


STUDENT ACTIVATION

Animal Nutritional Consultant

As livestock ranches pass from one generation to the next, the owners continually grow and improve, especially when it comes to the health and growth potential of their animals. Animal nutritional consultants who work for CHS, the largest cooperative in the United States and one of the biggest names in **agronomy**, energy, and grain processing, help ranchers connect the dots in raising their animals into healthy livestock.

AGRONOMY: The science behind soil management and crop production.

ANIMAL NUTRITIONAL CONSULTANT? ^{1,2,3}

At CHS, **animal nutritional consultants** act like meal planners and menu makers for their customers' livestock. They offer full service nutritional consultation and customized feeding programs to precisely fit each ranch's practices, pastures, and preferences. When an animal nutritional consultant hears a rancher's need, they try to bridge the gap between where the animals are and where they need to be. Their goal is to get all of the animals off to a healthy start with the right nutrition. Experienced CHS animal nutritionists offer consultation on the latest in customized ration planning, livestock nutritional management, animal health, environmental engineering, and feed financing.

IS ANIMAL NUTRITIONAL CONSULTANT A GOOD CAREER FOR ME?

Me	Animal Nutritional Consultant
I love animals.	Animal nutritional consultants are concerned with the health and welfare of animals.
I have a curious mind. I like to predict and solve big problems.	Animal nutritional consultants are skilled at solving complex problems.
I am organized. I like following directions and procedures step-by-step.	Animal nutritional consultants are organized and methodical.
I am interested in school subjects like math and biology. Farming interests me.	Animal nutritional consultants study agriculture, math, biology, and business.
I enjoy public speaking, and I am a good writer. I can easily explain things to others in ways they can understand.	Animal nutritional consultants are strong communicators, both verbally and in writing.

¹ <https://www.chsinc.com/about-chs/news/news/2021/08/30/calf-starter-nutrition>

² <https://www.chsfarmersalliance.com/chs-feed/>

³ <https://jobs.aarp.org/job/nutrition-consultant-harrisburg-oregon-62115535>

How does this career help me?	How does this career help the world?
<p>Every time your family buys or consumes meat or dairy products produced by a member of CHS, it benefits from the work of an animal nutritional consultant. Animal nutritional consultants work to keep livestock healthy by making customized feeding programs and monitoring the animals' health and environment.</p>	<p>Healthy animals mean a healthy world. Livestock helps keep our ecosystems healthy and provides us with products that improve home, health, food, and industry. Healthy animals promote biodiversity and help threatened pollinator populations like bees.</p>

What are some similar careers?
<p>Dietitians are like nutritional consultants for humans. They use their knowledge of science and nutrition to make health and diet recommendations and provide meal plans to their clients.</p> <p>Clinical nutritionists work with patients who are living with chronic illness or disease by using nutrition and dietary recommendations to help ease pain, discomfort, and occurrence of symptoms.</p> <p>Veterinarians are medical professionals who care for the health and wellbeing of animals by diagnosing and controlling illness and disease, caring for injury, and managing reproductive health.</p>

Here are ways to practice the skills to be a successful **animal nutritional consultant**:

- Research national dietary recommendations and review MyPlate⁴. Create a meal plan for your family for one week that includes three meals and two snacks a day and fulfills the dietary requirements for children and adults. Create an easy-to-use shopping list and review the plan and ingredients with your family to get their feedback. Try implementing your meal plan and see how you feel!
- Consider shadowing a veterinarian or vet tech for an afternoon to observe how they care for the health and wellbeing of animals.
- Bring your family together and gather information on what they see as deficiencies or “wishes” regarding the food they eat or their nutrition. Take these needs and analyze them, using research and scientific knowledge to create a plan that might bridge the gap between where your family is and where they want to be nutritionally.
- Choose two different brands of dog food, one that is considered more affordable and one that is considered specialty. Analyze and compare the ingredients and nutritional content of the two, drawing conclusions on the benefits and tradeoffs of using each to feed your pet. Which would you recommend to a pet owner, and why?

⁴ <https://www.myplate.gov/>