

## Why's of Agriculture: What to Do in Ag? (Careers in Agriculture)

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We all hear and see other's do it and are probably doing it ourselves - getting more interested in what we're eating, how it's made and how local it is. With a great public interest on this topic increasing, more folks are taking matters into their own hands and becoming small scale farmers both for their own consumption and hopeful to gain access into today's popular consumer markets. And that's all well and good, until we don't have the money or ground space for such a venture.



Luckily, we no longer need to 'have land' to be a part of farming. Today agriculture is such a diverse industry that regardless of our interests, hobbies and passions, anyone can be involved in our food system and find career options that may not have existed a decade ago. And even those jobs that don't seem to be directly related to agriculture, I'm willing to bet there's not more than six degrees of separation between them and agriculture (though let's not bet money on that...).

Let's face it, a lot of ag jobs mean getting dirty. But for those of us who prefer to stay on the cleaner side of things maybe there are some opportunities for ourselves that we never considered. In fact, it's said that there are over 2.3 million jobs related to agriculture in Canada alone! Whether we like being in outdoors or in the office there's a career for you. So, I'll break it down a little bit. Here are a brief list common personal interests, and an idea of what that could look like within agriculture:

- Eating & Cooking – food critic/tester, chef/baker, butcher, sommelier (pairing wine with meals), food product research and development, recipe, and cookbook development,
- Plants – horticulture, viticulture (grapes/wine), crop specialist/agronomists, soil/conservation science, seed production, invasive plant science, fabric/clothing manufacturing, cannabis production.
- Animals – veterinary services, genetics, beekeeping, feed sales, truck drivers, livestock buyer, ranch/farm hand, farrier (horses' hooves);
- Numbers and calculations – agricultural insurance, accounting and finance, asset management, crop adjusting, buyer.
- Mechanics – equipment operators and technicians, precision agriculture specialists, food packers and packagers, service writing.
- Science & Engineering – electrician, bio processing, machine and storage design, geospatial analytics, irrigation, waste management, software development, microbiology, pharmaceuticals.
- Media & Art – marketing, website design, brand management, public relations representative, broadcaster, videography/photography, farm news journalism, education.
- Governance & leadership – advisors, agriculture law, various management, policy analyst.
- and WAY more.

Honestly there are just so many possibilities in the agricultural fields that I could go on all day... but I won't I'll stop there. I think we all get the picture. There is a LOT of opportunity in agriculture for you and me!

So, what's your Ag Career going to be? For more information on careers in agriculture visit the Agriculture Job Connector at [www.alberta.ca/agriculture-job-connector.aspx](http://www.alberta.ca/agriculture-job-connector.aspx) or visit [www.AgCareers.com](http://www.AgCareers.com)

Thanks again for joining me for another 'Why' or in this case 'What' of Agriculture. If you have any comments, suggestions, or agricultural question you'd like me to dig into for a future article let me know at [adelaney@rdcounty.ca](mailto:adelaney@rdcounty.ca)

Learn more about agriculture and our food system with our Year on the Farm timeline, available at [www.rdcounty.ca/629/A-Year-on-the-Farm](http://www.rdcounty.ca/629/A-Year-on-the-Farm)