



Fast Facts on Agriculture and Food Careers in Pennsylvania

- 491,000 (almost 500,000) jobs in the Agriculture and Food Industry and its supply chains in Pennsylvania in 2015
- Ag and Food Jobs by Industry Segment in 2015
 - Production Agriculture: 28%
 - Food Processing: 40%
 - Forestry, Lumber, and Wood Products: 20%
 - Landscaping Services: 11%
- Projected new and replacement job openings in Agriculture and Food jobs from 2015-2025: 74,257 (almost 75,000) new and replacement job openings in the Agriculture and Food Industry through 2025 which is 15% of the 2015 total workforce
- PA Department of Agriculture has identified 25+ occupations that will be the occupations most in demand by the Agriculture and Food Industry over the next decade.
 - Farming and Agricultural Operations
 - Farm Manager
 - Dairy Herdsman
 - Farm Equipment Mechanics and Service Technicians
 - Farmworkers-Farm, Ranch, and Aquacultural Animals
 - Farmworkers and Laborers-Crop, Nursery, and Greenhouse
 - Landscaping
 - Landscaping and Groundskeeping Worker
 - Food Manufacturing
 - Food Batchmakers
 - Packaging Machine Operators
 - Bakers
 - Butchers
 - Slaughters and Meat Packers
 - Meat Trimmers
 - Inspectors, Testers, Samplers, and Weighers
 - Industrial Machinery Mechanics
 - General Maintenance and Repair Workers
 - Heavy and Tractor Trailer Truck Driver
 - Forklift Driver

- Forestry, Lumber, and Wood Products
 - Fallers
 - Logging Equipment Operator
 - Sawing Machine Operator
 - Team Assemblers
 - Paper Goods Machine Operators
 - Sales Representatives, not medical or scientific products
- Conservation and Natural Resources
 - Soil and Water Conservationists
 - Agriculture Technician
- Animal Health and Veterinary Services
 - Veterinarians
 - Veterinary Technologists and Technicians
 - Veterinary Assistants
 - Medical and Clinical Laboratory Technician
- Traditional Agriculture jobs most in-demand
 1. Farm Manager: 2,650
 2. Veterinarian: 1,400
 3. Farm Equipment Mechanics and Service Technicians: 340
- Overall occupations most in-demand for Agriculture and Food jobs
 1. Truck Driver: 21,800
 2. Maintenance and Repair Worker: 13,240
 3. Sales Representative: 12,760
 4. Team Assembler: 7,000
 5. Industrial Maintenance Mechanics: 6,400
- PDA has developed career information materials on each and will role those out at the 100th Farm Show where careers in the Agriculture and Food Industry will be highlighted through the AgExplorers program and with the AgExplorers Career Stage by Lancaster Farming in the East Hall.
- PDA has developed a Desk Guide for Careers in the Agriculture and Food Processing Industry to be distributed to career counselors in the K-12 system, higher education, vocational guidance programs, veteran job programs, and others. The Guide will roll out in a series of events across the commonwealth in February 2016.
- More than 150 high school agriculture programs across the Commonwealth with 16,000 agriculture students
- More than 12,000 young people involved in FFA; more than 99,000 young people ages 5-18 involved in 4-H activities
- Two institutions of higher education offer most of the degrees in agriculture: Delaware Valley University and Penn State University
 - 893 Bachelor's degree completers in 2013-2014

- Not only are we proceeding ahead in partnership with the Office of Apprenticeship of the PA Department of Labor and Industry with an apprenticeship for Agriculture Equipment Service Technicians but we are also exploring other apprenticeships for Dairy Herdsmen and Organic Farmers. Registered Apprenticeships offers new workers a chance to earn while they learn. Employers hire apprentices who engage in a structured program of on-the-job training and classroom learning, eventually reaching the full earning potential of a journey person as they acquire skills.

Binkley & Hurst, Hooper's, Messick's, and Deer Country are the equipment dealers and New Holland Agriculture and John Deere are the original equipment manufacturers who are at the core of the new apprenticeship for Agriculture Equipment Service Technicians. Various high school agriculture programs are developing pre-apprenticeship programs that allow training in high school to be used toward the education requirement in the apprenticeships.

- Collaborating with its partners in the industry, PDA is identifying training that is already in place that would lead to a micro-credential as well as identifying where there are skill gaps that may require new micro-credentials. Good examples of micro-credentials already exist. Training for pesticide certification, ServeSafe, and the PDA Certified Poultry Technician course are examples of skill-based training that could become a micro-credential.
- In partnership with the PA Department of Education, PDA is undertaking an evaluation of the agriculture education system from K-Adult across the Commonwealth beginning immediately after the 100th Farm Show.
- PDA continues to work with urban farmers in Philadelphia and Pittsburgh on a number of technical and workforce issues such as sharing information of soil contamination and remediation, concerns about ownership of the land on which urban farming is done, the use of hydroponics and aquaponics to supplement in-ground growing opportunities, season extension strategies, and getting young people who are interested connected with jobs in the agriculture and food industry.

In Philadelphia, the Philadelphia Horticulture Society, Urban Nutrition Initiative, The Common Market, EPRA, The Food Trust, Cooperative Extension Master Gardeners, Bartram's Garden, Weaver's Way, St. Joseph's University, University of Pennsylvania, Federation of Neighborhood Centers, Greener Partners, and the Philadelphia School District have been among the partners that the Department has engaged. In Pittsburgh, the list includes Office of the Allegheny County Executive, Grow Pittsburgh, Chatham University, Pittsburgh Food Policy Council, Penn State Extension, GTECH, Hilltop Alliance, Community Kitchen Pittsburgh, Goodwill Pittsburgh, Peration Better Block, Penn's Corners Farmers Alliance, Pittsburgh Public Market, and Pittsburgh Aquaponics.

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