



COLLEGE & CAREER
AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND NATURAL RESOURCES

About AFNR

The Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources (AFNR) Career Cluster focuses on the essential elements of life—food, water, land, and air. This career cluster includes a diverse spectrum of occupations, ranging from farmer, rancher, and veterinarian to geologist, land conservationist, and florist. It also includes non-traditional agricultural occupations like wind energy, solar energy, and oil and gas production.

Courses in the AFNR Career Cluster are designed to prepare learners for careers in the planning, production, processing, marketing, distribution, financing, and development of agricultural commodities, services, and natural resources, including food, fiber, wood products, water, minerals, and petroleum. For an expanded look at approved AFNR courses in Illinois, please refer to the [AFNR Course Matrix](#).

ISBE recognizes eight unique career pathways within the AFNR. Those are:

- Agribusiness Systems
- Animal Systems
- Biotechnology Systems
- Environmental Service Systems
- Food Products and Processing Systems
- Natural Resource Systems
- Plant Systems
- Power, Structural and Technical Systems

The Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) supports Agricultural Education in our Illinois schools as an important component of one of the most important industries in Illinois – the Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources (AFNR) industry. Agriculture has a major impact on the State's economy and the industry is eager for additional potential employees in the pipeline to fill the demand for hundreds of careers. Nowhere is this support more evident than in the support of the Agricultural Education specific line item in the ISBE budget. See the current [ISBE budget](#) for appropriations and proposed funding levels.

There are currently six grants funded by the Agricultural Education Line Item. For an expanded look at the eligibility and purpose of each grant, please visit our Agricultural Education Grants page by [clicking here](#).

- 3235-00 – Facilitating Coordination in Agricultural Education
- 3235-01 – Growing Agricultural Science Teachers
- 3235-20 – Incentive Funding
- 3235-30 – Three Circle
- 3235-40 – University Incentive
- TBD – Preservice Internship (New for FY22)