



AGRICULTURE AS A CAREER

Brielle Wright

Junior, Agribusiness Major – North Carolina A & T State University

“Agriculture not only gives riches to a nation, but the only riches she can call her own.” This quote by Samuel Johnson is one that most people directly involved in the field of agriculture can relate to. Growing up on a small farm in Clarkton, North Carolina, I know firsthand that agriculture is the foundation for our nation. Not only has agriculture provided my family with a way of life, but it has provided me with values. I know the value of hard work and honesty, the value of a dollar, the value of giving and most importantly the value of family. That is why I decided to make agriculture a career and why I encourage others to do the same. Not only has agriculture provided me with values but by choosing agriculture as a career, I have become a liaison for the industry. It has opened doors to an array of career choices and opportunities, and has provided me with riches I can call my own.

When I tell people my major is agriculture business, they automatically make a face and say, “What are you going to do, be a farmer”? I used to get upset and think that was a silly question to ask and wonder how anyone could be so naive about the field of agriculture. As I began to encounter this question frequently, I came to the conclusion that people really do not know all that a career in agriculture can provide. From that moment on, I decided that it was my job to let people know that agriculture is not just farming. I want people to know about companies like Cargill who provide McDonald’s with the food for the menu and John Deere who provides innovations in the tractor industry. I want people to know about local Cooperative Extension offices that provide small farmers in local communities with the means to be productive. So instantly, I became a liaison for agriculture. As a result, I have encouraged several students to make agriculture their educational and career choice.

Along with being a liaison, a career in agriculture can open the doors to education and pave the way to a prosperous career. Agriculture crosses over all disciplines so career choices are endless. Marketing, engineering, communications, and even psychology fall under careers that pertain to agriculture. A career in agriculture can also provide traveling opportunities. I have traveled to Philadelphia, Florida, Kansas, Indianapolis, and Illinois for leadership conferences and other agriculture related opportunities supported by my institution. I was also blessed with the opportunity to travel to Turkey in the summer of 2009 to learn about international agriculture.

Finally, a career in agriculture has provided me with riches that I can call my own. Along with values, I have gained knowledge and wisdom that no one can ever take away from me. I have become the young woman that I am because of life lessons associated with choosing this career path. I have learned to work with and respect people from diverse backgrounds, and have discovered the importance of teaching our youth about agriculture.

Agriculture is a universal language, and pursuing an agriculture career makes you fluent in the language. As one becomes more fluent in any topic, they tend to pass on the knowledge and continue the cycle of cultivating the next generation of agriculturalists.