

CAREER FACT SHEET

Agricultural and Forestry Scientists

Snapshot

Agricultural and Forestry Scientists advise farmers, rural industries and government on aspects of farming, develop techniques for increasing productivity, and study and develop plans and policies for the management of forest areas.

How many are employed in this occupation?	9,100
What are the average weekly earnings for full time workers?	\$2,178
How does unemployment compare with other occupations?	Average
What are the job prospects for this occupation?	Low
What will be the likely future employment growth for the next five years?	Relatively Steady

Main employing industries

Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing; Professional, Scientific and Technical Services; Public Administration and Safety; Education and Training

Tasks

This occupation may include associated occupations with varying tasks.

- collecting and analysing data and samples of produce, feed, soil and other factors affecting production
- advising farmers and farm managers on techniques for improving the production of crops and livestock, and alternative agricultural options
- advising farmers on issues such as livestock and crop disease, control of pests and weeds, soil improvement, animal husbandry and feeding programs
- studying the environmental factors affecting commercial crop production, pasture growth, animal breeding, and the growth and health of forest trees
- studying the effects of cultivation techniques, soils, insects and plant diseases on animal, crop and forest production
- developing procedures and techniques for solving agricultural problems and improving the efficiency of production
- managing forest resources to maximise their long-term commercial, recreational and environmental benefits for the community
- studying the propagation and culture of forest trees, methods for improving the growth of stock, and the effects of thinning on forest yields
- preparing plans for reforestation and devising efficient harvesting systems
- investigating, planning and implementing management procedures to cope with the effects of fires, floods, droughts, soil erosion, insect pests and diseases

INDUSTRY OVERVIEW

Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing

If you're interested in working in the great outdoors on tasks such as cultivating plants, testing soil PH levels, diving for lobsters, or raising livestock, then you should investigate a career in Australia's Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing industry. The Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing industry employs a huge number of people in the many roles associated with the supply of fresh and frozen produce and timber to both local and overseas markets. The sheep, beef cattle and grain sectors are Australia's top producers however, there are many other types of farming, such as aquaculture and hydroponics, offering career pathways in a number of specialised areas. The forestry and fishing industries also employ a huge number of people in a range of occupations both directly and indirectly in supporting Australian forests and fisheries.

Possible job pathways

- Agricultural Consultant
- Agricultural Scientist
- Aquaculture Farmer & Workers
- Stock and Station Agent
- Mixed Crop and Livestock Farm Worker
- Meat Inspector
- Quarantine Officer
- Primary Products Inspectors



Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing

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