



Career Prospects in



AGRI



CULTURE



The agriculture industry is one of the most vital sectors in our society. The UK agriculture industry is responsible for feeding millions of families.


Due to its importance, the agriculture sector is filled with opportunities for those looking to start their career. When thinking about a typical person working within agriculture, it is easy to envision a farmer ploughing a field.

However, in recent years, the sector has become much more industrialised and digitised, opening up new job opportunities that did not exist several years ago.



DID YOU KNOW?

The UK produces



UK agriculture employs over **500,000** people

For every

£1 invested into agriculture,



There are **280,000** farms in the UK



The average salary in the agriculture sector is **£33,500**



farming returns **£7.40** to the economy



JOB TYPES IN AGRICULTURE



Let's breakdown 5 common job roles within the agriculture sector:



Farm Manager

Farm managers combine business and practical skills when managing operations, people and services on farms. Farm managers may have to partake in practical farming, depending on the farms' situations. However, generally speaking, most farm managers focus most of their time on managing budgets, planning, forecasting and managing people. The success of farms is often dependant on the farm manager's competences. Though a degree is not necessarily required to become a farm manager, graduating from University will provide you with valuable skills that you can transfer to the farm manager's role.

Farm Consultant

Farm consultants offer advice and support to farmers in order to keep their business running. Farm consultants often specialise in technical or business support. A farm consultant offering business advice might be able to help a farmer improve their budgeting, cash flow, human resources or legal advice. Technical consultants may provide advice in regards to technologies to improve livestock transportation or harvesting technologies.

Agronomist

An agronomist is a plant specialist. Agronomist work closely together with farm managers and other farm personnel to ensure that crops produce their maximum yields and stay healthy throughout the growth and harvest period. As an agronomist your work would include physically examining crops and soil to swiftly spot any unwanted signs of disease. Additionally, you would also be familiar with legislation and laws encompassing the regulation of certain fertilizers, pesticides, and policy surrounding genetically modified organisms (GMO).


Agricultural Sales

A person working within agricultural sales aims to sell products to farmers. These products include feed, fertilisers, seeds and machinery. Agricultural sales people have to be good listeners and general communicators as they need to understand what farmers want and need, in addition to building rapport and relationships with farm managers. Working within agricultural sales involves travelling around the country to different farms and conventions.

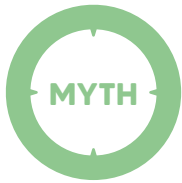
Feed Nutritionist

When dealing with livestock it is important to understand the correct feed and feeding procedures. Feed nutritionists are experts within the field of livestock nutrition and advise farmers on what to feed their livestock in order to maximise growth and health.

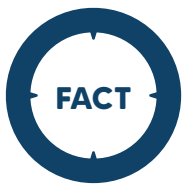




MYTH BUSTING



People working in agriculture spend all day outside on muddy fields



The agriculture industry is compiled of many different job roles that don't just focus on planting and harvesting

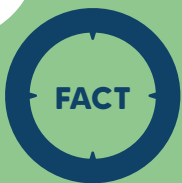


There are lots of different jobs within the agriculture industry. Plenty of which don't involve ploughing through fields or milking cows. Many jobs within this sector require you to be a good communicator, think critically and manage numbers, products and people. Even if your work will include some practical farming, you will still have to be IT literate as you will have to communicate with people across the country by sending emails, making phone calls and attend virtual conferences.

All in all, the agriculture sector offers a wide and diverse range of job opportunities.



It's only men who work in this industry

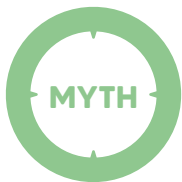


The amount of women working in agriculture has tripled since the 1980s

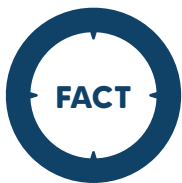


There are still more men than women working within the agriculture industry, however women continue to find more work within this sector.

Women are at no way disadvantaged from achieving success within the industry!



Working in agriculture does not require you to be intelligent



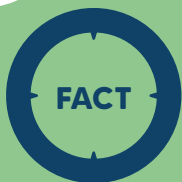
Many people within the industry have degrees from prestigious Universities



As farming is a lot more than just cultivating fields, many people within the industry choose to study at University to gain the skills and knowledge required to achieve success within the industry. Not only can you study agriculture specific subjects at Higher Education Institutions, but many other degrees, such as business and marketing, can help you start a successful career within this sector. Additionally, there is a lack of people interested in academic research within the field of agriculture. Which means there are **plenty of opportunities for those seeking study a PhD within the agriculture industry.**



Agriculture is a dying industry



Agriculture will always evolve with time



There is no such thing as a dying industry. You might have heard that there is no physical and metaphorical space for farming in our future societies. However, human beings will always need to eat! This means that the agriculture industry will never die out. Instead, it will evolve in smarter ways. Academics within the industry are currently researching in to what ways the agriculture industry can become more sustainable.

Perhaps you can be part of the team to make the next big discovery within this sector!



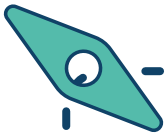
What GCSE's are important for a career in AGRICULTURE



For most agriculture courses, whether you are planning on studying it at University or through an apprenticeship, you will require at least four GCSEs grade 4-9.

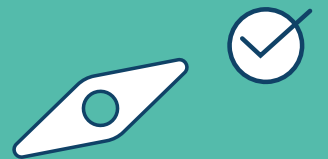


If you can, it would be good to choose GCSE options that include **analytical, communication, numeracy and IT skills.**



You might want to consider some of the following options:

- Biology
- Chemistry
- Physics
- Business
- Geography
- Food Technology
- IT
- Design and Technology
- Economics



If you are unsure about what options to choose, it might be a good idea to look at what **Level 3 qualifications you require** to study agriculture. Then you can work backwards to work out **what GCSE subjects you should choose to get onto the Level 3 course** you need.

When deciding on your options it is also **important to choose subjects that you will enjoy.** If you enjoy none of the subjects above, you might want to reconsider if a career in agriculture is right for you.



OPTIONS

After you have completed your GCSEs, it is really important to make an informed decision on your Level 3 qualifications. After your GCSEs, you have the option to go down **three different routes**:

- 1 A-Levels,
- 2 Vocational Qualifications or
- 3 Apprenticeships

1 A Levels

If you are interested in studying agriculture at University, doing A-Levels as your Level 3 qualifications might be a good choice for you. A-Levels are similar to GCSEs and will enable you to study subjects at a more in depth level. You would usually choose at least 3 subjects. If you want to study agriculture at University you are usually required to study sciences and technology subjects.

2 Vocational Courses

Vocational courses are designed to provide you with practical experience within a specific field of work. Level 3 vocational courses include BTEC National Certificate/Diploma and T-Levels. So if you are keen on gaining some practical experience within agriculture after school, you might want to consider studying a BTEC or T-Level as these are designed to give you some hands-on experience.

More and more T-Levels will be rolled out over the next few years. These might be a good option for you if you want to make some industry connections early on, as T-Levels are operated in partnerships with employers. **From the year 2023, you can expect some of the following subjects to be available:**

- **Livestock production**
- **Tree and woodland management and maintenance**
- **Floristry**
- **Habitat management (land and water)**

As T-Levels will be a new introduction to the education system, it may be more difficult to find a wide range of subjects, as opposed to A-Levels and BTECs.

3 Apprenticeships

Apprenticeships combine paid work with studying, which means you will get paid as you complete a qualification. An apprenticeship will allow you to gain knowledge and skills that are necessary for a career in agriculture. Apprenticeships are great for those who know they definitely want a career within this sector, as it will provide them with very specific skills for a certain job role.

However, as you get paid throughout, **apprenticeships are very competitive** and it is difficult to land a Level 3 apprenticeship straight out of school. Therefore it is very important to achieve the best GCSE results possible as apprenticeship providers will only choose the best of the best.

It is always important to have a back-up plan, such as still applying to college courses as simultaneously applying for apprenticeship places.



OPTIONS

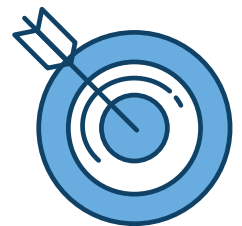
There are many options available to you once you turn 18. By then, you should have completed a level 3 qualification and you could go down several different paths.



University

You could study agriculture at University. Most courses at University will require you to have at least 3 A-Levels, including a science and technology subject. At University, you will study a strand of agriculture in depth. An undergraduate degree usually takes 3 years to complete. However, some agriculture courses include a year in industry, meaning the completion of your degree would take 4 years as you would spend a year working within the sector. As agriculture is such a wide field you can choose from many different University courses. Some of them include:

- Agriculture Management
- Precision Crop Technology
- Sustainable Food Production
- Equine Management
- Forestry
- Game-keeping and Wildlife Management



Employment

Within the agriculture industry it is possible to gain a successful career by seeking employment directly after completing a Level 3 qualification, especially as practical experience is very valuable within this sector. However, statistics show that you are more likely to gain a successful career with a Higher Educational qualification. Therefore, it might be worth thinking about gaining a HE qualification throughout your lifetime.

Apprenticeship

If you have previously completed a Level 3 qualification, you should aim to start a Level 4 Apprenticeship. Any qualification from Level 4 upwards is classed as Higher Education (HE) Many HE apprenticeships require similar entry requirements to University courses. Therefore you can expect to require at least two A-Levels, or equivalent.

Examples of Level 4 apprenticeships include: Horticulture Apprenticeship, Catchment Delivery Adviser Apprenticeship, and Crop Technician Apprenticeship.



Important skills needed for



AGRICULTURE



Organisation

To thrive in the agriculture industry, you will have to be a multi-tasker. Therefore, having strong organizational skills is of great importance. Not only will you need to understand larger time cycles throughout the year, but you will have to manage your own time effectively. Additionally, you might not have one work place. Constantly being on the move will require you to always stay on top of all your tasks.



Team Work

Working in the Agriculture industry, you will have to work with people from varying backgrounds. Within this industry you won't get far by doing everything solo. Being a team player will be of vital importance if you want to succeed within this sector.



Numeracy

You will always encounter number within this sector. Whether it is calculate the amount of seed that is required for a year or to calculate budgets. Therefore it is important that you brush up on your maths skills if you want to work in the agriculture industry.



Communication

You might have to strike a good deal or persuade some staff to work longer hours. Great communication skills will help you achieve your goals. Besides talking to people face to face, you will have to communicate effectively via email, phone calls and other communication modes. Being an effective communicator will allow you to open doors to different career paths within this industry.



Business and Project Management

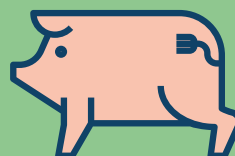
Within this sector you will be involved in several larger or smaller scale projects at once. Therefore it is vital to know how to manage such projects. It is one thing to start a project but the really challenge is to see it to completion. To succeed within this industry ensure that you understand the best ways to lead, partake and fulfil projects.

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF a Farm Manager



As agriculture is such a wide sector, it would be difficult to pin everything down in a couple of words. However, here are some things you could expect to do as a Farm Manager:

-  Plan the farm's financial situation in order to maintain progress and cash-flow.
-  There will be some practical activities such as operating farm machinery, feeding livestock or fertilizing crops.
-  You will be expected to market the farm's produce.
-  Purchase farm supplies such as feed, seed and livestock.
-  Ensure all equipment is well maintained.
-  Train new staff and ensure current staff are up to date with current standards and guidance.
-  Understand the weather and adjust the farms operations accordingly.
-  Monitor the health of your livestock.
-  Ensure everybody is complying to health and safety standards.





Signposting

Key websites

www.ucas.com (Information regarding University and apprenticeship applications)

www.instituteforapprenticeships.org (Information regarding T-Levels and apprenticeships)

www.prospects.ac.uk (Information regarding University and apprenticeships entry requirement)

www.lmihumber.co.uk (Information regarding the agriculture sector)

www.farminguk.com (Information regarding the UK agriculture industry)

Key employers

- Unilever
- Muller UK & Ireland Group
- ED&F Man Holdings
- Flamingo Horticulture
- ICL Specialty Fertilizer
- Froneri international
- Tate & Lyle
- 2 Sisters Food Group
- Avara Foods
- Bakkavor Group
- The Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (DEFRA)



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