

# CONNECTING TO YOUR FUTURE

Spring 2007  
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This newsletter, from the Western Wisconsin Workforce Development Board, Inc., was created to provide career and labor market information to educators and students.

## Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources

### Feeding The Future

Would you like to...

- Provide food that is healthy, safe, and plentiful?
- Help protect the environment and use our land resources more efficiently?
- Discover new research to make food and feed more nutritious?
- Be on the cutting edge of technology using the latest in computer modeling, satellites, and high-tech lasers?
- See the world?

If your answer is YES to any of these, a career in Soil Science may be the right field for you.



Soil scientists explore and seek to understand the earth's land and water resources. Students of soil science learn to identify, interpret, and manage soils for agriculture, forestry, rangeland, ecosystem, urban uses, and mining and reclamation in an environmentally responsible way. For example, they may offer recommendations to farmers and other landowners regarding the best use of land, plant growth, and methods to avoid or correct problems such as erosion.

Soil scientists work in the public and private sectors. Professional opportunities are plentiful in all levels of government, private consulting, all phases of agribusiness, and educational institutions.

Soil scientists can work in a lab or office, but also spend time outdoors conducting research on farms and agricultural research stations.

For most positions, you will need at least a Bachelor of Science (B.S.) degree or its equivalent. Numerous positions in teaching, research or extension require training beyond the B.S. degree.

Median annual earnings of soil scientists were \$51,200 in May 2004. The middle 50% earned between \$37,890 and \$69,120. The lowest 10% earned less than \$30,660, and the highest 10% earned more than \$88,840.

Sources:

Crop Science Society of America (CSSA) - <http://www.crops.org> | Soil Science Society of America (SSSA) - <http://www.soils.org> | U. S. Department of Labor Bureau of Statistics - <http://stats.bls.gov/oco/oco2001.htm#nature>

### Food Products and Processing Occupational Spotlight

**Love to eat? Love to cook? Love to make up new food? Have you ever heard of:**

Old Tavern Cheese Products, Bavaria Sausage Company, Amy's Candy Kitchen, Fireworks Popcorn, Honey Acres, Urban Processing Cranberries, Willow Creek Mill, Wisconsin Cheesecakeery?



These are all Wisconsin businesses that have developed new or improved food products. Perhaps you would like a career in Food Products and Processing.

People who follow in the Food Products and Processing pathway discover new food sources, analyze food content and develop ways to process, preserve, package, or store food according to industry and government regulations.

They create new food products to meet consumer needs and inspect food processing areas to ensure that sanitation, safety, quality and waste management standards are met.

**For more information on this career cluster, visit <http://www.careerclusters.org>.**

**For more information on where to purchase Wisconsin-made products visit [Wisconsinmade.com](http://www.wisconsinmade.com) at <http://www.wisconsinmade.com/>.**



The Youth Council, acting under the direction of the Western Wisconsin Workforce Development Board, Inc. (WDB), is working to establish a comprehensive youth development system that provides effective learning environments linking education, employment, leadership development, mentoring, and sustained support for youth to achieve economic self-sufficiency. The WDB is a business-led Board that formulates strategies to address workforce development issues in western Wisconsin. For more information, contact Ann Wales, WDB Administrative Coordinator, at (608) 789-5600, [Walesa@westernwc.edu](mailto:Walesa@westernwc.edu), or visit our website at [www.wjocenter.org](http://www.wjocenter.org).

Western Wisconsin  
**Workforce  
Development  
Board, Inc.**  
*7 Rivers  
region*  
On the Upper Mississippi

# Nature and the Environment



If you've ever wondered how in the world you will survive sitting at a desk under florescent lights five days a week, perhaps you need to consider a career in the wild frontier. With the growing emphasis on environmental concerns, outdoor activities, and natural resource conservation, success can be found in just about every setting and situation. There are a lot of great jobs to be found in the great wide open!

In fact, careers in nature and the environment are as vast and varied as the earth itself. For more job descriptions and career information in this field, explore your local library for books on outdoor careers. You will discover that the opportunities are endless. Whether it's on land, sea or in the sky, there's a job for you that doesn't necessarily require an air-conditioned building or the traditional 9-to-5 grind.

## FORESTER AND CONSERVATION SCIENTIST

Forests and rangelands supply us with wood products, land and grass for livestock use, minerals, energy resources and water. They also provide environments to use for recreation as well as habitats for wildlife. The care of these natural resources is of paramount importance to society and all living things.

### FORESTERS AND CONSERVATION SCIENTISTS

- Manage, develop, use, and help protect the timberlands and other natural resources.
- Have the difficult job of balancing the conservation of a forested ecosystem for future use with the present need to use and enjoy it as a natural resource.
- Often specialize in one area, such as forest resource management, urban forestry, wood technology, or forest economics.

### WORKING CONDITIONS

- Mainly work in the field, although some do work in labs or offices.
- Can be physically demanding; outdoors in all kinds of weather.
- Sometimes work in isolated areas and densely wooded land.

### JOB OUTLOOK

- Jobs can be found with the federal, state and local governments, private industry (forestry, logging, sawmills) and as private or self-employed consultants.
- Employment is heavily concentrated in the forests and rangelands of the western and southeastern states, although there is work in every state.
- Opportunities will eventually grow with an expected wave of retirements and the need to manage increasingly complex environmental regulations.

### SALARY

- Starting salary as a forester in private industry or the federal government, with a Bachelor's degree, is \$18,340 to \$22,717 a year, depending on job and academic achievement.
- In 1993, the average federal salary for forester positions was \$42,440.  
Information taken from: <http://www.saludos.com/cguide/nguide.html>

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## Veterinary Technician

Owners of pets and other animals today expect state-of-the-art veterinary care. To provide this service, veterinarians use the skills of veterinary technicians who perform many of the same duties for a veterinarian that a nurse would for a physician, including routine laboratory and clinical procedures.

Most entry-level veterinary technicians have a 2-year degree, usually an Associate's degree, from an accredited community college program in veterinary technology in which courses are taught in clinical and laboratory settings using live animals.

A person interested in a career as a veterinary technician should take as many high school science, biology, and math courses as possible. Science courses taken beyond high school, in an Associate's or Bachelor's degree program, should emphasize practical skills in a clinical or laboratory setting. Because veterinary technologists and technicians often deal with pet owners, communication skills are very important. In addition, technicians should be able to work well with others because teamwork with veterinarians is common. Organization and attention to detail also are important.

- Median hourly earnings of veterinary technicians were \$11.99 in May 2004.
- Employment is expected to grow much faster than average.
- Keen competition is expected for jobs in zoos.



For information on certification as a laboratory animal technician or technologist, contact:

[http://www.alliedhealthschools.com/faqs/veterinary\\_tech.php](http://www.alliedhealthschools.com/faqs/veterinary_tech.php)