

# Exploring agriculture career skills



Length:  
45-50 minutes

## About this lesson

Students will participate in a classroom discussion about business skills, and identify careers within agriculture that use these skills. They will then identify core tasks for careers in agriculture that use business skills.

## Objectives

By the end of this lesson, students will:

- Know the skills developed in agriculture business programs after high school
- Define and describe business skills utilized in careers within agriculture
- Connect business related skills to core tasks for careers in agriculture

## Inquiry prompts

- How do business skills apply within agriculture?
- What are some business careers related to agriculture, and what core tasks associated with these careers utilize business skills?

## Before you begin

1. Ensure that you can play the [Agriculture and your future success](#) video. This video is also available in [Spanish](#).
2. Ensure that you are able to log into your student demo account and can access **Explore Options**.
3. Ensure that students are able to log into their accounts and access **Explore Options**.
4. Access the [Career skills and core tasks handout](#) and make a copy of the document or download it before making copies for students. You can then project the document for the class to model the activity.

## Teaching strategies

- 1 Show students the Agriculture and your future success video. This video is also available in Spanish. When the video is over, ask students to give examples of two skills that one might utilize in an agriculture-related career.
- 2 Explain that you will be looking at how business career skills are utilized within agriculture. In your student demo account, search “Agriculture Business” and click through to view the **Major: Agriculture Business and Management, General**. As a class, look at the profile of the major. Use the following discussion prompts to guide students:
  - What skills or topics would you learn about in this major?
  - What are some examples of classes you might take for this major?
  - What skills are you learning or classes are you taking that might relate to this program?
- 3 Pass out the [Career skills and core tasks handout](#), and project it for students

## Xello entry point

Students can dive right in!

## Materials required

- [Agriculture and your future success](#) video. This video is also available in [Spanish](#).
- Copies of the [Career skills and core tasks handout](#), also available in [Spanish](#)
- Computers or tablets with Internet access
- Whiteboard and whiteboard markers (optional)

## Artifacts

Students:

- Add at least 3 careers and core tasks to the [Career skills and core tasks handout](#), also available in [Spanish](#)

## Exploring agriculture career skills



Length:  
45-50 minutes

to view if you'd like. Review skills briefly with students, and then give them 5 minutes to identify the most relevant skills related to the Agriculture Business and Management major. Which of these skills would one use always or often in careers related to this major? Create a list as a class, and direct students to mark those skills on the handout. Some examples below:

- Managing Money
- Managing People
- Time Management

- 4 Now have students log in to their accounts and access the Agriculture Business and Management major profile in **Explore Majors**, following the steps you modeled earlier. In your student demo account, under the **Major** profile, click on either **Related Careers** or **Related Majors**, and show students the different options that appear. Allow students 10 minutes to explore the related majors and careers. They should explore at least 3 related careers during this time.
- 5 Once the 10 minutes are up, direct students to follow your lead as you select one career, click on it, and scroll down to read through the job description, core tasks, and education & training with students. If available, also read through the interviews with professionals. Then discuss the following questions as a class:
  - What career skills does this job utilize and how do they relate to business?
  - What happens on a typical day of work in this job?
- 6 Now, model writing the career title and core tasks for that career on the handout next to the applicable skills. Next to each skill, give an example of how it might be used in the daily tasks of this job. Some examples below:
  - (Landman) Negotiating: Negotiates payment for property being bought in order to build a quarry
  - (Sustainability specialist) Persuading: Work with a client to convince employees to bring reusable containers for water to reduce plastic cup waste
- 7 Now give students 15-20 minutes to repeat this process on their own as they investigate careers. Tell them they must add core tasks and examples for at least 3 careers to the Career skills and their core tasks handout.
- 8 Once students have finished adding core tasks and careers to the handout, answer the following discussion questions as a class:
  - How can business skills benefit you if you want to have a career in agriculture?
  - Of the careers you reviewed, how much did business skills apply to the typical duties of the job?
  - Were you surprised by any of the ways that business skills could be utilized in any of the careers you researched? Why or why not?

## Exploring agriculture career skills



Length:  
**45-50 minutes**

**Tip:** When completed, students can upload their handouts to either their Business or Agriculture career **Portfolios!**