



Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources Career Cluster

The Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources (AFNR) career cluster focuses on the essential elements of life, food, water, land, and air. This career cluster includes occupations ranging from farmer, rancher, and veterinarian to geologist, land conservationist, and florist.

Statewide Program of Study: Agricultural Technology and Mechanical Systems

The Agricultural Technology and Mechanical Systems program of study focuses on occupational and educational opportunities associated with applying engineering technology and biological science to agricultural problems related to power and machinery, electrification, structures, soil and water use, and processing agricultural products. This program of study includes diagnosing, repairing, or overhauling farm machinery and vehicles, such as tractors, harvesters, dairy equipment, and irrigation systems.

Secondary Courses for High School Credit

- Level 1** • Principles of Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources
- Level 2** • Agricultural Mechanics and Metal Technologies
- Level 3** • Agricultural Structures Design and Fabrication + Agricultural Laboratory and Field Experience
- Level 4** • Agricultural Equipment Design and Fabrication + Agricultural Laboratory and Field Experience



Example Postsecondary Opportunities

Apprenticeships

- Farm Equipment Mechanic I

Associate Degrees

- Diesel Mechanics Technology
- Industrial Mechanics and Maintenance Technology

Bachelor's Degrees

- Agricultural Engineering
- Agricultural Systems Management

Master's, Doctoral, and Professional Degrees

- Agricultural Engineering
- Industrial Technology

Additional Stackable IBCs/License

- Diesel Equipment Technology-Off Highway
- Farm Equipment Mechanic License
- Licensed Farm Manager



Example Aligned Occupations

Farm Equipment Mechanics and Service Technicians

Median Wage: \$46,582

Annual Openings: 326

10-Year Growth: 23%

Mobile Heavy Equipment Mechanics

Median Wage: \$57,943

Annual Openings: 2,637

10-Year Growth: 31%

Farmers, Ranchers, and Other Agricultural Managers

Median Wage: \$65,490

Annual Openings: 28,020

10-Year Growth: 4%

Aligned Advanced Academic Courses

Dual Credit

Dual credit offerings will vary by local education agency.

Students should be advised to consider these course opportunities to enrich their preparation. AP or IB courses not listed under the Secondary Courses for High School Credit section of this framework document do not count towards concentrator/completer status for this program of study.

Work-Based Learning and Expanded Learning Opportunities

Work-Based Learning Activities

- Participate in a farm mechanic apprenticeship at an equipment production company
- Intern at an equipment manufacturing facility working with agricultural engineers

Expanded Learning Opportunities

- Participate in an FFA career, leadership, and speaking contest like an agriscience fair
- Participate in an agriculture robotics event

Aligned Industry-Based Certifications

- Agriculture Mechanics
- API 1104 Welding Pipelines and Related Facilities
- AWS Certified Welder
- AWS D1.1 Structural Steel
- AWS D9.1 Sheet Metal Welding
- AWS SENSE Level I: Entry Welder
- Feedyard Technician in Machinery Operation, Repair and Maintenance



Successful completion of the Agricultural Technology and Mechanical Systems program results in a credential with a high level of business and industry endorsement.

• NCCER Core

Data Source: TexasWages, Texas Workforce Commission. Retrieved 3/8/2024.



For more information visit:

<https://tea.texas.gov/academics/college-career-and-military-or-career-and-technical-education/programs-of-study-additional-resources>

Agricultural Technology and Mechanical Systems