Animal Systems is a program of study within the **Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources Career Cluster.** A Career Cluster is a grouping of occupations and broad industries based on commonalities. There are 16 Career Clusters.

Career clusters link what students learn in school with the knowledge and skills they need for success in college and careers. The Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources Career Cluster prepares learners for careers in the planning, implementation, production, management, processing, and/or marketing of agricultural commodities and services.

There are seven programs of study in this cluster:

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

Employment Outlook

The job outlook for **Large Animal Caretakers** is good. Nationally, the number of jobs for animal caretakers is expected to grow faster than average through the year 2014. Most employers prefer to hire people who have experience taking care of animals. Some require legible handwriting, clerical skills, and a high school diploma (Career Information Systems, 2007). Nationally, the salary range for animal handlers is $14,705 to $42,890 per year (Occupational Outlook Handbook, 2006-2007).

Using this brochure

Inside you will find a suggested **program of study** that has lots of helpful information. The model is an example of the types of courses and extended learning experiences that are important for the **Animal Systems Program of Study**. Use this model to plan your course schedule, educational experiences, and career choices.

At the top of the model, you will find **career goals** with the corresponding **O*NET code**. The O*NET code is an official classification of jobs and can be used to locate career-related information. Your teacher, counselor, or media center should be able to help you locate further information.

The upper left side of the model highlights the **core courses and career-related electives** in high school that will help prepare you for your career goal. This model is based upon the Recommended High School Graduation Plan and can easily be adapted for the Distinguished Achievement High School Graduation Plan.

The upper right side of the model highlights examples of **extended learning experiences** that can enhance your knowledge and skills for your career goal. You will find examples of curricular activities, such as participation in Career and Technical Student Organizations like FFA, career learning experiences, service learning activities, and extracurricular activities.

The lower left side of the model indicates **industry licensures/certifications** and **on-the-job training experiences** that are available while still in high school. This section also highlights the various levels of **postsecondary education** and examples of **career options** available to you once you have completed that level of education and training.

The lower right side of the model contains examples of **professional associations** available for animal systems professionals. Many of these organizations allow preprofessional membership while enrolled in a postsecondary program. Most organizations have websites which can be easily located by entering the organization name in available search engines.

It is the policy of the Texas Education Agency to not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, or handicap in its career and technical programs, services, or activities.

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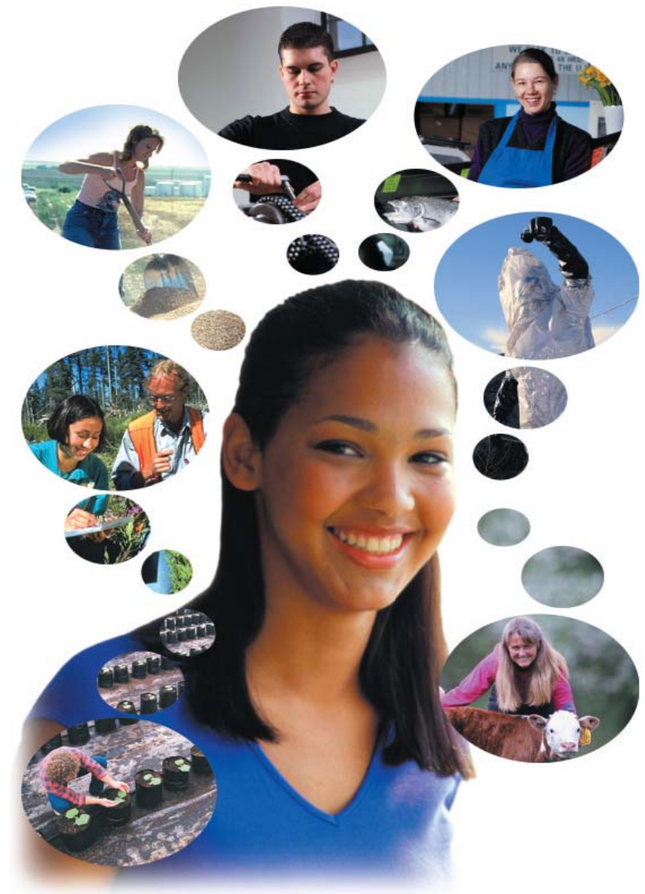

Thinking about a career in Large Animal Care?

This program of study may be for you! Animal caretakers feed, water, bathe, groom, and exercise animals. Large animal caretakers may also examine animals to detect illness, injury, or disease, and to check physical characteristics, such as rate of weight gain. Look inside to see the suggested coursework and learning opportunities that will prepare you for an exciting and rewarding career.

http://www.achievetexas.org