

Careers in Farming

Showing visitors around your farm will hopefully inspire some of them to consider a career in agriculture or a related industry. There are a whole range of job opportunities and skills required to work in this high tech, forward thinking, professional industry.

There are a huge number of skills required to be a farmer – mathematician, accountant, soil scientist, engineer, technician, scientist, conservationist, marketer, grain trader and lots more. If you have livestock you may be needed to be a midwife or surrogate mother! This group discussion activity will help to highlight to your visitors the many skills needed to be a farmer and the range of jobs you and the people you work with undertake. Hopefully it will inspire budding young farmers to explore the career opportunities in farming.

When and where to do this

This is a group discussion activity most suitable for young adults or families with older children. The idea is that you have a discussion with your visitors about all the skills involved in being a farmer. People will be fascinated to learn about the huge variety of skills needed and the diversity of career opportunities in agriculture. Some questions to ask to get discussions going could include, 'Who can name some of the skills involved in being a farmer?', 'Anyone thought about farming as a career?', 'If so what appeals to you about it?' Get people to shout out all the skills they think a farmer needs. Discuss what is great about your job and how you got started. People love to hear personal stories, so tell yours!



You will need

- To prepare a list of all the skills needed to be a farmer
- To think about what you do every day and all the varied aspects of your job
- A collection of 'props' that illustrate what you do. These could include an ear tagger, mobile phone, account records, soil testing kit etc

Suggested messages

- Farming is a fascinating career – every day is different – it's not all wellies and mud!
- Agriculture is at the cutting edge of research and development
- Thanks to technological advances in agriculture, the number of roles in supporting industries is growing significantly
- There are lots of opportunities involved in agriculture not only in farming but also horticulture, marketing, management

If you get any careers enquiries whether from young people wanting to start a career in the sector or career changers, please forward them to EDGE www.edgeapprenticeships.org



EDGE is an industry leading project which helps new entrants take their first steps towards careers in food and farming. To find out more and for current vacancies visit www.edgeapprenticeships.org