

#### Management

#### Marketing

#### Public Relations

#### Customer Service

Agribusinesses: livestock and feed

Pharmaceutical companies

Equipment and supply companies

Food and meat processing companies

Animal health firms

Breed organizations

Food distributors

Financial institutions

Livestock publications

Professional associations, e.g. National

Cattlemen's Beef Association

Obtain relevant experience through internships.

Earn a minor in business.

Must be highly motivated and well organized.

Proven leadership abilities are desirable. Join related student organizations and seek leadership roles.

Develop a strong commitment to customer satisfaction.

Practice excellent communication skills, written and oral.

Develop computer skills especially with spreadsheet, presentation and database software.

Learn to work well both on a team and individually.

Join related clubs and become active with competition teams.

## AREAS

## EMPLOYERS

## STRATEGIES

### EDUCATION

Teaching  
Non-classroom Education  
Extension

Schools (elementary, secondary and post-secondary)  
Extension services  
Agricultural agencies  
Agricultural communications and media firms  
Agribusinesses  
Government agencies

Obtain teacher certification for elementary and secondary school positions.  
Secure masters or doctoral degree for post-secondary teaching or other advanced positions.  
Exercise strong interpersonal skills.  
Practice excellent written and verbal communications skills.  
Gain related experience through volunteer positions, summer jobs, or internships.  
Learn to work well with all types of people.  
Seek leadership roles in student organizations.  
Become familiar with federal job application procedure for government work.  
Be prepared to live in rural communities for extension positions.

### VETERINARY MEDICINE

#### **Areas of Specialization**

Small Animal Care  
Large Animal Care  
Food Safety  
Preventative Medicine  
Surgery  
Public Health  
Laboratory Animal Medicine  
Research  
Inspection

Group or private practice  
Federal government including:  
    Department of Agriculture  
    Department of Health and Human Services  
State and local government  
Colleges of veterinarian medicine  
Medical schools  
Research laboratories  
Animal food companies  
Inspection services  
Pharmaceutical companies  
Zoos  
Wildlife sanctuaries

Research veterinary programs, take pre-vet courses to meet veterinary school requirements, and prepare for application process.  
Maintain an excellent grade point average.  
Gain experience through volunteer positions, part-time jobs, or summer work. Consider working as a Veterinary Technician.  
Secure strong recommendations from professors.  
Develop physical stamina, outdoor skills and comfort being in close proximity with large and small animals.  
Exercise close attention to detail.  
Practice strong interpersonal skills.  
Gain extensive laboratory and research experience for research positions.  
Obtain internships at zoos or other wildlife sanctuaries.  
Become active in pre-vet and other related clubs.

## AREAS

## EMPLOYERS

## STRATEGIES

### **SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**

Research  
Product and Process Development  
Genetics and Animal Breeding  
Animal Nutrition/Health/Disease Control  
Animal Behavior, Training and Caretaking

Government and corporate laboratories  
Colleges and universities  
Livestock producers  
Zoos  
Wildlife sanctuaries

Advanced degrees are often required in these positions.  
Earn post-graduate certification through the Animal Certification Technician Board.  
Gain extensive laboratory and research experience by working in faculty laboratories through special problems courses, as a student employee, or through other departmental programs.  
Supplement curriculum with additional science courses in relevant areas (e.g. genetics, animal behavior, microbiology)  
Develop physical stamina, outdoor skills and comfort being in close proximity with large and small animals.  
Become familiar with federal job application procedure for government work.  
Gain work experience in area of interest through internships, co-ops, or summer or part-time work.

### **QUALITY CONTROL**

Livestock Feed Inspection  
Harvest Operation Inspection  
Meat and Dairy Inspection

Government Agencies including:  
Food and Drug Administration  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Inspection services  
Farm and ranch operations

Develop physical stamina, outdoor skills and comfort being in close proximity with large and small animals.  
Become familiar with federal job application procedure for government work.  
Gain work experience in area of interest through internships, summer jobs, or part-time work.  
Join student organizations and seek leadership roles.  
Participate in competition teams.  
Practice strong interpersonal skills.  
Exercise close attention to detail.

## **GENERAL INFORMATION**

- As an undergraduate, seek laboratory experiences such as research projects, volunteering with professors, summer jobs, or internships.
- Participate in research programs and internships sponsored by government organizations and private corporations.
- Consider a certificate program or specialized master's program to qualify for research technician positions.
- Earn master's degree for greater variety and autonomy on the job. Earn a Ph.D. to work on high-level research projects, to direct research programs, to enter high levels of administration, and to teach at four-year post-secondary institutions. Postdoctoral fellowships may also be required.
- Learn to work independently and as part of a team.
- Combine an undergraduate degree with a degree in law, business, education, communication and information science, or other discipline to expand career opportunities.
- Consider earning an MBA after gaining work experience to reach the highest levels of agribusiness management.
- The animal sciences are good preparation for a career in healthcare such as medicine, dentistry, pharmacology, and veterinary science, but professional degrees and licenses are also necessary to practice in these fields. Become familiar with the specific entrance exam for graduate or professional schools in your area of interest.
- Join professional associations and community organizations and read related journals to stay abreast of current issues in the field and to develop networking contacts.
- Actively participate in student organizations, competition teams, research laboratories, and other related activities.
- Secure strong relationships and personal recommendations from professors and/or employers.
- Learn federal, state, and local government job application process. The federal government is the largest employer of scientists.
- Gain experience with grant writing and fundraising techniques. Often research must be funded in this manner.