🎓 Start at School | Years 9 - 12:

Agriculture / Primary Industries subjects | STEM subjects (Maths, Science) | Workplace learning / farm work experience | Part-time or seasonal farm work.

Agriculture Worker

Pathway: From Entry-Level Farm Work to Senior Agricultural Roles

Agriculture Workers are the backbone of farming operations. They work hands-on with crops, livestock, machinery, and farm infrastructure to keep farms productive, safe, and sustainable. Modern farms increasingly use technology, data, and sustainable practices, including GPS-guided machinery, digital monitoring systems, drones, and automation.

Roles range from entry-level farm hands to senior supervisory positions managing staff, machinery, and daily operations.

Entry-Level Agriculture Worker

💼 What You'll Do

- Assist with planting, harvesting, and general farm tasks
- Feed and care for livestock
- Operate basic farm machinery
- Maintain fences, yards, and farm infrastructure
- Follow workplace health and safety procedures

💼 Typical Job Titles

- Station Hand
- Farm Hand
- General Agriculture Worker
- Livestock Worker
- Crop Production Worker
- Dairy Technologist

🧠 Skills You'll Use

- Practical, hands-on work skills
- Teamwork and reliability
- Basic machinery operation
- Workplace safety awareness

Senior Agriculture Worker

💼 What You'll Do

- Supervise staff and coordinate daily work
- Operate and maintain advanced machinery
- Monitor livestock health or crop performance
- Implement safety, biosecurity, and quality systems
- Support farm planning and reporting

💼 Typical Job Titles

- Senior Ag Worker
- Leading Hand
- Supervisor
- Head Stockperson
- Operations Coordinator

🧠 Skills You'll Use

- Practical, hands-on work skills
- Teamwork and reliability
- Basic machinery operation
- Workplace safety awareness

🎓 A. VET Pathways (Job-Ready Skills)

Entry Level: Certificate II in Agriculture | Certificate II in Rural Operations | Agricultural Colleges | Gain experience on farms/agricultural businesses in the supply chain
Leads to: Entry-level Agriculture Worker roles, seasonal and full-time farm work

Skilled Worker Level: Certificate III in Agriculture | Certificate III in Rural Operations | Certificate III in Horticulture | Agricultural Colleges | Gain experience on farms/agricultural businesses in the supply chain
Leads to: Skilled Agriculture Worker or Livestock/Cropping Specialist roles

🎓B. Advanced VET & Management Pathways

- Certificate IV in Agriculture
- Certificate IV in Agribusiness
- Diploma of Agriculture
- Diploma of Agribusiness Leads to Farm Supervisor, Manager, Property Operations roles, or pathways into AgTech, Agribusiness, or Consulting

🎓 C. University Pathways

- Bachelor of Agricultural Science
- Bachelor of Agribusiness
- Bachelor of Agricultural Science and Technology

🚀 Typical Progression Pathway

A. Ag Worker → **B. Senior Ag Worker** → **C. Supervisor Manager**

Many start from school, Agricultural Colleges, or seasonal work → Complete Cert II/III in Agriculture → Gain experience in machinery, livestock, seasonal operations → Progress to leadership, safety, and planning responsibilities

📈 Career Outlook

- Strong demand across regional and rural Australia
- Clear progression from entry-level to leadership
- Opportunities to work outdoors with practical, transferable skills
- Options to specialise or move into management

🏛️ Typical Employers

- **Broadacre & Mixed-Enterprise Farms:** Family-owned grain and mixed-enterprise farms | Corporate farming businesses | Livestock-focused enterprises. **Roles:** Farm Hand, Senior Farm Hand, Machinery Operator, Livestock Hand
- **Contracting & Farm Services:** Seeding, spraying, harvesting contractors | Livestock handling and shearing contractors | Fencing, earthworks, farm maintenance businesses. **Pathway:** Seasonal to permanent progression, senior operators and supervisors
- **Agribusiness & Rural Merchandise Companies:** Elders, Nutrien Ag Solutions (Landmark), Delta Agribusiness, local rural supply stores. **Roles:** Farm support, livestock and production support, senior on-farm or multi-site roles
- **Livestock & Station Enterprises:** Sheep and cattle stations, mixed grazing enterprises, feedlots Senio. **Roles:** Head Stockperson, Leading Hand, Farm Supervisor
- **Government, Research & Training Farms:** DPIRD, research and demonstration farms, regional TAFE training farms. **Roles:** Experienced workers, mentoring/training positions

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Great Southern – Wheatbelt

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