POULTRY CAREERS

Today’s poultry industry is a large scale and highly advanced entity with numerous job opportunities for well trained and motivated young men and women who wish to achieve a high level of career advancement. Can you visualize yourself as a broiler processing plant manager, a flock service technician, a quality control manager, a feedmill manager, a hatchery manager, a poultry veterinarian, a nutritionist, an agricultural engineer, a geneticist, or a marketing specialist?

INTEREST AREAS IN POULTRY SCIENCE

- Genetics
- Pharmaceuticals
- Nutrition
- Production
- Processing & Products
- Engineering
- Agribusiness
- Success
- Attractive Positions

See inside for more detailed information on each of these areas.

GETTING STARTED

In the U.S., there are six Poultry Science Departments at universities across the nation along with many other university programs which include poultry science education and training. Obtaining a college education is essential for career entry and success in the poultry industry.

For more information on universities offering education in poultry science including University contacts, their e-mail addresses and the University websites, visit www.poultrycareers.org/ucontacts.asp.

SCHOLARSHIPS

As you gather more information on your potential future in poultry, keep in mind the outstanding scholarship opportunities for undergraduate students who study poultry science in college. Because of the strong industry support for poultry science programs around the country, these programs have large scholarship funds to assist with tuition, fees, and textbooks during your time at college. In fact, many programs have enough money to offer each student a scholarship (of course you have to do your part and keep the ole GPA up!). Most scholarships range anywhere from $500 to $2,500 per year; however, it could be even more. For additional information on specific scholarships offered while studying poultry science, visit www.poultrycareers.org/schlr.asp so you can get in touch with someone at the poultry science program(s) that interest you.

Questions? Visit www.poultrycareers.org

INTERNSHIPS

Today’s poultry industry offers many opportunities for undergraduates studying poultry science to gain hands-on experience through internships. Just imagine, being a college student and having a chance to work for a poultry production company during your summers. In addition to gaining valuable experience, you might also be able to earn college credit while completing your internship and put a little extra money in the bank. When hiring full-time employees into poultry positions, employers are increasingly requiring that students complete one or more industry internships during their college career. For more information on internship opportunities for college students, visit www.poultrycareers.org/ucontacts.asp for University contacts.
GENETICS
Highly skilled geneticists have replaced the individual farmer in the reproduction of today's chickens and turkeys. Large breeding farms employ staff geneticists to assist in and direct their breeding programs, which include bird selection through advanced blood typing methods as well as the computerized compilation and analysis of records.

Today's large, nationwide hatchery corporations employ numerous geneticists -- as well as managers, salesmen and servicemen -- to insure that they are producing top quality birds. Time and research have proven that the biology and principles of incubation are just as important as the mechanics of an incubator.

Training should include a background in basic poultry science with specialization in genetics. Added opportunities exist for those who combine these talents with the various phases of hatchery management.

PHARMACEUTICALS
Disease control is vitally important in the highly competitive poultry industry, where rapid growth and intensified production demand that disease losses be held to a minimum. Though some disease problems have been solved and others are partly solved, considerable more research is needed.

The combined research of bacteriologists, pathologists, serologists and others is pooled by large pharmaceutical companies to develop the vaccines, drugs, and feed additives to solve these complex disease problems. Pharmaceutical firms also need trained young people in sales, service and communications.

Training for the pharmaceutical field generally requires undergraduate study, and -- in some cases -- graduate work leading toward a doctorate degree in veterinary medicine or other specifically related fields.

NUTRITION
Experts predict that the well-fed hen, turkey, or broiler receives a more scientifically balanced diet throughout life than do most humans. And, as the industry becomes more advanced, nutritionists are challenged more and more to discover new combinations of feed ingredients to meet the producer's needs.

There are equally fine opportunities for young people in sales, service and management among the highly competitive feed companies. These large companies must also give the producers service and provide them with information on management techniques in addition to selling feed.

A nutritionist's training generally requires advanced degree work, while the sales and service field requires a knowledge of technological subjects in addition to business training.

PRODUCTION
Poultry production operations are increasing in volume to meet demands of our exploding population. There is a need for farm managers and company service technicians in the areas of broiler and turkey production, breeding operations, and layer production. The industry trend to specialization and integrated units has increased the demand for those who can solve problems, direct employees and supervise business operations.

A very large investment is required for starting the operational ownership of a chicken or turkey farm large enough to provide economic stability. This is a major problem for young people to overcome, but it is being done. Gaining experience in the field is a good start for individuals seeking to acquire ownership of a poultry operation.

Training for careers in poultry production requires a firm foundation in technological husbandry including genetics, nutrition, disease control, business principles, equipment and other aspects of commercial enterprises.

PROCESSING & PRODUCTS
The future growth of the poultry industry is closely associated with advancements in food manufacturing technology. Managerial skills are a major asset due to the interrelationships and management of individuals in the processing and further-processing plants. There is also a need for individuals with a strong science background for jobs in quality control and food safety related positions.

Furthermore, there is a large demand for well trained poultry food scientists for careers in research and development of food products.

This type of career offers the potential for rapid career advancement for the poultry science graduate. It requires a strong science background which provides ample opportunities for advanced graduate study and career enhancement.

ENGINEERING
Through the efforts of agriculturally-oriented engineers, the poultry industry is further advanced toward complete automation than any other livestock enterprise. Yet, more is still to be done.

Young men and women are needed to design and build the automated poultry equipment of tomorrow, and still other engineers are needed to supervise actual construction. Though these people are primarily engineers, they must have a basic knowledge of the product and its ultimate use.

Excellent opportunities also exist in the sales and service fields. Large manufacturers of poultry equipment are constantly seeking young persons with a combined knowledge of poultry technology, sales ability and mechanical aptitude to sell and service their line of products.

Training for these areas should include mechanics, electricity, design and general agricultural engineering, as well as some background in poultry science and business.

AGRIBUSINESS
Agribusiness is the supplying of producers with the services and materials necessary for production, including the processing and marketing of products to meet the consumer's needs.

Commercial banks and other finance institutions, including accounting firms, need agricultural representatives in major poultry areas to assist producers with management problems.

Likewise, the fields of mass communications and public relations offer many positions for college graduates with journalistic abilities and poultry knowledge -- young people who know the "language of agriculture" and can explain it in simple terms to the general public.

Specialized training is necessary for these various fields as well as a solid background in both business and poultry science.

SUCCESS
To be successful, young people should obtain a college education to properly prepare themselves for coping with the complexity of modern poultry production and processing. Technological advancements have increased the demand in ALL segments of the industry and allied fields for more trained individuals. In all of these careers there are some challenges and those who can meet these challenges creatively and productively will find excellent opportunities for professional growth in careers in poultry science.

ATTRACTIVE POSITIONS
These positions are not "lack-luster" jobs; they include such career fields as research, sales and service, management, engineering, production, food science technology, business, merchandising, marketing and public relations to name a few.

Salaries are equally attractive according to the employers. The average graduate entering the commercial job market will find salaries better than most available in agriculture. Nor are the fringe benefits forgotten. Paid vacations, profit sharing, bonus plans, company credit unions, stock purchase, housing, health services, medical and life insurance, holidays and retirement are all listed among employee incentives.