The central focus of crop and soil science is the production of food and fiber and understanding the resources used in that production. Crop and soil scientists use their natural curiosity and enthusiasm for science to help solve some of the toughest problems facing humanity: producing sufficient and affordable food for an increasing population and doing it in a way that protects and preserves our environment. Crop and soil scientists are also involved in protecting soil and water resources and preventing surface water and groundwater pollution.

**Major Options**

Beyond the core courses, students choose courses within the following academic options:

- **Crop Science** where the emphasis is on plants and their use to produce safe and affordable food for human consumption, feed for animals, and fiber and energy for everyday needs.

- **Soil Science**, which explores the diverse role of soils and provides knowledge for making economically and environmentally sustainable soil use and management decisions.

- **Sustainable Agriculture**, where students learn about economically viable agricultural systems that promote land productivity, energy efficiency, environmental stewardship and rural community viability.

**Hands-on Experiences**

Our facilities provide an environment for rich, hands-on learning experience and the possibility to participate in applied research projects. We have two laboratory farms, greenhouse, specialized teaching and research labs, the South Fork of the Kinnickinnic River and bordering wetlands and natural areas flowing through campus. In addition:

- Faculty focus on teaching with specializations in plant breeding and genetics, traditional and organic crop production, weed control and integrated pest management, soil and water conservation, forages and pasture management, biotechnology, wetlands, and the role of soil in environmental protection.

- The program has long standing ties to and numerous internship opportunities with industry leaders and government agencies such as Pioneer Hi-Bred, Winfield Solutions, and Natural Resources Conservation Service.

- Students find opportunities for networking and professional development at the local, regional and national levels through participation in the Crops and Soils Club, Students in Agronomy, Soils, and Environmental Sciences (SASES) and Intercollegiate Judging Teams.

**Global. Innovative. Excellent.**

Students majoring in crop and soil science at URF receive career training for:

- crop production
- soil and water conservation
- plant breeding and genetics
- wetlands use and protection
- sustainable agriculture
- weed control and integrated pest management
- soil fertility
- crop physiology
- environmental protection
- alternative energy resources
- biotechnology
- GPS/GIS

Our graduates go on to work for a variety of reputable organizations. Here are just a few:

- Pioneer Hi-Bred International, Inc.
- Agriliance
- USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service
- Hwy Ag Services
- Syngenta Seeds, Inc

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