



United States Department of Agriculture  
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service  
Office of Civil Rights, Diversity, and Inclusion

# AgDiscovery 2020

## APPLICATION

<b>Student's Name</b>	First: _____ Middle Initial: _____ Last: _____			
<b>Home Address</b>	<b>Street</b>			
	<b>City</b>		<b>State</b>	<b>Zip Code</b>
<b>Telephone</b>	Home (     )		Mobile/Cell (     )	
<b>E-mail Address</b>				
<b>Date of Birth</b>	/     /	<b>Current Age:</b>	<b>Gender:</b> Male _____ Female _____	
<b>School Name</b>				<b>Current Grade:</b>
<b>School Address</b>	<b>Street</b>			<b>High School Graduation Year:</b>
	<b>City</b>		<b>State</b>	<b>Zip Code</b>
<b>Parent/Guardian's Name</b>				
<b>Telephone Number</b>	Home (     )		Mobile/Cell (     )	
<b>Parent/Guardian's E-mail Address</b>				
<b>Emergency Contact Name</b>			<b>Telephone Number</b> Home: (     ) Mobile/Cell: (     )	

Select the AgDiscovery Program you wish to apply for below. **PLEASE ONLY SELECT ONE!**

✓	University	2020 Program Dates	Eligibility
	Alcorn State University	June 14-26, 2020	Currently in grades 7-10
	California State University, Fresno	June 7-20, 2020	Currently in grades 9-11
	Coppin State University	June 28-July 10, 2020	Currently in grades 8-11
	Delaware State University	July 6-19, 2020	Currently in grades 8-11
	Florida A&M University	June 14-27, 2020	Currently in grades 8-11
	Iowa State University	July 12-25, 2020	Currently in grades 9-11
	Kentucky State University	June 7-20, 2020	Currently in grades 9-11
	Lincoln University – Missouri	July 12-25, 2020	Currently in grades 7-11
	North Carolina State University	June 15-26, 2020	Currently in grades 9-11
	Prairie View A&M University	June 15-26, 2020	Currently in grades 9-11
	Purdue University	July 5-18, 2020	Currently in grades 9-11
	Tuskegee University	June 6-20, 2020	Currently in grades 9-11
	University of Arizona	June 15-26, 2020	Currently in grades 9-11
	University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff	June 13-26, 2020	Currently in grades 8-11
	University of Hawaii at Mānoa	July 5-18, 2020	Currently in grades 9-11
	University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign	July 5 – August 1, 2020	Currently in grades 9-11
	University of Maryland College Park	July 12-31, 2020	Currently in grades 9-11
	University of Maryland Eastern Shore	July 12-25, 2020	Currently in grades 8-11
	University of the Virgin Islands	July 19 – August 1, 2020	Currently in grades 7-11
	Virginia State University	June 14-27, 2020	Currently in grades 9-11

How did you find out about AgDiscovery?

\_\_\_\_\_AgDiscovery Website      \_\_\_\_\_Teacher      \_\_\_\_\_Counselor      \_\_\_\_\_YouTube Video  
\_\_\_\_\_Facebook      \_\_\_\_\_Friend      Other Source: \_\_\_\_\_

Have you participated in an AgDiscovery Program in the past?    Yes \_\_\_\_\_    No \_\_\_\_\_

If yes, please list the year \_\_\_\_\_ Which location? \_\_\_\_\_

If you are **selected** to participate in the AgDiscovery Program, you will be required to provide the following documentation:

- Proof of school enrollment
- Current high school transcript (for University of Maryland College Park applicants only)

Please **DO NOT** send those documents with your application. You will be required to submit the documents only if you are selected to participate in the AgDiscovery program.

**IMPORTANT NOTE:**

Applicants selected to attend the AgDiscovery program are required to attend the program in its entirety. Please **do not apply** if you have any obligations (i.e., vacation plans, summer camps, etc.) that will prevent you from attending the entire AgDiscovery program, which includes weekends, and opening and closing day activities.

# AgDiscovery 2020

## PARENTAL RELEASE FORM

I certify that my child, \_\_\_\_\_, who is enrolled with this agreement, may participate in strenuous physical activities associated with the AgDiscovery Summer Program. I agree to defend, indemnify, and hold harmless USDA-APHIS and the selected university, its officers, servants, agents, and/or employees, contractors, and insurers from any and all claims for injuries sustained by my child during his/her participation in this program.

Permission is granted in the agreement for my child to receive emergency medical treatment, if needed, and I certify there are no limits to my child's participation in the AgDiscovery activities, except as stated in writing, and included with the medical history.

I understand and acknowledge that AgDiscovery does not offer any medical insurance to protect against injuries, makes no claims to do so, and has no responsibility for any medical expenses incurred. I understand that each participant must assume the risk and any related financial responsibility that could result from participation in any of these activities. I agree to assume any risk and financial responsibility.

I further understand that USDA-APHIS assumes no liability for costs incurred by the families of AgDiscovery participants for travel or other expenses, in the event which unforeseen circumstances occur, including any acts of misconduct or inappropriate behavior, leading to my child's dismissal from participation in the AgDiscovery program.

I have received a copy of the Student Contract, and I have reviewed it with my child.

Parent/Legal Guardian's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## PICTURE AND VIDEO RELEASE STATEMENT

As parent/guardian of \_\_\_\_\_, I fully understand the conditions stipulated above, and hereby give full consent to USDA-APHIS and the selected university to reproduce my child's picture and/or video in future promotional material. Permission is hereby granted to the U.S. Department of Agriculture and \_\_\_\_\_ University to use pictures and video(s) of my child in any promotional materials, as well as to travel on field trips both in and out-of-state.

Parent/Legal Guardian's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**APPLICATION MUST BE RECEIVED/POSTMARKED BY MARCH 20, 2020**

# AgDiscovery 2020

## STUDENT CONTRACT

Acceptance into the AgDiscovery Program is a privilege, but it also requires students and parents to assume certain responsibilities.

Student: I, \_\_\_\_\_ as a participant in AgDiscovery, a summer youth enrichment program sponsored by USDA-APHIS and \_\_\_\_\_ University do hereby accept the conditions stipulated below:

1. I will participate in and be on time to all sessions and activities, unless excused by a staff member.
2. I will conduct myself in a respectful and courteous manner at all times.
3. I will sleep where assigned, and realize that I will be in constant contact with people from varying cultures and ethnic affiliations.
4. I understand that sleeping accommodations are in college dormitory housing, with two or more students assigned per room.
5. I understand that there are guidelines regarding lights-out and bedtime, and that there will be a bed check every night by a chaperone.
6. I will not smoke, or use drugs or alcohol during AgDiscovery, **and I understand that by doing this, I will be sent home immediately AT MY PARENT'S EXPENSE.**
7. I will not engage in fraternization, cohabitation or co-mingling of any kind during the program. Friendships are encouraged from a platonic standpoint only. **Any disregard in this matter, or any other infractions may be cause for immediate dismissal from the program AT MY PARENT'S EXPENSE.**
8. I understand that I may be held responsible for any damage to equipment or facilities.
9. I understand that all profanity, horseplay, fighting, or inappropriate acts is prohibited.
10. I understand that other than a clock/radio, no electronic equipment (including TVs, portable radios/CD players, or computer games) will be allowed.
11. There will be no aggressive behavior tolerated at any time. This includes fighting, bullying, cyber-bullying, undue persuasion, assault, cursing, and general disregard for myself, staff, and the people around me.
12. Students will respect the dormitories, and other facilities on and off campus, at all times.
13. The use of cell phones and other handheld devices is strictly prohibited during the presentations. For any such misuse, the instrument will be confiscated until the end of the program.
14. AgDiscovery participants are not allowed to have personal vehicles on campus.
15. Appropriate attire may include khaki shorts, denim shorts, camp t-shirts, one-piece swimsuit, tennis shoes, and/or sandals. No student will be allowed to wear overly provocative or offensive clothing.
16. If there are any discrepancies of any kind, they should be brought to the attention of supervision, and handled accordingly. No infractions of any kind should be handled by the students.
17. I will adhere to these and all other rules of the AgDiscovery program.

If selected to participate in the AgDiscovery Program, I promise to abide by the rules and regulations that govern the program, and to make proper use of the educational advantages offered. If for any reason, I violate any part of the Student Contract, I acknowledge that I can be dismissed from the AgDiscovery Program, and sent home immediately.

I affirm that the information submitted in my application package is true to the best of my knowledge.

Student's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Student's Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# **AgDiscovery 2020**

## **ESSAY**

The essay must:

- Be typed or legibly handwritten
- Be prepared in blue or black ink (no pencil or colored ink)
- Include your name, complete address, age, telephone number, and email address on the first page
- Be two (2) pages in length
  - Be a minimum of 500 words, and a maximum of 1,000 words
- Address the topics below:
  - Why I Want to Attend the AgDiscovery Program
  - What I Want to Learn
  - My Future Career Goals and How I Plan to Achieve My Goals
  - My Hobbies and Interests
  - Describe your interest in agricultural sciences, any agricultural science-related courses you have taken, as well as any extracurricular or volunteer activities you have participated in related to agriculture, plant, animal, biological, or veterinary science.

**APPLICATION MUST BE RECEIVED/POSTMARKED BY MARCH 20, 2020**

# AgDiscovery 2020 CHECKLIST

A complete application package must include the following materials:

- Completed and signed Application form
- Signed Parental Release Form and Picture and Video Release Statement
- Completed and signed Student Contract
- Two-page essay – 500 word minimum and 1,000 word maximum
- Three (3) letters of recommendation (one from a teacher, school counselor, or school administrator)

You may complete your application online at [www.aphis.usda.gov/agdiscovery](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/agdiscovery).  
You also have the option to mail your application package to APHIS.

MAILED APPLICATION PACKAGES AND SEALED LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION  
SHOULD BE SENT IN **ONE** LARGE ENVELOPE TO:

**USDA-APHIS AgDiscovery Program**  
ATTN: MS. TAMMY LOWRY  
Office of Civil Rights, Diversity, and Inclusion  
4700 River Road, Unit 92, Suite 6C-04.13  
Riverdale, MD 20737-1234

You may complete the fillable PDF application online, at: [www.aphis.usda.gov/agdiscovery](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/agdiscovery), print it, and mail to the address indicated above. Please remember to attach your essay. Three reference letters must be included with your application package in sealed envelopes.

**PLEASE NOTE:** ONLY COMPLETE APPLICATION PACKAGES, CONTAINING THE LIST OF ITEMS INDICATED ABOVE WILL BE ELIGIBLE FOR CONSIDERATION. APPLICATION PACKAGES MUST BE SUBMITTED DIRECTLY TO USDA AT THE ADDRESS INDICATED ABOVE. INCOMPLETE APPLICATION PACKAGES, AND SEPARATELY MAILED ENVELOPES **WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED**.

**FAXED, E-MAILED, OR HAND-DELIVERED APPLICATIONS, OR APPLICATIONS SENT TO THE UNIVERSITIES WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED FOR CONSIDERATION.**

**PLEASE APPLY EARLY!**  
**DO NOT WAIT UNTIL THE LAST MINUTE!**

**APPLICATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED/POSTMARKED BY MARCH 20, 2020**

According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, an agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number. The valid OMB control number for this information collection is 0579-0362. The time required to complete this information collection is estimated to average 6 hours per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information.

**OMB Approval Pending  
0579-0362**



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## LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION

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### STUDENT'S NAME

**Student:** Please give this Letter of Recommendation to three (3) adults (one must be a teacher or counselor), who know you, and are familiar with your character and integrity, your school work, interest in agriculture, veterinary science, agribusiness, and/or other related science disciplines (for example, a supervisor, teacher, school counselor, coach, or minister, who is **NOT A RELATIVE**). **Please fill in your name on the top of the form, and the name of the university for which you are applying, below.**

**Respondent:** The student named on this form is being considered for participation in the AgDiscovery program, a summer enrichment program at \_\_\_\_\_ University, sponsored by the United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

Please complete this form on his/her behalf, and return to the student **before March 20, 2020**. You may use a separate sheet of paper, if needed.

<b>Your Name</b>				<b>Title</b>
<b>Your Relationship to Applicant</b>				
<b>Address</b>	<b>Street</b>			
	<b>City</b>	<b>State</b>	<b>Zip Code</b>	
<b>Telephone</b>	(      )			

Please address the questions listed below:

- How do you know the student?
- How long have you known the student?
- What do you know about the student's character, ambition, aptitude for learning, and interest in agriculture, biological or veterinary science, agribusiness, and/or other disciplines?

**Signature of Respondent:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

The information you provide is confidential. Letters of recommendation must be postmarked or received at USDA by **March 20, 2020** in order for the student to receive full consideration.