The primary purpose of the agricultural education program at North Carolina State University is to prepare graduates for positions as agriculture teachers at the secondary and community college level, as county extension agents and as leaders in the agricultural industry. Completion of the B.S. in Agricultural Education leads to teacher licensure in Agricultural Education, grades 6-12. Careers such as these require not only a knowledge of agricultural subject matter but also the ability to communicate that information effectively to others.

The groups that need agricultural information are extremely diverse, as are the settings in which this information is provided. But regardless of whether information is provided in a formal classroom setting or to an individual in an agricultural setting, the focus is on providing service to the agricultural community in the form of accurate and up-to-date information about agriculture.

Career Opportunities
Agriculture continues to be an important part of the high school curriculum in North Carolina. There are over 350 agriculture teachers in approximately 260 high schools and middle schools located throughout the state. Positions are usually available for graduates in almost any area of North Carolina. In recent years there has been a shortage of agriculture teachers, and graduates often may select from several available positions. In addition, other states in the area have experienced teacher shortages, making teaching positions available in neighboring states. Several community colleges in North Carolina also have positions available in their agriculture-related programs, which include livestock management, horticulture, forestry and preprofessional programs. Usually a master’s degree is required for employment at this level.

Course Work/Curriculum
The agricultural and extension education curricula has four components:

- general education courses that are required for all students at NC State University
- a broad understanding of agriculture. Students complete introductory courses in animal or poultry science, plant science, soil science, agricultural economics, agricultural engineering and forestry in order to develop the background in agriculture essential to providing information to a wide variety of clients.
- a concentration in one area of agriculture.
- either the teaching option, agricultural communications option or the extension option, but each curriculum culminates in a semester-length practicum experience in which students apply their knowledge and skills in a real-world setting.

The primary focus is to provide graduates with the skills they need in order to be successful as teachers, as extension agents or as leaders in the agricultural industry.

Graduate Study
The Department offers programs of graduate study leading to the Master of Agricultural Education and the Master of Extension Education degree. (both have thesis and non-thesis options determined on the student’s interests).

Co-Curricular Activities
The Agricultural and Extension Education Club and the national agricultural education honorary society, Alpha Tau Alpha, provide opportunities for leadership development and professional and social activities. Students are encouraged to participate in the collegiate 4-H Club and Collegiate FFA Chapter at NC State.

Career Services
In addition to faculty advisers, CALS Career Services is available to provide information about career and employment opportunities. The office assists students and alumni with a variety of career needs such as choosing a major, resume tips, and job search strategies.

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