








This 9-week course plan (approx. 45 hrs) is designed to teach students basic career development and planning concepts while helping them explore agricultural career opportunities. The plan is easily customizable to meet your needs:

-  indicates activities that are appropriate for a 3-week course (approx. 24 hrs with some alteration)
-  indicates activities that are appropriate for a 2-week course (approx. 20 hrs with some alteration)
-  indicates activities that are appropriate for a 1-week course (approx. 5-10 hrs with some alteration)

Lesson	Duration	Guiding Question	Using Career Cruising	Related Activities
Introduction				
1	15 – 30 min	What is a Portfolio?	Portfolio Tool	A portfolio is the ongoing accumulation of students' academic, personal, and career exploration and development activities. It's a way for students to organize their skills, abilities, interests, and accomplishments, and make plans for the future. Have students create personal Portfolios and explore the tool. 
Unit 1: Self Discovery				
2	50 min	What matters most to me?	Portfolio Tool - My Journal	Defining Core Values In this activity, students will define core values, identify personal values, and identify the benefits of living by personal values. 
3	50 min	What do I want out of life?	Portfolio Tool - Short and Long-Term Goals	Vision and Personal Success In this activity, students will envision the desired outcome for a project or life goal, understand the power within to accomplish a vision, determine the role of a vision in one's own personal success.
4	50 min	What does success mean to me?	Portfolio Tool - My Journal	Defining Career Success In this activity, students identify skills necessary to create career success; explain why effectively contributing to society is important to career success; and define career success.
Unit 2: Self Assessment				



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5	30 – 50 min	What interests me?	Career Matchmaker Portfolio Tool - Assessments	Using Career Matchmaker In this activity, students will learn how Career Matchmaker helps them identify their work interests.
6	30 – 50 min	How are interests related to career options?	Career Matchmaker	Your Career Ideas and Matchmaker The purpose of this activity is to help students understand their interests and how they relate to career choices. It also encourages them to look beyond preconceived ideas about careers and investigate alternatives they may not have considered before.
7	50 min	What can I do?	Career Selector	Discovering Your Work Skills This activity helps students make links between their daily activities and work skills.
8	30 – 50 min	How are skills related to career options?	My Skills	Using My Skills The purpose of this activity is to introduce students to the My Skills component of Career Matchmaker. It also helps students identify their skills and understand how skills are developed, both inside and outside of the workplace.
9	30 – 50 min	How do I learn?	Learning Styles Inventory Portfolio Tool - Assessments	Learning Styles In this activity, students identify and analyze their preferred learning styles, and investigate how the way in which they learn and retain information can impact their academic and workplace success.
Unit 3: Career Awareness				
10	50 min	What is a job? An occupation? A career?	Explore Careers Agriculture Job Titles	Job, Occupation, or Career? In this activity, students will define and distinguish between job, occupation, and career, and use agriculture job titles to imagine future career paths.
Unit 4: Career Exploration				
11	50 min	How do I learn more about careers?	Explore Careers Portfolio - Careers That Interest Me	Researching Careers In this activity, students will identify career interest areas, develop a list of career priority areas for further exploration, and explain ways of finding out information about career areas.



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12	30 – 50 min		Explore Careers Portfolio - Careers That Interest Me	Exploring a Career Option This activity will help students explore an occupation that interests them in more depth.
13	varies		Explore Careers Portfolio - Careers That Interest Me	Career Fair Project The purpose of this activity is to help students learn how to work effectively in teams or groups, discover how Career Cruising and other computer technologies can be used in research projects and presentations, and gain an in-depth knowledge of several different occupations.
Unit 5: Recognizing Career Opportunities in Agriculture				
14	50 min	What does a career in agriculture look like?	Explore Careers Agriculture Job Titles Career Clusters Industry Profiles Portfolio Tool - Careers That Interest Me	Understanding Agriculture Career Possibilities In this activity, students will define agriculture as more than only farming and identify areas of agriculture that might be of interest.
15	50 min	What career opportunities are available in agriculture?		Career Opportunities in Agriculture In this activity, students will distinguish between a task, a job, and a career, define career success, and identify career opportunities in agriculture.
16	45 min			Animal System Careers In this activity, students will learn more about one of the eight pathways of the Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources (AFNR) career cluster by researching animal systems careers.
17	45 min			Biotechnology, Who Knew? In this activity, students will learn more about one of the eight pathways of the Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources (AFNR) career cluster by researching the career preparation requirements for biotechnology and identifying five career options related to biotechnology.
18	45 min			Careers In Environmental Systems In this activity, students will learn more about one of the eight pathways of the Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources (AFNR) career cluster by researching careers in environmental systems.



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19	45 min			<p>Who Works In Food Processing?</p> <p>In this activity, students will learn more about one of the eight pathways of the Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources (AFNR) career cluster by researching careers in food processing.</p>
20	45 min			<p>Where Will Natural Resources Take You?</p> <p>In this activity, students will learn more about one of the eight pathways of the Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources (AFNR) career cluster by recognizing five careers that are associated with natural resource systems.</p>
21	45 min			<p>Plant Systems Careers</p> <p>In this activity, students will learn more about one of the eight pathways of the Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources (AFNR) career cluster by identifying 10 career options in plant systems.</p>
22	45 min			<p>Power, Structural and Technical System Careers</p> <p>In this activity, students will learn more about one of the eight pathways of the Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources (AFNR) career cluster by exploring career opportunities related to power, structural, and technical systems in agriculture.</p>
23	45 min			<p>Exploring Agribusiness</p> <p>In this activity, students will learn more about one of the eight pathways of the Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources (AFNR) career cluster by exploring career opportunities related to agribusiness.</p>
24	50 min	What are some possible SAE opportunities?	Inspire Ag Careers	<p>Supervised Agricultural Experiences (SAE) Ideas</p> <p>In this activity, students will identify the eight career pathways and brainstorm six SAE project ideas.</p>
25	50 min	What are some possible SAE opportunities?	Inspire Ag Careers	<p>Career Development Opportunities</p> <p>The purpose of this activity is to help students understand the benefits of participating in Career Development Opportunities; investigate various CDOs in their community; and learn to develop and set goals to prepare them for potential CDOs.</p>



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Unit 6: Decision Making				
26	50 min	How do I decide on an occupation?	Explore Careers Portfolio Tool - Careers That Interest Me	Making Decisions about Career Paths In this activity, students will identify factors in making professional decisions, list possibilities of their professional life, and create a brochure about a career that is consistent with their interest. (50 mins)
27	30 – 50 min		Career Selector	Using Career Selector The purpose of this activity is to teach students how to use factors like working conditions, education, core tasks, and income to sort occupations and find suitable career choices.
28	30 – 50 min		Explore Careers	Comparing Careers In this activity, students compare two possible career choices and evaluate their interest in each on the basis of a number of different criteria. Students will learn to think critically about some of the factors that can influence career decision making.
Unit 7: Career Planning				
29	45 min	What are my career goals?	Portfolio Tool – Career and Life Goals	Career Goals and Priorities In this activity, students will implement a plan to achieve career goals and priorities.
30	30 – 50 min	What do I need to do to achieve my goals? (cont'd)	Explore Schools Portfolio - Schools of Interest	College Research Exercise The purpose of this activity is to help students learn about colleges and the programs they offer; become familiar with Career Cruising's College and University section, and the kind of information they can find within it; and learn how to use the Internet to find important career-related information.
31	30 – 50 min		Explore Schools Portfolio - Schools of Interest	Finding the Right College The purpose of this activity is to help students learn about the factors to consider when choosing a college (4-Year, 2-Year, or Career & Technical), and use School Selector, an interactive checklist, to find colleges that match their personal and academic preferences.



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32	30 – 50 min		Explore Schools Portfolio - Schools of Interest	Learning About Programs Offered at a Local College In this activity, students find out about education and training offered at local colleges.
33	30 – 50 min	How will I pay for my education and/or training?	Financial Aid Selector Portfolio - Scholarships and Financial Aid	Scholarships and Financial Aid This activity helps students find and save information on scholarships, grants, and other financial aid programs for which they're qualified.
Unit 8: Preparing to Enter the Workforce				
34	50 min	How do I find a job?	AgCareers.Com Search Tool Employment Guide - Work Search	Conducting a Job Search In this activity, students will list and describe three easy steps in conducting a job search; create a job search network of ten people; identify five agribusinesses in the area that will hire high school students; develop a plan to organize a job search.
35	50 min	How do I learn more about a job that interests me?	Explore Careers Employment Guide	Career Interview Project The purpose of this activity is to introduce students to informational career interviews. First, they explore one of the multimedia career interviews in Career Cruising. Then they take what they have learned and apply it in a "live" career interview with a parent or friend of the family.
36	45 min	How do I put my best self forward?	Resume Builder Employment Guide - Resumes	Components of A Resume In this activity, students will learn to identify the components of a resume.
37	50 min		Resume Builder Employment Guide - Resumes	Developing a Resume In this activity, students will define the purpose of a resume; list common components of a resume; distinguish between chronological, functional and combination resumes; develop a resume that is purposeful, appropriate for the situation, and contains needed information.
38	30 – 50 min		Resume Builder Employment Guide - Resumes	Using the Resume Builder This activity takes students through the process of using their career portfolio to create a professional resume.



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39	50 min	How do I act in a job interview?	Employment Guide - Interview Skills (including Interview Evaluation Worksheet)	Interviewing Techniques In this activity, students will learn to explain proper appearance, posture, etiquette, and non-verbal behavior for interviewing; answer typical interview questions in a mock interview; and identify the appropriate times for contacting the employer after an interview.
40	50 min	How do I keep a job?	Employment Guide - On The Job	Keeping a Job In this activity, students will list and explain employability skills of a valuable employee and list 10 reasons people get fired.
41	50 min	How do I advance in my career?	Employment Guide - On The Job Explore Careers (Sample Career Path)	Advancing a Career In this activity, students will explain factors that help people advance in careers and choose a career and develop a strategy to advance in the career.

