

PA Agricultural Apprenticeship and Pre-Apprenticeships

There are currently seven agriculture apprenticeship programs and two-apprenticeship programs registered with the [PA Department of Labor & Industry's Apprenticeship and Training Office \(ATO\)](#).

In addition to these apprenticeship programs there are numerous agriculture related workforce training programs across the state including [Pennsylvania Horticulture Society's Roots to Re-entry program](#) and the [Norris Square Neighborhood Project's youth programs](#).

State Registered Programs

Northeast Equipment Dealers Association

Agriculture Equipment Tech. Apprenticeship and Pre-Apprenticeship Programs

- The [Northeast Equipment Dealers Association](#) has registered the Agriculture Equipment Service Tech apprenticeship and pre-apprenticeship programs with Pennsylvania.
- Both programs are competency based. Apprentices can test into the program and be given advanced standing based on experience and test scores.
- The apprenticeship program is about two years with 4,000 hours of on-the-job training and 800 hours of related technical instruction but will vary by individual based on the competencies/skills they have when they first come to the program.
- There are currently five (5) equipment dealers or employers involved with the apprenticeship program.
- There are two (2) registered apprentices in the program currently.
- Digital Credentials (hosted by [NOCTI](#) and NOCTI Business) are available for all levels of the apprenticeship program.
- Students interested in this career can participate in the pre-apprenticeship program to learn more about the field. Pre-apprentices who successfully complete the program can earn credit and advanced standing in the apprenticeship program.
- Three High-schools (Solanco, Octorara, and Lampeter-Strasburg) have participated in the pre-apprenticeship program.

PASA Sustainable Agriculture

Dairy Grazing Apprenticeship

- [PASA's Dairy Grazing Apprenticeship](#) which is a nationally approved apprenticeship based in Wisconsin was approved within Pennsylvania in 2021.
- This is a two-year program with 3,700 hours of on the job training and 300 hours of related technical instruction.

Diversified Vegetable Apprenticeship and Pre-Apprenticeship Program



- [PASA's Diversified Vegetable apprenticeship](#) pairs beginning farmers with established farmers—or master growers—to provide a guided pathway toward managing or starting a vegetable farm. The program operates in Pennsylvania and surrounding areas.
- This program includes over 2,700 hours of on the job training and 200 plus hours of related technical instruction.

National Association of Landscape Professionals

Landscape Management Apprenticeship Program

- The [Landscape Management program](#) gives apprentices hands-on career training provided by an experienced mentor with additional classroom-style online training offered at no charge.
- Apprentices receive thorough training, a professional mentor, and progressively higher wages as skills and competencies increase.
- Candidates must be at least 16 years of age, have earned a high school diploma or a GED equivalent and enjoy the outdoors and working in a team environment.
- Apprentices in the program get experience maintaining outdoor spaces and are trained to care for lawns, plant and maintain flowers, read and analyze measurements, manage irrigation systems and much more.
- Eichenlaub Inc. serves as the employer for the state approved program. Eichenlaub recently had their first apprentice complete the program. She was the first female graduate of the program in the country.

Penn State

Butcher Apprenticeship Program

- Penn State has created a [butcher apprenticeship program](#) to help address the growing nationwide need for meat processing.
- This is a 10-month in-depth program where students spend time at Penn State's Meat Lab receiving hands on training and classroom instruction and another part of the time working with an experienced meat cutter.
- The program was approved in February of this year. Classes began in January and continue now.

Elmhurst Country Club & Overbrook Golf Course

Groundskeeper II Apprenticeship Programs

- The [Golf Course Apprenticeship](#) provides comprehensive training to advance skills and qualifications on a national level. The apprentice will earn full-time income while working for a minimum of 2,000 hours with several mentors, during which time the



individual will be exposed to the various aspects of maintaining a golf course as well as peripheral club grounds.

- In order to earn the Certification of Completion, the apprentice will also complete 144 hours of formal education including OSHA-10 certification and a certificate from the University of Georgia.
- Eligibility Requirements: High School Diploma or equivalent, 1-2 years of successful experience in horticulture, landscaping, golf course or athletic field maintenance is preferred for Level I, but entry level employees with no experience will be offered the ability to enroll into the pre-apprenticeship program.