

AGRICULTURE CAREERS

IN SOUTHWEST AND SOUTH CENTRAL MINNESOTA



Minnesota ranks #4 in the nation in agricultural production, with \$17 billion in agricultural sales per year. Minnesota farmers produce high quality agricultural products that meet consumer demand domestically and around the world. We rank in the Top 10 nationally in turkeys raised, hogs, soybeans, corn, sugarbeets, and several other commodities.

Agriculture added over 4,250 net new jobs from 2007 to 2017, a 25.5 percent growth rate, compared to a 6.2 percent growth rate across all industries state-wide.

Southern Minnesota was home to 42 percent of the state's farms. More impressively, Southern Minnesota accounted for 55 percent of the state's market value of agricultural products sold, reaching almost \$12 billion. Four of the top 6, 6 of the top 10, and 13 of the top 20 agriculture counties in the state are located in Southern Minnesota.

NON-TRADITIONAL AGRICULTURE CAREERS FOR WOMEN IN SOUTHWEST/SOUTH CENTRAL MINNESOTA

**ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEER
TECHNICIANS**
\$35.28/HR

FARM EQUIPMENT MECHANICS
\$23.97/HR

TRUCK DRIVERS
\$21.48/HR

DIESEL ENGINE SPECIALIST
\$21.29/HR

PESTICIDE HANDLERS
\$17.95/HR

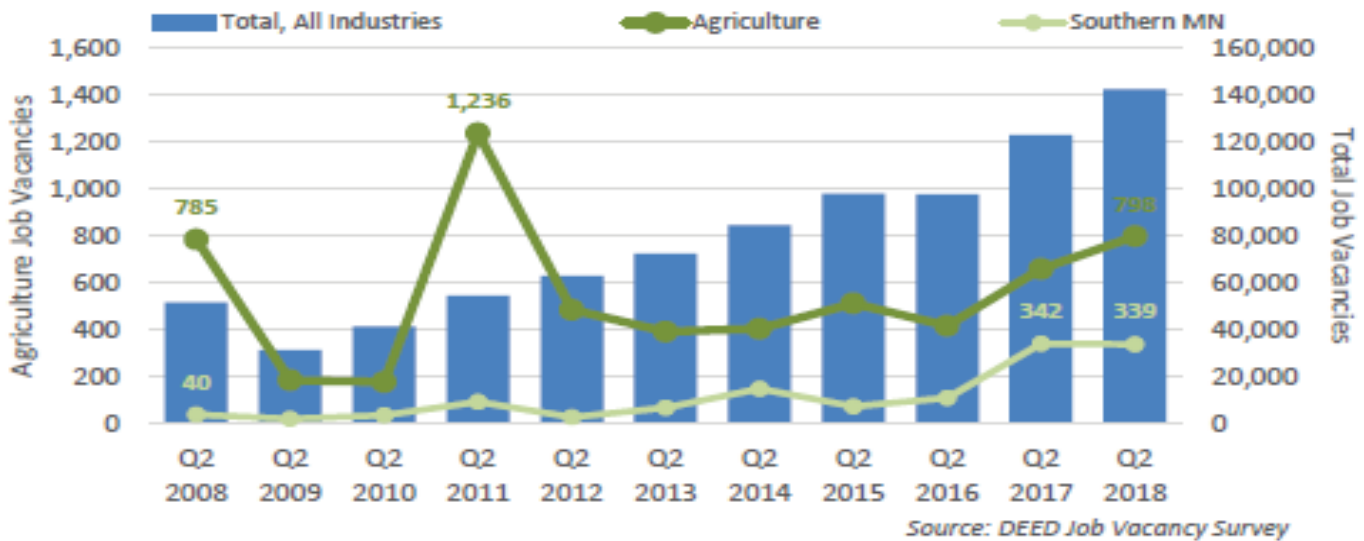
BUTCHER AND MEAT CUTTERS
\$15.10/HR

SLAUGHTERERS AND MEAT PACKERS
\$14.05/HR

**LANDSCAPING AND
GROUNDSKEEPING WORKER**
\$12.02/HR

Women held 23% of jobs in the agriculture, fishing, forestry industry in 2017. For farms, women were the primary operator for 8.5% of the farms in Minnesota.

Minnesota Agriculture Job Vacancy Trends, Q2 2008-Q2 2018



Agriculture comprised more than 20 percent of total jobs added in the region over the past decade. Nearly half of the agriculture vacancies are at employers in Southern Minnesota.

Well over one-third of this agriculture employment is located in Southern Minnesota. According to the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW) data, Southern Minnesota provides about 15 percent of total jobs in the state, but over 39 percent of the state's jobs in agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting.

CAREER PATHS IN AGRICULTURE AND FOOD INDUSTRY IN SW/SC MN

1-2 YEAR COLLEGE DEGREE (OR CREDENTIAL)

- Diesel Engine Specialists \$21.29
- Farm Equipment Mechanics and Service Technicians \$23.97
- Agricultural Inspectors \$16.23
- Heavy & Tractor Trailer Truck Drivers \$21.48

4 YEAR OR MORE COLLEGE DEGREE AND/OR EQUIVALENT EXPERIENCE

- Agriculture and Food Science Technicians \$19.31
- Veterinarians \$36.40
- Food Science Technicians \$22.59
- Biological Technicians \$16.91

HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA OR GED AND/OR EXPERIENCE

- Farmers, Ranchers, and Other Agricultural Managers \$44.88
- Suppliers and Meat Packers \$14.05
- Farmworkers and Laborers, Crop, Nursery and Greenhouse \$16.50
- Agricultural Equipment Operators \$16.26

These jobs are in demand in Southwest and South Central Minnesota and these are SWSC Minnesota Median Wages. Data collected from Department of Employment and Economic Development.

WHY CHOOSE A CAREER IN AG?

The Agriculture and Food industry is the 2nd largest employer in Minnesota with over 200,000 jobs. The industry is growing and offers many opportunities for advancement and job security.

View videos of career paths in the agriculture and food industry: www.careerforce.org/VideosCareerVideosCareerVideos.aspx

Equal Opportunity Employer and Program Provider. Upon request the information in this document can be made available in alternative formats for people with disabilities by contacting Kelly Rickert at krickert@swmnpic.org or 507-706-1600.

In Demand Agricultural Careers

AGRICULTURAL & FOOD SCIENCE TECHNICIANS

EDUCATION

An associate's degree in biology, chemistry, crop or animal science, or a related field. Some positions may require a bachelor's degree.

IMPORTANT QUALITIES

- Analytical skills
- Communication skills
- Critical-thinking skills
- Interpersonal skills
- Organizational skills
- Physical stamina

WHAT THEY DO

Work with agricultural and food scientists in food, fiber, and animal research, production, and processing. Assist with animal breeding and nutrition. Conduct tests and experiments to improve crop yields or increase the resistance of plants and animals to disease and insects.

EMPLOYMENT

Employment of agricultural and food technicians is projected to grow 8 percent from 2016 to 2026, about as fast as the average for all occupations. Demand will continue for research in a large variety of areas.

MEDIAN HOURLY WAGE: \$16.06

OPPORTUNITIES

Employment of diesel mechanics is projected to grow 8 percent from 2016 to 2026, about as fast as the average for all occupations. As more freight is hauled across country more diesel mechanics will be needed to maintain and repair the trucks.

MEDIAN HOURLY WAGE: \$17.04

WORK ENVIRONMENT

Agricultural and food science technicians work in a variety of settings, including laboratories, processing plants, farms, and greenhouses. Technicians typically work full time, have standard work schedules, and may travel for work.

Diesel mechanics usually work in well-ventilated and sometimes noisy repair shops. Occasionally repair vehicles on roadways and at work sites. Most work full time and overtime is common.

These jobs are in demand in Southwest and South Central Minnesota and these are SWSC Minnesota Median wages. Data collected from Department of Employment and Economic Development.

CAREER PATHS IN AGRICULTURE AND FOOD INDUSTRY

4 YEAR OR MORE COLLEGE DEGREE AND/OR EQUIVALENT EXPERIENCE

- Agriculture and Food Science Technicians \$19.31
- Veterinarians \$36.40
- Food Science Technicians \$22.59
- Biological Technicians \$16.91

1-2 YEAR COLLEGE DEGREE (OR CREDENTIAL)

- Diesel Engine Specialists \$21.29
- Farm Equipment Mechanics and Service Technicians \$23.97
- Agricultural Inspectors \$16.23
- Heavy & Tractor Trailer Truck Drivers \$21.48

HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA OR GED AND/OR EXPERIENCE

- Farmers, Ranchers, and Other Agricultural Managers \$44.88
- Suppliers and Meat Packers \$14.05
- Farmworkers and Laborers, Crop, Nursery and Greenhouse \$16.50
- Agricultural Equipment Operators \$16.26

These jobs are in demand in Southwest and South Central Minnesota and these are SWSC Minnesota Median Wages. Data collected from Department of Employment and Economic Development.

WHY CHOOSE A CAREER IN AG?

The Agriculture and Food industry is the 2nd largest employer in Minnesota with over 200,000 jobs. The industry is growing and offers many opportunities for advancement and job security.

View videos of career paths in the agriculture and food industry: www.careerforce.org/VideosCareerVideosCareerVideos.aspx

Equal Opportunity Employer and Program Provider. Upon request the information in this document can be made available in alternative formats for people with disabilities by contacting Kelly Rickert at krickert@swmnpic.org or 507-706-1600.

