Agricultural Education in Illinois

Agricultural Education implements inquiry-based learning in the classroom and career exploration through work study and supervised agricultural experience programs. It develops leadership skills such as public speaking, teamwork, organization and civic service through the intracurricular implementation of FFA.

Students who participate in agricultural education programs graduate with the skills necessary to become productive citizens who will succeed in postsecondary education or the workforce.

Secondary Education

- 28,657 students in agricultural education courses
- 393 agriculture teachers
- 315 high school agricultural education programs
- 73 middle school agricultural education programs
- 91 students enrolled per program on average

Courses offered:

- Agriculture Biotechnology
- Agricultural Business Management
- Agricultural Communications
- Agricultural Construction and Technology
- Agricultural Cooperative Education
- Agricultural Leadership
- Agricultural Sales and Marketing
- Agricultural Machinery Service
- Agricultural Mechanics and Technology
- Agricultural Metal Fabrication
- Agronomy
- Animal Science
- Aquacultural Science and Technology
- Basic Agricultural Science
- Basic Agricultural Mechanics
- Basic Horticultural Science
- Biological Science Applications in Ag
- Environmental Science
- Food Science and Technology
- Greenhouse Production and Floral Design
- Horticultural Production and Marketing
- Introduction to the Agriculture Industry
- Landscaping and Turf Management
- Natural Resources Conservation and Management
- Physical Science Applications in Agriculture
- Veterinary Technology
- Supervised Agricultural Experience

Postsecondary

- 29 four-year colleges and technical schools offering postsecondary agriculture courses
- 274 post-secondary agriculture instructors at the universities and 97 full time and 92 part time instructors at Illinois community colleges
- 27 agriculture or related majors at universities across the state
- 77 students enrolled in pre-service Agricultural Education certification 4 institutions including Illinois State University, Southern Illinois University- Carbondale, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and Western Illinois University.

Economic Impact of Agriculture

Agriculture in Illinois is the largest industry employing 25% of the state’s workers. There are over 300 agricultural related careers in Illinois. Marketing Illinois’ commodities generates more than $9 billion annually. Illinois is home to more than 950 food manufacturing companies. The agribusiness industry contributes over $13.5 billion to the state’s economy.

$10,353,154 reported as the total net earnings for Illinois agricultural education student’s supervised agricultural experience programs.

For more information please visit www.agriculturaleducation.org or www.naae.org