

Agri-Social Studies
<i>Youth Program Director</i>
<i>Wildlife Biologist</i>
<i>Farm Investment Manager</i>
<i>Urban Forester</i>
<i>Environmental Specialist</i>
<i>Trainer</i>
<i>Agricultural Tourism Host</i>
<i>Greenhouse Manager</i>
<i>Extension Agent</i>
<i>Golf Course Superintendent</i>
<i>Agricultural Educator</i>
<i>Zoo Manager</i>
<i>Pet Store Manager</i>
<i>Legislator</i>
<i>Extension Agent</i>
<i>Safety Inspector</i>
<i>Agricultural Engineer</i>
<i>4-H Youth Agent</i>
<i>Photographer</i>
<i>Real Estate Broker</i>
<i>Veterinary Assistant</i>

Agri-Social Studies

Incorporating Agriculture into Academia

Agriculture is a people business!

If you enjoy working with people, understanding our history and how our nation was founded, and have a desire to improve people's lives, then agriculture offers many opportunities for you.

This brochure showcases careers relating to history, social studies, and relationships, introduces you to people working in various careers, highlights Wisconsin colleges and technical schools, and explores other opportunities that agriculture has for you.



It is designed as a guide to be used along with the publication "An Agricultural Career for You" from the Wisconsin Agribusiness Council, which showcases the seven agricultural career pathways.

Agriculture is a people business. Your interest in history, government, and social studies could be used while working as a lobbyist

or even an elected official.

Working with people is critical in all the service industries—as a government employee, running for political office, or working as a staff assistant will use your interest in government.

Assisting people with their concerns, needs, or problems will be enhanced by your understanding of human nature and psychology.

The list is endless of how you can use your interest in social studies in agriculture.

Your skills and knowledge can lead to an exciting career!

But I'm not from a farm . . .

A common misconception is that you must be from a farm in order to pursue an agricultural career!

That's not true!

Understanding agriculture will certainly help you pursue a career in agriculture.

How do you learn about agriculture if you're not from a farm?

- If your school offers agricultural education classes take them.
- Get involved in FFA contests that offer you chances to develop your human relation skills.

- Attend leadership and citizenship conferences.
- Get a job working on a farm or in a related interest.

What classes should I take?



Politics and agriculture do go together

I like to

- Study government
- Understand the political process
- Help people
- Organize meetings and campaigns
- Make our town, county and state a better place to live
- Study people

If you like working with people, taking classes from both your social studies and agriculture education department will prepare you for further education.

Classes such as government, U.S. and world history, and/or geography, psychology, and economics will help you develop a strong

background in human relations.

If your school offers agriculture education, an introductory class to agriculture will help you find areas that might be of particular interest.

Many agricultural education programs also offer specialized courses that you may find interesting.

Participating in FFA leadership activities and trips will help you understand government, the legislative process, and how to be a leader in groups and organizations.

So how do agricultural jobs relate to Social Studies classes?

Government Classes

You need to understand how government works to be an elected official, a staff assistant to a legislator, or a lobbyist for an organization.

Contemporary World Affairs

Understanding issues affecting our world will be important if you take foreign trade trips, work with immigration issues, or serve as a customs agent. What happens half-way around the world can have a direct impact on the company or business you work for.

U.S. and World Geography Classes

If you work with importing or exporting, it helps to know geography and where the countries are you're working with!

Global Positioning Systems (GPS) will use your mapping skills. Any land use planning also will use your geography skills.

Psychology Classes

Understanding people will be helpful if you want to work in the Peace Corp, County Extension, Food Assistance Programs, or counseling farmers.

Economics Classes

Understanding how our economic and financial systems work is critical to the stability of the industry. Jobs such as market analyst, stock brokers, commodity brokers, and buyers for bio-energy facilities need to understand the markets' ups and downs.

Amy Sue Vruwink, Wisconsin Legislature

“When I was growing up on a dairy farm I always had an interest in history and social studies,” said Representative Vruwink. “Also, working at the state capitol, I have gained a deep appreciation for the great history of the state of Wisconsin.”

Representative Vruwink recalls that in middle and high school she took classes such as speech, English, and history.

“Speech classes helped me learn how to communicate with large groups of people and helped me to master the art of public speaking,” said Representative Vruwink. “English classes improved my writing skills and prepared me for letter writing and drafting legislation. Finally, history classes, allowed me to learn



about Wisconsin’s history in agriculture, progressivism, and forward thinking that are vital to this state and its people.”

I advise students with an interest in history and social studies to continue to

take classes and learn as much as possible about these key subjects.

“An understanding of the history of Wisconsin, the USA, and the world allows for enlightened thinking and new perspectives to view the world,” added Representative Vruwink. “Learning about this history is vital to understanding the future.”

Many jobs and professions exist in which it is essential to understand history and social studies and an understanding of these subject areas simply makes a person well rounded.

“Agriculture is key. The many economic booms and busts that the USA has experienced are often closely tied to agriculture,” said Representative Vruwink. “Agriculture is a field rich with history and would be an excellent field for any students interested in history and social studies to be involved in.”

Becky Anding, Wisconsin Farm Bureau

Becky Anding taught high school agriculture education and is a District Coordinator for Wisconsin Farm Bureau. Both jobs require the ability to help organizations with their meetings, organizational structure, communications, and activities.

Farm Bureau is active in legislative affairs and lobbying. Anding’s classes in social studies enable her to relate the legislative process to Farm Bureau members.

“From the history and social studies classes I took, I have learned the basic background of society,” said Anding. “I learned where we have come from and have developed a greater appreciation for where we are going in the future.”

Anding added that growing up on a Family Century Farm gave her an appreciation for what history can teach us.



“It made it a very real topic for me—in my job, it is important to know the history behind the industry, which in my case is agriculture,” said Anding. “The agriculture industry is the largest industry in the world. One out of every five people will work for some aspect related to the agriculture industry. It is where our basic needs for survival—

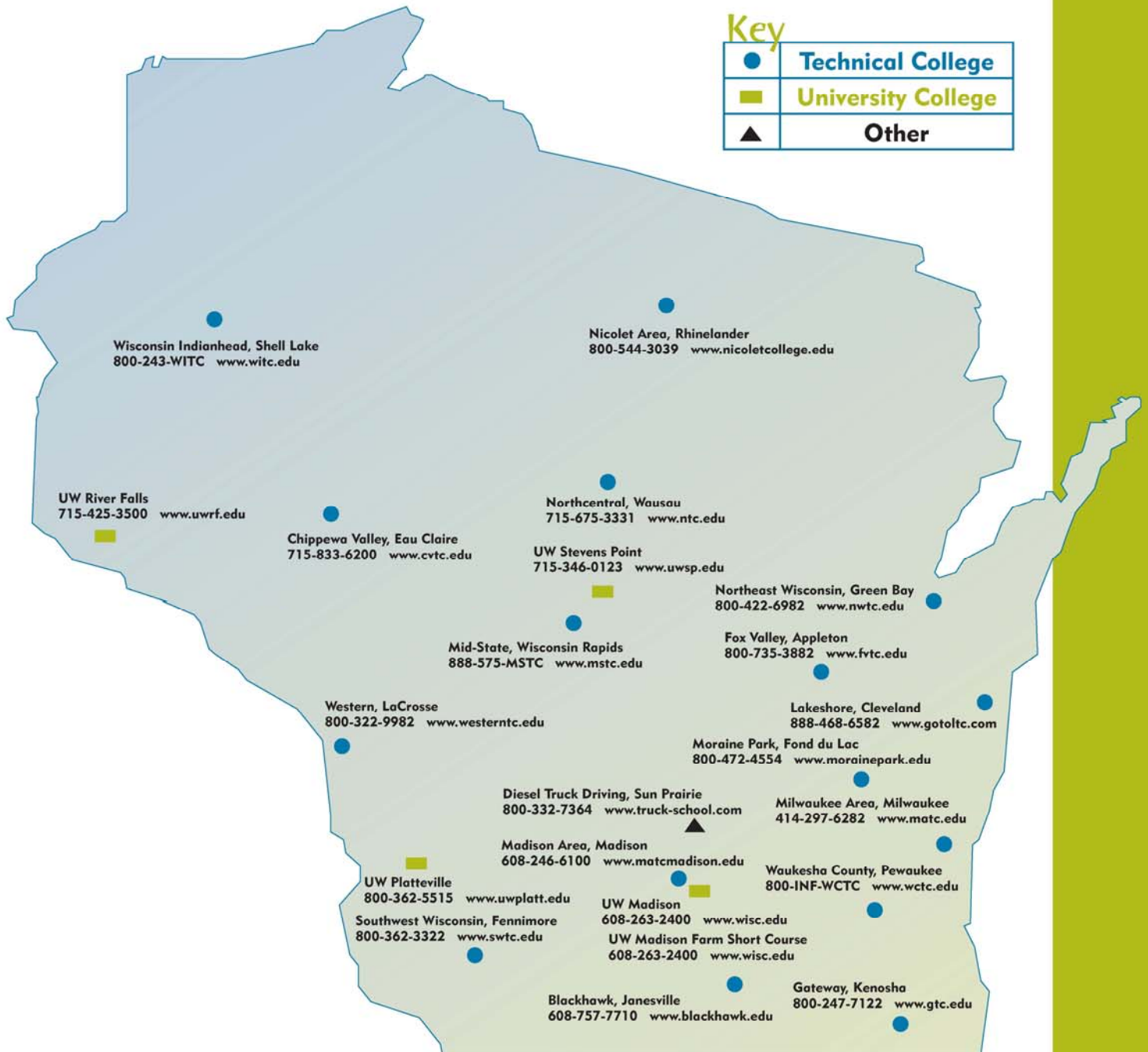
food, clothing, and shelter—are created and provided to us.”

The social studies aspect comes into play when working with and communicating with people.

“Having good communication skills is not always a learned trait—sometimes it just comes naturally but learning to communicate more effectively allows for less miscommunication and more cooperation with all people involved,” said Anding.

Anding’s work with both high school students and adult volunteer leaders allows her to help them organize meetings, plan agendas, carry out program of activities, and recruit volunteers. The ability to communicate the goals and mission of the organizations relates back to her understanding of how people function and react to each other.

After You Graduate



“Incorporating Agriculture into Academia” is a project coordinated by the Wisconsin Farm Bureau– Ag in the Classroom Program and the Wisconsin Agribusiness Council. The project was funded with a USDA Ag in the Classroom Enrichment Grant. To learn more about these programs, visit their websites–



www.wisagclassroom.org



www.wisagri.com



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