



**United States Department of Agriculture**

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

Program Aid No. 2001

## **Ag-DISCOVERY 2009:**

Investing in the Future of American  
Agriculture



## What Is AgDiscovery?

AgDiscovery is an outreach program to help teenagers learn about careers in plant and animal science and wildlife management. The program allows students to live on a college campus and learn about agriculture from university professors and scientists who work for the U.S. Government in a variety of fields. They study the life cycles and habits of insects (entomologists); research microorganisms, 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); and provide leadership and education on the humane care and treatment of animals (veterinarians and animal care inspectors).

This 2-week summer boarding program for 2009 targets middle and high school students\* who are interested in learning more about protecting plants and animals. Students chosen to participate in AgDiscovery will gain experience through hands-on labs, workshops, and field trips. Students also will participate in character and team-building activities and diversity workshops.

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\*Students between the ages of 12 and 16 are eligible to participate in AgDiscovery programs at Alcorn State University and Kentucky State University. For all other participating universities, the eligible ages for participation are 14 through 17 years old.

## Who Sponsors AgDiscovery?

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) partners with various universities and colleges to deliver the AgDiscovery program at locations throughout the country. 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 2009, there are seven universities participating in AgDiscovery: Delaware State University, Alcorn State University, The University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff, Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University, Kentucky State University, the University of Maryland, and North Carolina 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, and how to apply...

# Delaware State University July 5–18, 2009



## **Investing in the Future of Agribusiness**

There is more to agriculture than animal and plant health sciences. It takes a cadre of professionals to keep USDA operating. That's why Delaware State University (DSU) is hosting AgDiscovery program participants this year on its campus in Dover. New to AgDiscovery in 2009, the DSU program is designed to help teenagers learn about the business aspects of protecting plants and animals and explore careers in agribusiness. The program allows students to live on the DSU campus and learn about a variety of administrative professions from university professors and agriculture employees in the fields of finance, human resources, information technology, emergency management, investigative services, biosafety, biosecurity, acquisition, and facilities management.

## **About Delaware State University**

Founded in 1890 as the State College for Colored Students, DSU began as a land-grant



college for agriculture and mechanical arts. During the last 115 years, it has evolved into a fully accredited, comprehensive university with a main campus and two satellite sites that encompass six colleges and a diverse population of undergraduate and advanced degree students. The 400-acre main campus is located in Dover, Delaware. The university offers 64 undergraduate degrees, 22 graduate degrees, and 5 doctoral degrees. Through the College of Agriculture and Related Sciences, students can earn degrees in Agriculture including Agri-Business, Agriculture Education, General Agriculture, Plant Sciences (Agronomy/Horticulture), Pre-veterinary Science, Environmental Science, Fisheries/Wildlife Management, and Pre-Forestry.

DSU's College of Agriculture and Related Sciences offers an outstanding opportunity for undergraduates and graduate students alike to partner with research faculty, as more than 92 percent of the college's faculty are involved in

research. Facilities include two working farms—the 192-acre Outreach and Research Center for crop research and trials and the 75-acre Hickory Hill Farm for forage and farm animal research. The largest herbarium at an 1890 land-grant institution resides on the DSU campus. The Claude E. Phillips Herbarium has faculty and staff who maintain more than 150,000 rare and endangered plant species, dating back to 1799.

### **Learn More**

To find out more about the 2009 AgDiscovery program at DSU, contact

#### **Dr. Dyremple B. Marsh**

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College of Agriculture and Related Sciences  
Delaware State University  
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Dover, DE 19901  
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## **Investing in the Future of Veterinary Science**

With funding from the National Civil Rights Leadership Committee of APHIS' Veterinary Services program, Alcorn State University (ASU) is hosting AgDiscovery program participants on its campus in Alcorn State, Mississippi. The university will make a variety of animal species available to the AgDiscovery participants. Every participant will work with live animals during this summer program. The students will learn what it feels like to be a veterinarian through hands-on experiences. Dr. Cassandra Vaughn, of ASU's Department of Agriculture, will facilitate the program.

## **About Alcorn State University**

Founded in 1871, ASU is the country's first State-supported college for African Americans. It is located in Alcorn State, Mississippi, 80 miles southwest of Jackson, the State capital. The university provides students with education and





training through bachelor's and master's degree programs in numerous fields of study, including the animal sciences. ASU currently offers a Veterinary Science option in the Animal Science discipline within the university's Department of Agriculture.





## Learn More

To find out more about the Department of Agriculture at ASU, contact

### **Dr. Cassandra Vaughn**

1000 ASU Drive

Box 750

Alcorn State, MS 39096-1500

Phone: (601) 877-6541

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<http://www.alcorn.edu>



# The University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff June 14–26, 2009

## Investing in the Future of Plant and Animal Health

The AgDiscovery program at the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff (UAPB) will take place on its campus this summer. The university will make a variety of plant and animal species available to the AgDiscovery students. Every participant will work with plants and animals to discover the effects of insects and diseases on American agriculture. Shannon Hendrix, from the College of Agriculture, Fisheries and Human Sciences, will facilitate the 2009 program. Several offices within APHIS—Policy and Program Development, Investigative and Enforcement Services, Plant Protection and Quarantine, Wildlife Services, and





Veterinary Services—will fund the UAPB program this year.

### **About the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff**

UAPB, one of America's premier historically black land-grant institutions, offers bachelor's degrees in several agricultural areas through its School of Agriculture, Fisheries and Human Sciences. As a State-supported public college, UAPB particularly emphasizes research and coursework in two disciplines where Arkansas farmers lead the Nation: poultry science and aquaculture. Besides the campus in Pine Bluff, the university maintains 3 farm sites with more than 1,100 acres of land for crop research and 112 earthen ponds for aquatic research. Facilities also include greenhouses, a poultry research lab, and two fish hatcheries. Students in the 2009 AgDiscovery program at UAPB will not just work with plants and livestock.

They also will get to learn about UAPB's new degree program in Regulatory Science. The university—a USDA-designated Center of Excellence—has worked with APHIS to create an undergraduate major in the development and writing of governmental regulations. Congress passes laws, but it is these regulations that tell Americans what they have to do to be in compliance with the laws. No other college in the country offers this kind of instruction. Come to the UAPB AgDiscovery program and find out all about it!

## Learn More

To find out more about career preparation in agriculture-related disciplines at UAPB, contact

### **Linda L. Okiror, Ph.D.**

Assistant Dean

College of Agriculture, Fisheries and Human Sciences

University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff

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<http://www.uapb.edu>



### **Investing in the Future of Animal Care**

Florida Agricultural and Mechanical (A&M) University is hosting AgDiscovery program participants on its campus in Tallahassee, Florida. The university will make a variety of animal species available to AgDiscovery students. Every participant will work with live animals during the summer. Drs. Ray Mobley and Thomas Peterson of the Animal Science Department and Cooperative Extension Program will facilitate the program. APHIS' Animal Care program will fund





the AgDiscovery session at Florida A&M University this year.

## About Florida A&M University

Founded in 1887, Florida A&M University is a 4-year, public, coeducational institution of higher learning. The main campus occupies 419 acres on the highest of seven hills in Tallahassee, the capital of Florida. The university offers degrees at the bachelor, master, doctorate, and professional levels. The college of Engineering Sciences, Technology and Agriculture currently offers a “pre-vet and animal industry” option in the Animal Science discipline, along with a Veterinary Technology program.

## Learn More

To find out more about the Animal Science Department at Florida A&M University or cooperative extension program, contact

### **Dr. Thomas E. Peterson, DVM, MS**

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<http://www.famou.edu>



## **Investing in the Future of Veterinary Services in Horse Country**

Kentucky State University (KSU) is hosting AgDiscovery program participants on its campus in Frankfort, Kentucky. The university will make a variety of animal species available to the AgDiscovery participants. Every participant will work with live animals during this summer program. The students will learn what it feels like to be a veterinarian through hands-on experiences. Dr. John Hollis, of APHIS' Veterinary Services, and Dr. Kimberly Holmes, of KSU, will facilitate the program. The National Civil Rights Leadership Committee of APHIS' Veterinary Services program and KSU will both provide funding for the university's AgDiscovery session this year.

## **About Kentucky State University**

Founded in 1887, KSU is a historically black college that is strengthened by both its liberal arts mission and its 1890 land-grant foundation





and heritage. The university is located in Kentucky's State capital, Frankfort, which is 20 miles northwest of Lexington and 50 miles east of Louisville. The university provides students with education and training through bachelor's and master's degree programs in numerous fields of study, including aquaculture and the biological sciences. The Land-Grant Program at KSU works to resolve agricultural, educational, economic, and social problems of all Kentuckians but especially those with limited resources. It does so through research, service, and teaching in the food and agricultural sciences.

## Learn More

To find out more about the 2009 AgDiscovery program at KSU, contact

### **Dr. Kimberly Holmes**

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### **Dr. John Hollis**

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<http://www.kysu.edu>



## Investing in the Future of Plants and Animals

The University of Maryland (UM) is hosting 2009 AgDiscovery program participants on its campus in College Park, Maryland. The university will make a variety of plant and animal species available to AgDiscovery students. Every participant will work with plants and animals to discover the effects of insects and diseases on America's agriculture, learn about regulating genetically engineered organisms, and understand the challenges of managing and resolving wildlife conflicts. Dr. Leon Slaughter, from the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, will facilitate the program. Several APHIS offices—Biotechnology Regulatory Services, Legislative and Public Affairs, Plant Protection and Quarantine, and Policy and Program Development—will fund the AgDiscovery program at UM this year.

## About the University of Maryland

UM is a land-grant institution founded in 1856 and located in College Park, Maryland, just outside Washington, D.C. The 1,250-acre campus is home to just over 25,000 undergraduate students, 32 percent of whom are minorities. A nationally







recognized leader in engineering and computer science with historic strengths in agriculture-related biological sciences, UM provides a high-quality education in numerous fields of study. The university offers bachelor's degrees in 127 fields (including plant sciences, food science, entomology, landscape architecture, pre-veterinary medicine, and wildlife ecology and management) and graduate degrees in 112 specialties.

The university's own mission statement emphasizes its continuing commitment to engaging "in outreach and collaborative partnerships with the greater community by extending the scholarly reach of [its] campus." UM's participation as a host for the summer 2009 AgDiscovery program demonstrates this commitment in action.

## Learn More

To find out more about career preparation in agriculture-related disciplines at UM, contact

### **Ms. Elizabeth Weiss**

College of Agriculture and Natural Resources

(301) 314-7222

<http://www.agnr.umd.edu>

For more information about the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources at UM, contact

### **Leon Slaughter, Ph.D.**

Associate Dean of Academic Programs

Phone: (301) 405-2078

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<http://www.umd.edu>



# North Carolina State University

## July 13–24, 2009

### **Investing in the Future of Plant Science**

North Carolina State University (NCSU) is hosting AgDiscovery program participants on its campus in Raleigh, North Carolina. The university will make a variety of plant species available to AgDiscovery students. Every participant will work with plants to discover the effects of insects and disease on America's agriculture. Ms. Janet Bailey of the Science House—NCSU's statewide kindergarten through grade 12 learning outreach project—will facilitate the program. APHIS' Plant Protection and Quarantine Eastern Region office will fund the 2009 AgDiscovery program at NCSU.

### **About North Carolina State University**

NCSU is a land-grant institution founded in 1887 and located in Raleigh, North Carolina. A nationally recognized leader in science and technology with historic strengths in agriculture



and engineering, NCSU provides a high-quality education in numerous fields of study, including agricultural and life sciences. NCSU offers bachelor's degrees in 102 fields, master's degrees in 108 fields, and doctoral degrees in 60 fields (including botany, crop science, entomology, horticulture, and plant pathology).

The Science House is a learning outreach project of NCSU. Its mission is to work in partnership with K–12 teachers to increase the use and impact of hands-on learning technologies in mathematics and science. The Learning House is pleased to facilitate AgDiscovery in 2009.

### **Learn More**

If you'd like to learn more about NCSU, contact

#### **Ms. Janet Bailey**

The Science House - NCSU  
(919) 515-9403

To find out more about career preparation in plant science and veterinary medicine at NCSU, contact the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences by phone at (919) 515-3248. The college's Web page is <http://www.cals.ncsu.edu>.

<http://www.ncsu.edu>



## How Much Will It Cost?

Students selected for the 2009 AgDiscovery summer session will pay only the cost of their transportation to get from home to the college campus for the start of the session and back again at the end of the session. The cost of tuition, room and board, and lab supplies for the 2-week program will be covered by various offices within APHIS.

## How Do I Apply?

For the programs at Alcorn State University and KSU, students between the ages of 12 and 16 are eligible to apply for admission to AgDiscovery. For all other participating universities, the eligible ages for AgDiscovery program admission are 14 through 17 years old. *(Note: You must be at least the minimum eligible age and no older than the maximum eligible age for your selected program as of May 31, 2009.)*

You must submit a complete application package to APHIS that is **postmarked no later than April 17, 2009**. APHIS will not accept application packages that are postmarked after that date and/or are incomplete.



## Here's what to put in your application package:

- **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 on your interests and hobbies and explain what you want to do when you grow up. Be sure to include your full name, age, home address, and home telephone number.
- **Three character references**—letters from people not related to you who know you well. At least one of the three references must come from a teacher or counselor.
- **A completed application form.** (If you did not receive one with this leaflet, you can print the form from the Web. Go to <http://www.aphis.usda.gov> and click on the AgDiscovery Program hotlink.)

## Mail your completed package to:

*For DSU, UAPB, and UM*

Ms. Beatrice Jacobs

USDA, APHIS, Office of the Administrator

Civil Rights Enforcement and Compliance

4700 River Road, Unit 92

Riverdale, MD 20737-1234

*For ASU – focusing on Veterinary Science*

Dr. Carol Belzer

Chairperson, National Civil Rights Leadership  
Committee

USDA, APHIS, National Veterinary Services  
Laboratories

1800 Dayton Avenue

Ames, IA 50010

*For Florida A&M University*

Ms. Joyce Barkley

USDA, APHIS, Animal Care

4700 River Road, Unit 84

Riverdale, MD 20737-1234

*For KSU*

Dr. John Hollis

USDA, APHIS, Veterinary Services

Post Office Box 399

Frankfort, KY 40602

*For NCSU*

Ms. Nancy D. Matthews

USDA, APHIS, Plant Protection and Quarantine

920 Main Campus Drive, Suite 200

Raleigh, NC 27606

## What Happens Next

In May, APHIS will notify you 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:

<http://www.aphis.usda.gov>

<http://famu.edu>

<http://alcorn.edu>

<http://kysu.edu>

<http://www.uapb.edu>

<http://umd.edu>

<http://desu.edu>

<http://www.ncsu.edu>

## For More Information

For additional information about the AgDiscovery program, contact

**Ms. Terry Henson** or

**Ms. Beatrice Jacobs**

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