

Task 2.2 Co-Opportunities

Purpose

The process of getting a product from farm to fork requires thousands of career opportunities. There are many careers connected to agriculture and cooperatives. Even if “farming” is not your thing, you have an opportunity to be involved in many different aspects of agribusiness and agriscience. What cooperative careers fit your interests?

When deciding on a career path, you should consider the type of education you want to obtain, your interests and skills, and your personal career goals. Educational choices after high school vary from a few months to many years. The type of skills and career you wish to have will determine the amount of education you will need after high school. When choosing a career, you also need to consider your personal goals related to where you want to live, how often you want to travel, and how much money you would like to earn.

What career opportunities at cooperatives meet your educational and personal goals?

Materials

Per student:

- Pencil
- Computer with internet access

Procedure

Identify potential agricultural careers meeting your interests. Then determine how a cooperative could employ you if you chose one of those careers.

Part One – Interest and Skill Inventory

1. Go to www.agexplorer.com and choose *Career Finder* at the top of the page.
2. Select *Launch Career Finder*.
3. Select *Start Now* at the bottom right corner of the page.
4. Choose *Education* and click on each gray icon to answer a question about your educational goals.
5. Select *Return to Menu* at the bottom right corner of the screen.
6. Choose *Interest and Skills* and click on each gray icon to answer a question about your interests.
7. Select *Return to Menu* at the bottom right corner of the screen.
8. Choose *Career Aspiration* and click on each gray icon to answer a question about what you would like to be doing for a career.
9. Select *Return to Menu* at the bottom right corner of the screen.
10. Choose *Submit* at the bottom right of the screen.
11. Record the four careers in Table 1 on the student worksheet.
12. Click on the first career and read through the description, responsibilities, and education information.
13. Summarize the description in Table 1.
14. Record three career responsibilities that interest you and the education required for entering that career field.

15. Repeat Steps 12 – 14 for the other three careers listed.

Part Two – Cooperative Connection

1. Select two of the four careers that you might find at a cooperative and record in Table 2 on the student worksheet.
2. Explain why you might find this career at a cooperative. Record your explanation in the *Cooperative Connection* column in Table 2. Include the following in your explanation.
 - The structure of the cooperative employing that career (marketing, purchasing, service)
 - How the career supports the guiding principles of a cooperative
 - How the career supports cooperative members
3. Use a computer with internet access to research and identify a cooperative where you could have that career.
4. Record the name and location of the cooperative in Table 2.

Conclusion

1. What agricultural careers are found at a cooperative business?

2. How do cooperative career opportunities align with your interests?

Name _____



Task 2.2 Student Worksheet

Table 1. *Agricultural Careers*

Career	Description	Responsibilities	Education/Training

Table 2. *Cooperative Connections*

Career	Cooperative Connection	Cooperative Name and Location