AGROECOLOGY, BS

Agroecology works to make agriculture and food systems more sustainable. Agroecologists consider agricultural and food systems as a whole to improve human health and well-being. Agroecologists study plants, animals, microbes, soils, water, air, and people. They examine the role of ecology, sociology, economics, and politics in agriculture, and work to support solutions to global challenges like climate change, food insecurity, biodiversity decline, and social inequality.

WHAT WILL I STUDY IN AGROECOLOGY?

- First-Year Seminar: Make a strong start through a CALS First-Year seminar (http://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/agricultural-life-sciences/#requirementstext). These seminars allow students to explore different areas of study, learn how to access campus resources, and make friends and connections.
- Foundation Courses: Build a strong, basic understanding of the biological and social sciences.
- Core Courses: AGROECOL/AGRONOMY/C&E SOC/ENTOM/ENVIR ST 103, the introductory core course in agroecology, introduces all students to the field and provides the opportunity to establish academic and social networks. Students continue to learn agroecological theory and apply it to the improvement of agricultural systems in AGROECOL 303. The capstone course, AGROECOL 503, provides a connection between the classroom and real-world issues.
- Major Depth and Breadth Electives: Pursue personal and career interests in the field of agroecology through flexible course options. Study animals and plants, microscopic life, ecosystems, natural resources, agricultural practices, health and nutrition, and communities.
- Hands-On-Learning: Get involved in greenhouses, fieldwork, or research in labs with faculty and staff in CALS.

The knowledge and skills developed through the agroecology major prepare students for a wide variety of careers. Some of the areas students may work in include conservation and environmental organizations; the agricultural industry; local, state, and federal agencies; consulting; watershed and farm management; and agricultural policy, research, and education. Many students continue their education in graduate programs.

Some specialize in plant science, entomology, plant pathology, soil science, or sociology, while others continue in cross-disciplinary programs such as agroecology, public policy, and environmental science.

The agroecology major is housed in the Department of Plant and Agroecosystem Sciences, but faculty and staff from many CALS departments come together to support the program.