

Cornell University  
Animal Science  
Junior – Class of 2015

Meghan R. Vail  
*“Agriculture as a Career”*

I would never wish to change any aspect of the environment I grew up in as a child. I was raised on a dairy farm, and learned lessons involving the value of a strong work ethic, family morals, and pride for one’s work very early in life. I had the traditional agricultural childhood one might visualize – one that shadowed a hardworking, dedicated agricultural producer. However, when agriculture comes to mind, people oftentimes forget about the huge segment that is the countless industries involved in supporting producers. From seed development researchers, artificial insemination technicians, viticulture specialists, and agricultural lending companies, agriculture encompasses hundreds of career opportunities throughout the United States and the world. Throughout these various segments, it has been proven that agriculture is not an industry that can afford anything less than the brightest, most dedicated individuals, because it is such an integral aspect of our everyday lives and is always encompassing new technology and progressions.

With modern pressures to adopt more environmentally friendly techniques, increase yields, and create products of the utmost quality, agricultural careers are innovative, dynamic, and demanding. Agricultural careers require those who can perform scientific research, those who thrive with business, and people who enjoy working with other people. Agriculture truly provides engaging opportunities for people of many different interests, skills, and beliefs.

Though agriculture is quite varied between its many types of career opportunities, there is one characteristic that ties one agricultural career to the rest of the industry – passion. Those in agriculture work as a large family through their passion to help each other continually produce high quality products for their consumers and passion for the work they do each and every day. The pride of an agriculturalist does not die easy, nor should it. In my opinion, playing even a small, individual role in the production of high quality food creates an immeasurably rewarding feeling. There are few industries that can offer such intensive, dynamic careers, so varied in nature, yet all collectively working for a common goal, with as truly impactful products as does agriculture, each and every day.