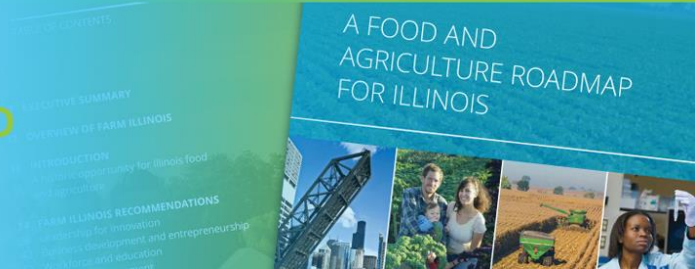




ILLINOIS
AGRI-FOOD
ALLIANCE



Illinois Agri-Food Workforce Survey

Dear K-12 Educators & School Leaders:

Workforce development continue to be a top issue for food and agriculture businesses and organizations across Illinois, particularly when it comes to attracting a diverse array of students and prospective workers who are unaware about the multitude of jobs and long-term career opportunities that exist across our state's #1 industry.

An industry-led collaborative of agri-food workforce advocates are brainstorming ideas to elevate communication about food and agriculture as a viable and highly valued employment sector. A top consideration is the need to develop greater connectivity **with K-12 schools** via an industry-focused Illinois Agri-Food Careers website, career resource toolkits, and business-to-school partnership opportunities. **They are looking for input from your school via a short survey to further their efforts.**

This is not a research project. The collaborative team is surveying schools across the state *with and without* agriculture-related educational programming to actively develop a well-informed and useful website and supporting resources that can be widely accessed and utilized to promote food & agriculture careers, educational pathways, and job opportunities.

Survey Steps:

1. We ask for one survey to be completed by each participating school.
2. Survey questions may require input from multiple representatives within your school from educators and guidance counselors to school and district administrators.
3. You cannot save the survey to return to and complete at a later date. You are therefore encouraged to use this copy of the survey to circulate to multiple representatives in your school as needed and then have one designated representative compile responses and complete the survey. This will also help prevent duplicate entries from being submitted.
4. If you are not the right representative at your school, please forward along to the appropriate representative(s) to complete.
5. Your school will have the option to provide a point of contact to receive future development reports resulting from information collected.

Disclaimer (Notice to Survey Respondents):

The Illinois Agri-Food Alliance (ILAFA) is responsible for the contents of this survey. **Your participation in this survey is voluntary.** You will be asked to provide individual and school information. If you do not wish to reveal such information, please do not respond to the survey. Any personally identifiable information, such as your email address, name, title, and affiliation, that you provide in connection with responding to the survey may be used by the Illinois Agri-Food Alliance (or a third-party acting on behalf of ILAFA) to follow up with you regarding survey responses.

The Illinois Agri-Food Alliance may view and use the survey results for any business or operational purpose, and may share survey results with third parties, including but not limited to our partners and service providers.

You are encouraged to answer as many questions as able and willing to. The Illinois Agri-Food Alliance does not want you to, and you should not, include in your survey response any sensitive, confidential, or proprietary information belonging to you or your school as the Illinois Agri-Food Alliance cannot guarantee that access to such data will be kept confidential and secure. You therefore agree that any information or materials that you, or individuals acting on your behalf, provide to the Illinois Agri-Food Alliance in your survey response will not be considered sensitive, confidential, or proprietary and that the Illinois Agri-Food Alliance cannot and will not be held responsible to protect or restrict its use of any data that you include in your responses.

Thank you for your effort in responding to this important opportunity. Responses will contribute to immediate action by informing website and resource development that directly responds to pressing workforce needs.

Sincerely,
Illinois Agri-Food Alliance

On behalf of:

Illinois Agri-Food Workforce Initiative Collaborators & Supporters

Archer Daniels Midland; Brandt Industries; Chicago High School for Agricultural Sciences; CME Group, Inc., CNH Industrial; Compeer Financial; COUNTRY Financial; Cultivian Sandbox; Decatur Public Schools Foundation; Ernst & Young; Facilitating Coordination in Agriculture Education (FCAE); Food:Land:Opportunity, GROWMARK; Fresh Taste, Illinois Agricultural Leadership Foundation; Illinois AgTech Accelerator; Illinois Soybean Association; Illinois Farm Bureau; Open Prairie Ventures; OSI Group; The Development Consortium; University of Illinois

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The Illinois Agri-Food Alliance (ILAFA) is a collaborative network organization dedicated to building an integrated, innovative, and transformative agri-food system in Illinois. As a neutral, third-party catalyst, ILAFA convenes cross-sector partners to connect talent, share insight, align strategic priorities, spark innovation, improve coordination, accelerate growth, increase visibility, and build trust. It views these ingredients as essential to driving forward-thinking solutions that meet the most pressing economic, environmental, and societal challenges of today and tomorrow.

The Illinois Agri-Food Alliance is a project of Global Philanthropy Partnership, a 501(c)3 fiscal sponsor.



Survey Respondent & School Information

First Name of Respondent
Last Name of Respondent
Title of Respondent
Email of Respondent
Phone Number of Respondent
Name of School and District
School Location (address, city and zip)
Please indicate if your school is: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Privately Funded• Publicly Funded• Publicly Funded Charter• Publicly Funded Magnet• Other (please list)
Please indicate if survey responses reflect: [check all that apply] <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Kindergarten• Grade 1• Grade 2• Grade 3• Grade 4• Grade 5• Grade 6• Grade 7• Grade 8• Grade 9• Grade 10• Grade 11• Grade 12
School Size (number of enrolled students) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 1-100• 101-250• 251-500• 500-1000• 1000+• Other

Survey Questions

Please respond to as many questions as you are able and willing to

<p>1. How does your school offer agriculture or food-related education?</p> <p>[select one]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Food and/or agriculture specific courses• Incorporate into other academic courses• Does not offer
<p>2. What are the barriers, if any, of offering food and/or agriculture courses or incorporating food/agriculture-related lessons into the current academic curriculum?</p> <p>[check all that apply]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Not important• Not enough funding• Not enough time during the day• Lack of qualified teacher• No barrier exist• Other [please list]
<p>3. What grades does your school offer agriculture or food-related education?</p> <p>[check all that apply]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Kindergarten• Grade 1• Grade 2• Grade 3• Grade 4• Grade 5• Grade 6• Grade 7• Grade 8• Grade 9• Grade 10• Grade 11• Grade 12• Does not offer
<p>4. How interested would you or your school be in additional resources for teaching about the food & agriculture industry and related careers?</p> <p>[select one]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Not interested at all (end of survey)• Not very interested (end of survey)• Moderately Interested (continue survey)• Very interested (continue survey)• Extremely interested (continue survey)

5. What types of resources would you (and your students) find particularly valuable for teaching (and learning) about food & agriculture careers?

[check all that apply]

- Hands-on activities
- Videos about careers
- Interactive websites
- Brochures
- Lesson plans with worksheets
- Company websites with career information
- Social media
- Company/farm site visits
- Company/farm presentation in the classroom
- Digital tech (virtual reality, educational gaming app, etc)
- Student research mentorship
- Teacher training opportunities
- Other [please list]

6. How important is it to educate/inform school administrators about food & agriculture careers?

- Not at all important
- Not very important
- Moderately important
- Very important
- Extremely important

7. What types of resources would be beneficial to educate/inform school administrators about food & agriculture careers?

[check all that apply]

- Websites
- Email Newsletters
- Brochures
- Webinars
- Phone calls from food and agriculture professionals
- Others [please list]

8. How interested would your students or school be in connecting with food and agriculture companies willing to take part in classroom activities, offer job shadows, or offer on-site company tours?

[drop down menu]

- Not interested at all
- Not very interested
- Moderately Interested
- Very interested
- Extremely interested

9. If there were to be a dedicated public-facing Illinois Food & Ag Careers website, what pertinent information and resources should be included? You may select more than one.

- Food & agriculture industry description
- Career descriptions (including titles, day-to-day activities, salary info, degrees/certifications required)
- Education-to-career pathway opportunities
- Database of schools offering food/agriculture education in Illinois (high schools, trade schools, community colleges, 4-year universities, continuing education resources)
- Video spotlights of professionals and interns in the industry
- Types of food & agriculture companies in Illinois (with logos and descriptions)
- Links to company recruitment/internship/apprenticeship pages
- Other [please list]

10. Is there anything else that we should know about your needs as an educator or school to convey food & ag workforce opportunities to your students? Please include things that you recognize as positive and/or negative aspects.