

ExplorACES reaches out to prospective students

THE University of Illinois College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences is once again inviting prospective students and their families to ExplorACES.

ExplorACES, now in its fifth year, is a two-day event designed to acquaint young people and their families with the College of ACES Urbana-Champaign campus.

The event is scheduled for Friday, March 13, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Saturday, March 14, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Details about ExplorACES can be found at www.aces.illinois.edu/ExplorACES. The Web site includes information about exhibits, as well as an interactive map to help guide visitors through the buildings and activities.

"The College of ACES is one of the largest colleges at Illinois; but this event lets students and their families see how comfortable and friendly it really is, despite the size," says Jeremy Robinett, one of the coordinators of the event.

Current ACES students plan the entire event, handle publicity and staff the displays. There will be dozens of hands-on exhibits relating to classroom work, club activities and honors research.

Visitors will also have opportunities



STUDENT STAFF: Current ACES students plan ExplorACES, handle publicity and staff the exhibits. Plus, they're on hand to answer your questions.

to tour lab and classroom facilities and meet ACES faculty members. Professors from every department will be floating around campus during all times of the day. However, most of them will be centrally located within the ACES Library at their departmental booths. The ACES library is located at the center of the ACES quad.

The College of ACES offers 10 undergraduate majors with 39 different

concentrations. ExplorACES helps prospective students get an overview of the potential areas of study including bio-engineering, community development, economics, human nutrition, plant breeding and pre-veterinary studies.

Source: University of Illinois

■ **For more information, visit www.aces.illinois.edu/ExplorACES or call 217-333-2728.**

How Illinois stacked up in the 2007 Ag Census

■ The number of farms grew from 73,027 in 2002 to 76,860 in 2007.

■ Of the state's farms, 7,830 were 1,000 acres or larger. Another 8,309 farms were between 500 and 999 acres.

■ The average size of an Illinois farm was 348 acres.

■ Since 2002, the number of farms in Illinois under 50 acres jumped by nearly 10,000 to a total of 29,125.

■ Of all Illinois land, 75.4% is farmed.

■ Illinois farms with gross sales above \$500,000 went from 2,845 in 2002 to 7,160 in 2007.

■ There are more than 16,000 cattle farms.

■ More than 3,000 hog farms were recorded.

Source: USDA

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