

## **Pet Food Science: New Option of Study in Rutgers Food Science**

The Pet food industry, a \$28-billion-a-year industry, continues to grow in the United States and globally.

Rutgers Food Science is the first of its kind to offer a Pet Food Science program of study. Students in the Pet Food Science option will be provided a solid foundation in Food Science with knowledge of Animal Science to provide them the basics of know-how for development of pet foods.

### *What the pet food industry experts have to say on the Pet Food Science option of study:*



***Saif Ali Arabi, Ph.D.***  
Manager, Food Safety,  
The J.M. Smucker Company, OH  
**Rutgers Alumni, 2012**

Pet food is a highly regulated industry, both by federal and states regulatory agencies. The finished product as well as the primary ingredients are regulated by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

The basic technologies in the pet category, in the past, relied heavily on technologies that were developed for farm animal feeds. In the recent decade, we have witnessed a humanization trend that introduced human food technologies and standards to the pet food industry.

Pet food and human food industries are similar in terms of using foundational and applied sciences to develop new products. Processing, shelf-life, and safety of pet foods are substantially similar to processing of foods intended for human consumption.

Since there is no such degree as “Pet Food Scientist”, all pet food producers are employing, in addition to animal science and nutrition majors, food scientists and engineers from human food industries to fill out the needs and gaps to keep up with the market demands.

The future of the pet food industry is very promising and full of opportunities. The pet food market size is expected to surpass \$30 billion by the year 2020. Innovation and product formulations are key factors in the expansion of pet food business in conjunction with ingredients and supply chains.

*Graduates, with a specialized degree that is designed to support the needs of the industry will play a key role in the development and growth of the pet food category.*

## Sustainability: New Option of Study in Rutgers Food Science

**Sustainability** is one of the focus areas of Institute of Food Technologists (IFT), USA.

*“Within the sustainability focus area, you’ll examine the business case for environmental sustainability in the food industry. Learn about efforts in food production sufficiency throughout the product lifecycle from sustainable ingredient sourcing, to product development, to waste management. You’ll gain understanding of related processing and production methods and best practices in the marketing of sustainable food products.”*

Chef Michel Nischan—food sustainability guru, four-time James Beard award winner, and founder of Wholesome Wave, the leading national organization that increases affordable access to fruits and vegetables for underserved people—believes that:

*“Food has profound impact on human health, environmental health, economic health, and societal health. It is our common ground. It gathers us together, no matter what our background or ethnicity might be. If we ‘fix food’ and help people truly understand the overall positive global impact a healthy food system can have, we will move towards making the world fairer, more sustainable and more economically viable”.*

The Sustainability study option at Rutgers Food Science includes the foundation courses, basic science and advanced level Food Science courses. Courses related to Sustainability have been incorporated within the option.

### *What the food industry experts have to say on Sustainability option of study:*



*Craig Lomma*  
Acting CEO  
Wholesome Wave, CT

Is food fixable? By 2050, the world’s population will increase by more than 35%--meaning that we will need to feed more than 9 billion people. To feed this population, crop production must double over the next 30 years. This is just one of the challenges we face in our food system.

*How will we accomplish this without overwhelming the planet?*

We need solutions, expertise and innovation that are as big as the problem we are facing.

Therefore, Rutgers’ new option of study—Food Science and Sustainability—is an exciting one. It is also a strong springboard to a wide range of meaningful career paths—including farming, public health, food access, food justice, food advocacy, and entrepreneurial start-ups.