

What ag career interests YOU?

Being a farmer isn't the only way to have a career in agriculture. Check out these other ag careers and meet some people who have them.



extension specialist

kiersten wise

Where do you work?

Associate Professor of Plant Pathology at Purdue University

What are you working on?

I am a plant doctor. My research program focuses on understanding the organisms that cause disease on soybeans, and how to manage these diseases to improve soybean yields.

Why does this research matter to farmers and consumers?

It is important to understand "why" and "how" soybeans get sick, so we can try to keep soybeans disease-free. If we can improve our ability to keep soybeans healthy, soybean production will be more plentiful and profitable, which is good for the Indiana economy and the world!

Did you grow up on a farm?

I am from a small farm town in Iowa and spent my summers picking sweet corn and detasseling corn.

What are your hobbies?

I love cheering on my favorite teams, especially during baseball season. I also garden and enjoy being outside as much as possible.

Purdue Agricultural Communication Photo / Tom Campbell

Do you like to work outside?

- Plant Breeder
- Agronomist
- Crop Consultant
- Horticulturist
- Water Quality Specialist

Do you like math?

- Farm Loan Officer
- Banker
- Ag Economist

Do you like to write?

- Agricultural Communicator
- Ag Journalist



agronomist

shaun casteel

Where do you work?

Assistant Professor of Agronomy at Purdue University

What are you working on?

I investigate the best ways to manage and grow soybeans, while being a good steward of the land and resources.

Why does this research matter to farmers and consumers?

My research is directly related to the decisions that farmers make on a daily basis, so they can grow quality soybeans in an economically viable and environmentally sound manner.

Did you grow up on a farm?

Yes.

What are your hobbies?

I enjoy working and playing outside such as gardening, farming, and woodworking. I also enjoy playing basketball, volleyball, and softball.

Purdue Agricultural Communication Photo / Tom Campbell

Do you like science?

- Botanist
- Biochemist
- Geneticist

Do you like to build things?

- Ag Engineer



plant breeder

katy rainey

Where do you work?

Assistant Professor of Agronomy at Purdue University

What are you working on?

My research is to identify valuable genes in soybeans and understand the best way to use them to develop new varieties, while also working to increase the yield of soybeans.

Why does this research matter to farmers and consumers?

My research contributes to new healthier food products, such as high oleic soybean oil (no trans-fat), and also promotes long-term food security.

Did you grow up on a farm?

No.

What are your hobbies?

I enjoy gardening and hobby farming, camping and canoeing.

Do you like cooking?

- Food Scientist
- Family and Consumer Science Teacher
- Chef

Do you like insects?

- Entomologist

Do you like animals?

- Animal Nutritionist
- Veterinarian
- Animal Scientist

Do you like to teach?

- Professor
- Ag teacher
- Extension Educator