



Outstanding
Postsecondary
/Adult
Program

Ridgewater College

Agriculture Department

To provide students a well-rounded collegiate experience, which includes technologically advanced, industry-approved curricular options, real-world internship training, and professional development activities to equip them with the best tools possible for entry into a meaningful career in agriculture.

Overview

- Approximately 200 students enrolled with class sizes of 20-25 students.
- 12 full time faculty members
- 100% job related placement in all programs for several years.
- Opportunity for 4 paid internships
- 50 different course elective options
- 65 acre school farm where students make all decisions and provide all labor.
- Other licensure or certification programs include First Aid/CPR, Forklift Safe Operator, Commercial Pesticide Applicator, Seed Treatment, Class A CDL, Planter Meter, Artificial Insemination, Ag Sprinklers and Precipitation Rates, and Swine and Beef Quality Assurance.

Experiential Learning

- Hands on, real world education is a primary reason why our job placement is 100%.
- Experiential learning takes place through the four internship opportunities and in the 65 acre school farm.

Degrees

- Farm Operations and Management
- GPS/GSI Technology in Agriculture
- Ag Power and Equipment Technician
- Agri-Business
- Agronomy Technician
- Dairy Management

Teaching Philosophy & Instruction

- Instructors practice the 3 R's of Ag Ed: Relevance, Rigor, and Relationship.
- All courses have a lab component where they strive for at least 50% lab activities. These include field trips, guest speakers, attending various conferences, and performing in-lab activities.
- Integrate an element of service learning in the program through volunteer and simulation activities.

Student Organizations

- Largest Post-Secondary Agriculture Students (PAS) chapter in Minnesota for many years—occasionally largest in the nation.
- Students represent the chapter well by placing in numerous Career Program Areas at state and national competitions and by representing Ridgewater College as a state or national officer.
- Provide support to FFA students applying for national awards and by hosting Leadership and Career Development Events several times a year.
- Recently formed the Rodeo Club.

Partnerships

- We have an active Advisory Committee made up of industry representatives that help guide the program to keep it on the cutting edge of what agriculture needs.
- Formed the Ridgewater College Agriculture Alumni Association to support the department in an advisory and sponsorship role.
- Partner with numerous businesses, dealerships, and farmers to provide tools, equipment, and other resources.
- Partner with Northland and Central Lakes College to form the AgCentric Center of Agriculture Excellence.
- Host a Ridgewater Ag Career Fair and Technology Showcase which connects high school juniors and seniors with over 40 businesses to learn about the needs of agriculture employers and see the breadth of jobs in the ag industry.
- Partner with NRCS and water shed conservation districts every other year to host a "Soil Health Day".

2017 MAAE Award Winner

Banner donated by the Minnesota Farmers Union

