

## Focus on Your Future

Your future in agronomy is extremely promising. Agronomy offers excellent career opportunities for individuals with appropriate collegiate training. Your ability and initiative can provide you with professional advancement, recognition, and the satisfaction of helping others both in the United States and abroad.

## Preparing for the Challenge

Agronomists come from many different backgrounds, urban and rural, and include those with both farm and nonfarm experiences.

In high school, become familiar with the basic tools of science: biology, chemistry, mathematics, physics, and a foreign language, as well as English.

In college, expand your foundation in these sciences and take courses like genetics, plant pathology, soil fertility, plant physiology, entomology, biochemistry, meteorology, and other applied sciences that will prepare you for your career.

For most positions, you will be better qualified with at least a Bachelor of Science degree. Numerous positions in teaching, research, or extension require training beyond a B.S. degree.

Many agronomists also hold a professional certification. The American Society of Agronomy offers the Certified Crop Adviser and Certified Professional Agronomist certifications. Application forms and information are available at

[www.agronomy.org/certifications](http://www.agronomy.org/certifications) or  
[www.certifiedcropadviser.org](http://www.certifiedcropadviser.org)



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*Agronomy Feeds the World*



# Careers in Agronomy: Growing Your Future

# Exploring a Career in Agronomy

## What is Agronomy?

Every day, the lives of people around the world are made better by agronomy. The endless green fields of corn and soybeans which cover the Midwest, the vast acres of cotton drying under the hot Southwestern sun, and the lush green pastures of the Northeast do not just happen. Hard work on the part of the grower and scientific and technological input by the agronomic sciences are required.

Agronomy makes this possible through the application of soil and plant science to soil management and crop production, and incorporates the wise use of natural resources and conservation practices.

## Why be an Agronomist?

If you are ready for a challenge, the field of agronomy may very well be for you. As an agronomist, you can use your natural curiosity and enthusiasm for science to help solve some of the toughest problems facing humanity: safe and abundant food production. In addition, modern agronomic research is highly technical and requires specialized training.

A career in agronomy will keep you in the center of efforts to increase the supply of high-quality food, feed, fiber, fuel, and even pharmaceuticals while protecting and preserving the environment.

## How can I become an Agronomist?

For most positions, you will be best prepared with at least a Bachelor of Science degree. Visit [www.careerplacement.org/colleges](http://www.careerplacement.org/colleges) to view a partial list of colleges and universities with courses or degree programs in agronomy, crop science, soil science, and environmental sciences.



# Career Paths

## Agribusiness

Customer-oriented agribusiness firms are responding to farmers' needs for product and management information. Beginning with new product development, agronomists play a pivotal role as liaison between the farmer and the company. They are often responsible for translating technical research data into applications. Numerous agronomy graduates are also involved in the sale of agricultural products, which are vital to today's economy. Other successful agronomists serve as crop advisers, farm managers, consultants, bank loan specialists, managers, and much more.

## Education

Agronomic educators specialize in teaching and working with high school and college students. They play an important role in helping students understand the principles of agronomy and in stimulating the students' interest in further studies. They also teach and advise students who chose advanced studies for a master's degree and/or Ph.D. They are extensively involved in research.

## Extension

Extension agronomists consult with farmers and others to help find answers to their specific problems and help farmers translate research results into usable management practices. They are also involved in research and interaction with the public.

## Government

Government-employed agronomists are responsible for helping farmers and ranchers by preparing soil maps and conservation plans so crops and land can be managed efficiently while at the same time conserving the soil. They are also involved in research and interaction with the public.

## Urban Agronomists

More agronomy graduates are becoming involved with urban projects—zoning, parks, land-use planning, beautification, highway landscapes, and turf management, to name just a few.

## Going Global

Agronomists have many opportunities for working internationally. Through government and university programs, aid groups, and philanthropic foundations, they are able to help solve agronomic problems throughout the world. Large, diversified agricultural industries with increasing investments in other countries also count on agronomists to help them.

For more information about careers in agronomy, please visit [www.careerplacement.org](http://www.careerplacement.org)