

# **Non-traditional career pathways for animal science students**

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**Traditional careers for animal scientists  
Times they are a changin'**

**Perspectives and learnings from my career path to date.**

**Have you considered careers in.... ?**

**Preparing for happiness and a successful career**

**Where do I look for these jobs?**

# Traditional careers for animal scientists

- Domestic animal production and management, research, sales, service, business, and education.
  - Producers, farms
  - Feed and supplement companies
  - Academia
  - Equipment companies
  - Agriculture advocacy- councils, 4H, extension, etc.
- Veterinary medicine requiring further education.

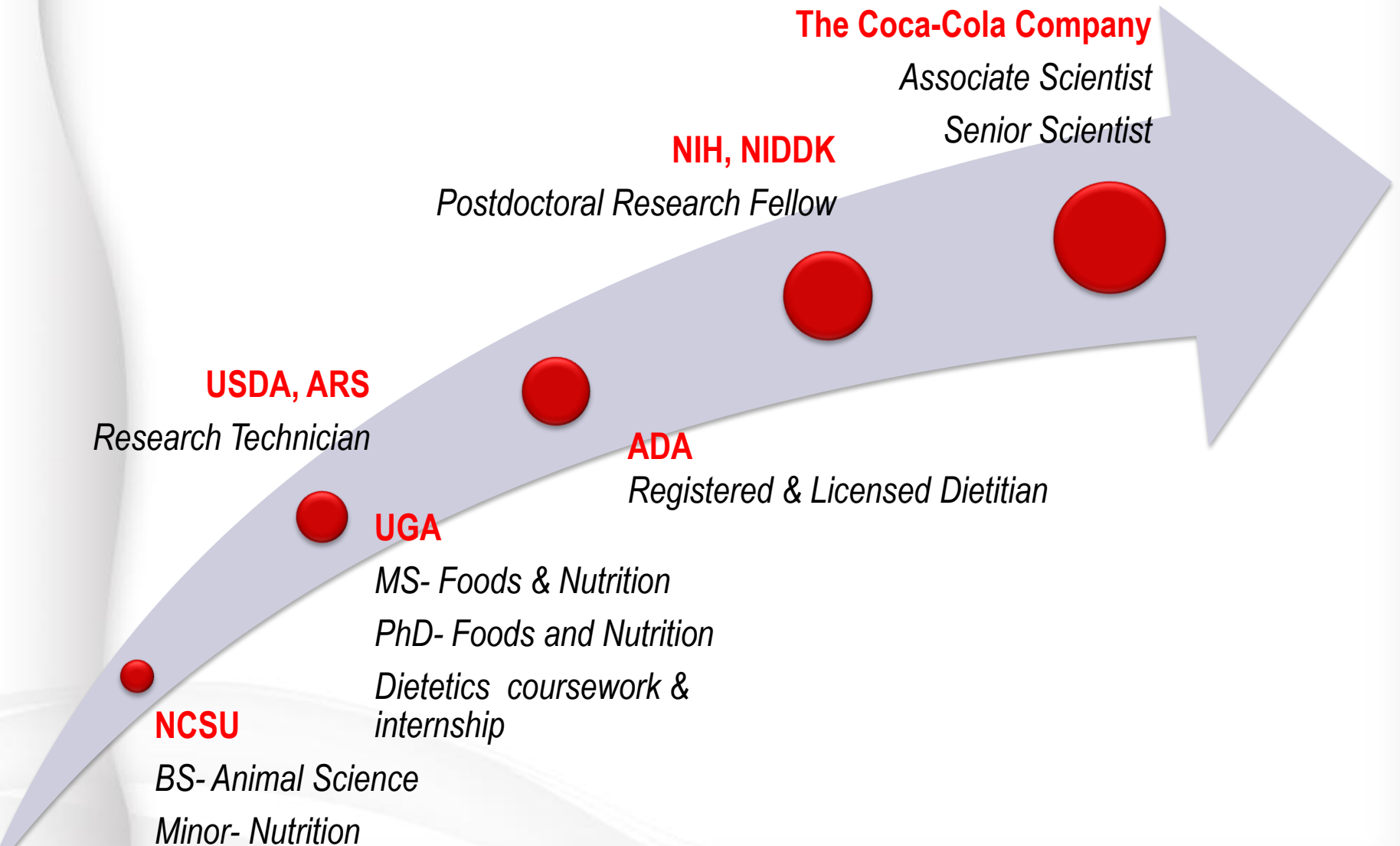


# Some of the global changes impacting animal science

- **Biotechnology**- advances change efficiency, production practices and requirements, and human meat consumption.
- **Consumer demands**- “green”, “environmentally friendly/sound practices”, “healthy”, etc.
- **Governance**- requirements for traceability of foods/feeds, increased food safety legislation, supplement/additive restrictions, etc.
- **Resource competition**- biofuels, land allotment, water availability, etc.
- **Population shifts**- Growing human population with shift in age, location, and affluence is shifting the global requirement for protein foods.



# My path to date



# **The Coca-Cola Company?**

- **Largest non-alcoholic beverage company**
  - **Carbonated beverages, juices, juice drinks, mixers, waters, sports beverages, energy drinks, teas, dairy, coffees, beverage concentrates**
  - **3,300 products**
  - **500 brands**
  - **14 billion dollar brands**
- **92,800 associates globally**
- **Operations in over 200 countries**
- **1.6 billion servings consumed daily**

# **Global Nutrition Research**

- **What is my role?**
  - **Identify and evaluate potential ingredients and delivery technologies to improve the health and wellness of consumers**
    - **Meet suppliers and scientists, conduct literature reviews, develop product protocepts, conduct pre-clinical evaluation, plan and sponsor clinical trials**
    - **Coordinate with other scientists, regulatory affairs, product developers, claims substantiation groups, purchasing, legal, marketing, brand divisions....both locally and globally**

# Scientific Functional Expertise Common in Food Companies

- **Biochemistry**
- **Organic Chemistry**
- **Flavor Chemistry**
- **Process Science**
- **Analytical Chemistry**
- **Microbiology**
- **Sensory Science**
- **Platform Integration**
- **Clinical Evaluation**
- **Product development**
- **Science & regulatory affairs**
- **Sensory evaluation**
- **Food safety, QA/QC**
- **Materials and packaging Science**
- **Process engineers**



# Potential strengths of an animal science background

- **Animal production process involves breeding/genetics, reproduction, growth, feeds and environment, raw products, consumer products**
- **Your broad education provides basic understanding of**
  - **various scientific and agriculture arenas**
    - **soils, crops, genetics, microbiology, biochemistry, consumer foods (milk, meat), molecular biology, etc**
  - **management**
    - **integrative processes**
    - **implications of change**
    - **communication**

# Your strengths applied to alternative locations

- **Global organizations with interest in food security**
  - **United Nations (Food and Agricultural Organization, World Food Program), USAID, WorldBank, PeaceCorps, humanitarian organizations, NGOs.**
  - **Example:**
    - **Livestock project manager- CNFA**
    - **Animal husbandry- PeaceCorps**
    - **Project coordinator, animal health- FAO**
    - **Livestock coordinator, project manager- Heifer Int.**



## **Your strengths in new areas**

- **Agriculture & Natural Resources**
- **Environmental Sciences**
- **Law (Animal Welfare, Environmental)**
- **Psychology**
- **Science Technology**
- **Customs and Inspection services**

# **Your strengths applied to alternative settings**

- **Alternative corporate settings-**
  - **food ingredients (may differ from feed suppliers), pharmaceutical companies, military, civil service, etc.**
  - **Examples:**
    - **Veterinary food inspection specialist**
    - **Medical science liaison**
    - **Regulatory affairs**
    - **Microbiologist**
    - **Quality manager**
    - **Research scientist**
    - **Food safety auditor**
    - **Plant manager**

# **Capitalize on your individual strengths and likes**

- **Consider your preference for:**
  - **Prevention vs treatment,**
  - **Production vs pet vs exotic,**
  - **Training vs production vs conservation**
  
  - **Location, institution size and type**
  - **Advancement potential compared to your intentions**
  - **Quality of life**
  - **Pay and benefits**

## Example

- You enjoy traveling, don't want to do lab or animal work anymore, are detail-oriented...
  - Have you considered being a **clinical research associate**?
- **Job duties**
  - developing, writing, presenting trial protocols;
  - designing data collection forms;
  - managing ethics and regulatory authority applications and approvals;
  - working with study centers and staff;
  - data verification, filing, collating, archiving;
  - writing reports and manuscripts.

# **Your strengths applied to alternative species and careers**

- **Experience conducting trials in production animals may be useful in conducting human clinical trials.**
  - **Frequently listed positions**
    - **Biostatistician**
    - **Study manager/coordinator**
    - **Clinical data analyst**
    - **Clinical trial monitor**
    - **Clinical trial auditor**
    - **Research site manager**

## Example

- You enjoy applying science to the food/feed industry and would enjoy an office environment with a variety of people...
  - Have you considered science in the **food industry**?
- Job types:
  - Technical sales
  - Statistician
  - Sensory
  - Nutritionist
  - Project management
  - Product development
  - Procurement, supply chain
  - Regulatory affairs
  - QA/QC
  - Technical advisement to business.



## Final thoughts...

Like everything else, the animal science field evolves and we must adapt and evolve to be successful.

