Agriculture is the cultivation of animals, plants and fungi for food, fiber, biofuel, medicinal plants and other products used to sustain and enhance human life. Agriculture was the key development in the rise of sedentary human civilization, whereby farming of domesticated species created food surpluses that nurtured the development of civilization. The history of agriculture dates back thousands of years, and its development has been driven and defined by greatly different climates, cultures, and technologies. Industrial agriculture based on large-scale monoculture farming has become the dominant agricultural methodology.

Source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Agriculture
To learn more about agriculture visit: http://www.nass.usda.gov

STATE, NATIONAL, & GLOBAL AGENCIES:

- **Chicago Lights Urban Farm** - [www.chicagolights.org/get-involved/how-to-volunteer](http://www.chicagolights.org/get-involved/how-to-volunteer)
  The Chicago Lights Urban Farm is dedicated to cultivating a thoughtful and engaged community of youth and adults through educational and economic opportunities, hands-on learning experiences, and access to fresh, local, and sustainably grown produce.

- **Farm Aid** - [www.farmaid.org/take-action](http://www.farmaid.org/take-action)
  Farm Aid is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to keep family farmers on the land and promote a strong and resilient family farm system of agriculture.

- **Illinois Farm Bureau** - [www.ilfb.org/get-involved/volunteer.aspx](http://www.ilfb.org/get-involved/volunteer.aspx)
  Illinois Farm Bureau is a membership organization controlled by farmers who join IFB® through their county Farm Bureau. There are 96 county organizations in Illinois. IFB is a not for profit corporation. IFB’s legal name is the Illinois Agricultural Association which was founded in 1916 by a group of farmers who met at the University of Illinois to discuss the need for education, better information, and more effective farming practices. Today, IFB represents two out of three Illinois farmers.

- **Peace Corps** - [www.peacecorps.gov/volunteer/learn/whatvol/agr](http://www.peacecorps.gov/volunteer/learn/whatvol/agr)
  Agriculture Volunteers work with small-scale farmers and families to increase food security and production and adapt to climate change while promoting environmental conservation practices. They introduce farmers to techniques that prevent soil erosion, reduce the use of harmful pesticides, and replenish the soil. They work alongside farmers on integrated projects that often combine vegetable gardening, livestock management, agroforestry, and nutrition education.

- **Volunteers for Economic Growth Alliance (VEGA)** - [www.vegaalliance.org/our-programs/farmer-to-farmer-program](http://www.vegaalliance.org/our-programs/farmer-to-farmer-program)
  The Farmer-to-Farmer Program promotes sustainable economic growth, food security and agricultural development worldwide. Volunteers include US farmers, as well as people from agribusinesses, cooperatives, and universities help developing countries improve productivity, access new markets, build local capacity, combat climate change and conserve environmental and natural resources.
CHAMPAIGN-URBANA ORGANIZATIONS:

- **Prosperity Gardens** - [www.prosperitygardens.org/about](http://www.prosperitygardens.org/about)
  Prosperity Gardens, Inc., a Champaign non-profit, was created in 2010 to address the growing problems of youth obesity and limited nutrition knowledge, while providing job training and employment opportunities in agricultural sciences and food production. Its urban gardening programming, currently centered on two city-owned lots on North First Street, provides hands-on garden-based education and green business employment opportunities and offers affordable, locally grown produce for Champaign-Urbana's low-income residents.

- **Sola Gratia Farm** - [www.solagratiafarm.org/shares.html](http://www.solagratiafarm.org/shares.html)
  Sola Gratia Farm is a community-based farm enterprise dedicated to producing locally-grown, high-quality, natural produce. Responding to the Gospel, the Farm is committed to helping those who lack adequate food resources by donating ten percent of its produce to support regional hunger programs. The Farm promotes healthy lifestyles and community building through education, service and outreach programs.

- **The Land Connection** - [www.thelandconnection.org/farmers](http://www.thelandconnection.org/farmers)
  The Land Connection trains farmers in resilient, restorative farming techniques; informs the public about the sources of our food and why that matters; and works to protect and enhance farmland so that we, and generations to come, will have clean air and water, fertile soil, and healthy, delicious food.

CAMPUS OPPORTUNITIES AND REGISTERED STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS:

- **Collegiate FFA (CFFA)** - [www.facebook.com/UIUCFFA](http://www.facebook.com/UIUCFFA)
  CFFA empowers values-driven pre-professionals to lead and serve in schools, businesses and communities.

- **Sigma Alpha Professional Agricultural Sorority Farm Bureau** - [www.facebook.com/sigmaalphaiu](http://www.facebook.com/sigmaalphaiu)
  Sigma Alpha is a professional agricultural sorority that promotes scholarship, leadership, service and fellowship among its members. The sorority was founded in 1978 at the Ohio State University as an alternative to the social Greek sorority system. Sigma Alpha is comprised of women with an interest in agriculture looking to develop not only social skills but professional skills as well. It focuses on allowing women to establish lifelong friendships with other women who are pursuing similar goals and careers.

- **Sustainable Student Farm** - [www.thefarm.illinois.edu/volunteer](http://www.thefarm.illinois.edu/volunteer)
  The farm serves as a production farm to supply our residence halls with locally grown, low-input sustainable food. In addition, the farm acts as a living laboratory to connect students, community members, and the state at large with regional, small-scale food systems. We plan to broaden our focus to include the research, education, and outreach missions of the university.

- **University of Illinois Extension** - [http://web.extension.illinois.edu/state/volunteer.php](http://web.extension.illinois.edu/state/volunteer.php)
  Extension provides practical education you can trust to help people, businesses, and communities solve problems, develop skills, and build a better future. U of I Extension offers educational programs in five broad areas: energy and environmental stewardship; food safety and security; economic development and workforce preparedness; family health, financial security, and wellness; and youth development

- **University of Illinois Plant Clinic** - [http://web.extension.illinois.edu/plantclinic](http://web.extension.illinois.edu/plantclinic)
  The University of Illinois Plant Clinic has served as a clearinghouse for plant problems since 1976. Services include plant and insect identification, diagnosis of disease, insect, weed and chemical injury (chemical injury on field crops only), nematode assays, and help with nutrient related problems, as well as recommendations involving these diagnoses. Microscopic examinations, laboratory culturing, virus assays, and nematode assays are some of the techniques used in the clinic.