

AGRICULTURE

Career Ladder

LEARN ABOUT THE AGRICULTURE CAREER PATH

Advance your skills and learn what it takes to move up the Agriculture Career Ladder!

Each career level contains information about hourly wages, job descriptions, main job duties, examples of job titles, general skills, and links to educational courses and training opportunities.

If you have further questions about local labour market information, email helpdesk@wdb.ca or visit wdb.ca.

** Many other career paths branch out from apprenticeship within the agriculture industry.*

\$21.00

APPRENTICESHIP*

\$15.66

GENERAL FARM WORKERS

Apprenticeship can lead to careers in agriculture. It is also possible to enter this career path directly.

APPRENTICESHIP

\$

HOURLY WAGES

➡

LOW

MEDIAN

HIGH

\$15.50

\$21.00

\$24.00

WHAT YOU DO:

Learn on-the-job and in school while earning an hourly wage.

SKILLS

TECHNICAL SKILLS

JUDGEMENT

CREATIVITY

EDUCATION & TRAINING RESOURCES

MINISTRY OF LABOUR, TRAINING AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

[Apprenticeship in Ontario](#)

SKILLED TRADES ONTARIO

[Starting an Apprenticeship](#)

FLEMING COLLEGE

[Apprenticeship Programs](#)

EXAMPLES OF TRADES WITH APPRENTICESHIPS

Agricultural Equipment Technician
Dairy Herdsperson
Swine Herdsperson
Fruit Grower

ONTARIO YOUTH APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM

[Why Apprenticeship?](#)

SUPPORT YOUTH ONTARIO

[Is an Apprenticeship Right for You?](#)

VIEW JOB POSTS

GENERAL FARM WORKERS

\$

HOURLY WAGES

➡

LOW

MEDIAN

HIGH

\$15.50

\$15.66

\$18.79

WHAT YOU DO:

Plant, cultivate and harvest crops, raise livestock and poultry and maintain and repair farm equipment and buildings.

SKILLS

TEAMWORK

RELIABILITY

PROBLEM SOLVING

FLEXIBILITY

ATTENTION TO DETAIL

EDUCATION & TRAINING RESOURCES

SECONDARY SCHOOL

Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM)* – Agriculture, Environment

[Kawartha Pine Ridge District School Board](#)

[Trillium Lakelands District School Board](#)

[Peterborough Victoria Northumberland and Clarington Catholic District School Board](#)

* Subject to availability

VIEW JOB POSTS

MAIN JOB DUTIES

- Plant, fertilize, cultivate, spray, irrigate and harvest crops
- Operate and maintain farm machinery and equipment
- Assist in the maintenance of facilities including cleaning stables, barns, barnyards and pens
- May feed and care for livestock, determine feed portions, estimate feed requirements and costs, and monitor and order supplies

JOB TITLE EXAMPLES

Orchard Worker
Dairy Farm Labourer
Hatchery Worker

SERVICE PROVIDERS

Find your [local employment service provider here](#) or [adult education and training provider here](#) and contact them for current training programs such as:

- Apprenticeship Preparation
- Better Jobs Ontario
- Employment Readiness
- Sector-Focused Career Training
- Pathways To Prosperity

FARM SUPERVISORS & SERVICE CONTRACTORS

\$

HOURLY WAGES

➡

LOW

MEDIAN

HIGH

\$15.50

\$20.37

\$26.16

WHAT YOU DO:

Supervise the work of general farm workers and provide services such as livestock and poultry breeding, soil preparation, crop planting, crop spraying, cultivating and harvesting.

SKILLS

TEAMWORK

ATTENTION TO DETAIL

MECHANICAL APTITUDE

QUALITY CONTROL

CUSTOMER SERVICE

EDUCATION & TRAINING RESOURCES

FLEMING COLLEGE

Post-Secondary Education

[Sustainable Agriculture \(Co-op\)](#)

CONTINUING EDUCATION

- [Project Management](#)
- [Leadership in a Team Environment](#)
- [Leading Responsibly - Leadership Development](#)
- [Leading Teams - Leadership Development](#)
- [Performance Management - Leadership Development](#)
- [Managing Change - Leadership Development](#)

RED SEAL PROGRAM

[Agricultural Equipment Technician](#)

ONTARIO TOURISM EDUCATION CORPORATION

[Service Excellence Series](#)

VIEW JOB POSTS

MAIN JOB DUTIES

- Coordinate, assign and supervise the work of general farm workers and harvesting labourers
- Supervise, monitor and enforce procedures to maintain animal and crop health and welfare
- Hire and train workers, maintain financial and operational records, and maintain quality control
- Supervise maintenance of infrastructure, equipment and supplies

JOB TITLE EXAMPLES

Farm Lead Hand
Herdsperson
Livestock Breeding Service Contractor

AGRICULTURAL & FISH PRODUCTS INSPECTORS

\$

HOURLY WAGES

➡

LOW

MEDIAN

HIGH

\$20.76

\$25.71

\$33.89

WHAT YOU DO:

Inspect agricultural and fish products for conformity to prescribed production, storage and transportation standards.

SKILLS

ATTENTION TO DETAIL

FOOD SAFETY

RELIABILITY

FLEXIBILITY

ORAL COMMUNICATION

EDUCATION & TRAINING RESOURCES

WORKERS IN THESE OCCUPATIONS USUALLY REQUIRE A COLLEGE DIPLOMA OR A UNIVERSITY DEGREE AND SEVERAL YEARS EXPERIENCE RELATED TO THE FIELD. CONTRACTORS PROVIDING CERTAIN SERVICES MAY REQUIRE SPECIFIC TRAINING CERTIFICATES AND PROVINCIAL LICENSING.

SERVICE PROVIDERS

Find your [local employment service provider here](#) or [adult education and training provider here](#) and contact them for current training programs such as:

- Apprenticeship Preparation
- Better Jobs Ontario
- Employment Readiness
- Sector-Focused Career Training

TRENT UNIVERSITY

Post-Secondary Education

[Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems Science \(Honours BSc\)](#)

[Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems Students \(Honours BA\)](#)

* Specialization in Applied Agriculture available for both programs

VIEW JOB POSTS

MAIN JOB DUTIES

- Inspect fresh and frozen fruit and vegetables at inspection centres and prepare reports on crop production and market conditions
- Inspect and grade all classes of grain at terminal elevators and monitor the fumigation of infested grain
- Examine storage, handling and transportation equipment to ensure that sanitary procedures are followed
- Monitor the operations and sanitary conditions of slaughtering and meat processing plants and inspect carcasses to ensure they are fit for human consumption

JOB TITLE EXAMPLES

Grain Inspector
Dairy Products Inspector
Crop Certification Inspector

AGRICULTURAL REPRESENTATIVES, CONSULTANTS & SPECIALISTS

\$

HOURLY WAGES

➡

LOW

MEDIAN

HIGH

\$24.99

\$31.09

\$40.35

WHAT YOU DO:

Provide assistance and advice to farmers on all aspects of farm management, cultivation, fertilization, harvesting, soil erosion and composition, disease prevention, nutrition, crop rotation and marketing.

SKILLS

RESEARCH

INTERPERSONAL SKILLS

TIME MANAGEMENT

ORGANIZATION

WORK INDEPENDENTLY

EDUCATION & TRAINING RESOURCES

WORKERS IN THESE OCCUPATIONS USUALLY REQUIRE A COLLEGE DIPLOMA OR A UNIVERSITY DEGREE IN AGRICULTURE OR RELATED SCIENCE IS REQUIRED. MEMBERSHIP IN THE PROVINCIAL INSTITUTE OF AGROLOGY MAY BE REQUIRED.

TRENT UNIVERSITY

Post-Secondary Education

[Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems Science \(Honours BSc\)](#)

[Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems Students \(Honours BA\)](#)

* Specialization in Applied Agriculture available for both programs

Biology (BSc)

VIEW JOB POSTS

MAIN JOB DUTIES

- Provide counselling and advisory services to farmers
- Prepare and conduct advisory information sessions and lectures for farmers and other groups
- Conduct research, analyze agricultural data and prepare research reports
- Liase with researchers, educators and government or business managers on matters pertaining to farming and agriculture
- Maintain records of services provided and the effects of advice given

JOB TITLE EXAMPLES

Agricultural Consultant
Agrologist
Crop Specialist

ONTARIO INSTITUTE OF AGROLOGISTS

[Professional Agrologists \(P. Ags\)](#)

ENTREPRENEUR / BUSINESS OWNER

Approximately 50 new agriculture businesses are launched annually in the WDB Region.

WHAT YOU DO:

Organize and operate a business, taking on greater than normal financial risks to do so.

SKILLS

WORK INDEPENDENTLY

CUSTOMER SERVICE

ORGANIZATION

TIME MANAGEMENT

ACCOUNTING

EDUCATION & TRAINING RESOURCES

ONTARIO SUMMER COMPANY

Grant for students aged 15 to 29 to start a new summer business

[Northumberland Summer Company Program](#)

[Peterborough Summer Company Program](#)

[Kawartha Lakes Summer Company Program](#)

STARTER COMPANY PLUS

Grant for Canadians 18+ to start a new business or grow a business that has been in operations for fewer than five years

[Northumberland Starter Company Program](#)

[Peterborough Starter Company Program](#)

[Kawartha Lakes Starter Company Program](#)

COMMUNITY FUTURES

Financing, mentorship and community support for local small businesses

[Haliburton County Development Corporation](#)

[Kawartha Lakes CFDC](#)

[Community Futures Peterborough](#)

[Northumberland CFDC](#)

MAIN JOB DUTIES

- Creating and managing a business plan, ongoing research and planning, hiring staff, creating policies and forecasting
- Maintaining business accounts, payments processing, taxes and general bookkeeping
- Develop marketing campaigns, manage social media and conduct other marketing activities
- Respond to customer service inquiries, including answering phone calls and emails to build a positive reputation for the business

JOB TITLE EXAMPLES

Small Business Owner
Franchisee

INNOVATION CLUSTER

Supports entrepreneurs in the formation and growth of tech-driven companies

[Innovation Cluster](#)

FLEMING COLLEGE

Post-Secondary Education

[Business Development for Entrepreneurship and Small Business](#)

[Fundamentals of Entrepreneurship](#)

[Entrepreneurship](#)

[Social Entrepreneurship](#)

[Small Business Financial Management](#)

TRENT UNIVERSITY

Post-Secondary Education

[Business Administration \(B.B.A.\), Entrepreneurship Specialization](#)

WDB | Workforce Development Board

Peterborough

&

THE KAWARTHAS

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Wage data comes from Lightcast (2021.3).
Job posting data is from WDB Local Jobs Hub (WDB Region, 2022).

Kawartha Lakes

Jump In

FLEMING

School of Trades and Technology & Muskoka-Kawartha's Employment Services

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Canada

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Ontario

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