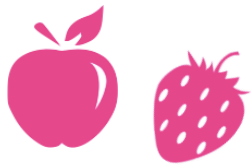


Agri-Tech ranges from the traditional agricultural, horticultural, forestry, food/drink processing and associated land management practices to the transformational shift being brought about by technological advancement through machine manufacturing, chemical processing, software design, satellites, drones, hydroponics and robotics.

Agri-Tech provides an important opportunity to improve agricultural processes and move to high efficiency agriculture and being more self-sufficient in terms of food production.

Worcestershire overview

Agri-Tech accounts for 1.6%* of the workforce in Worcestershire, which is higher than across the West Midlands (1.1%) and Great Britain (1.5%).



Horticulture is a primary industry for the Worcestershire region. Crops such as asparagus, apples, strawberries and other soft fruit are enjoyed across the whole of the UK and beyond.

Across Worcestershire, most of the agri-tech jobs are in Wychavon (66.7%) and most of the Agri-Tech businesses are based in Wychavon and the Malvern Hills.



Key sub-sectors of agri-tech in Worcestershire are:

- Processing and preserving of fruit and vegetables
- Liquid, milk and cream production

The Agri-Tech research centre at Pershore College is a key research and development facility for the sector.

*BRES

Future trends

Hi-tech agriculture industries are set to grow over the next 10-15 years; one of the fastest growing agri-tech sub-sectors is expected to be **precision farming and engineering** (using technology to make things more efficient) as more businesses invest in **cutting edge technologies**.



The demand for people to work in agri-tech will continue as the UK looks for **new solutions** to food growing and protecting the environment.

Local employers include:

WellHopped Ltd, Red Star Growers Ltd, Valefresco, Kanes Foods, Evesham Vale Growers, Hydroponic Supplies

Job roles in agri-tech include:

Agricultural contractor • Agricultural engineer • Agricultural engineering technician • Agricultural inspector • Agronomist (crop scientist) • Biochemist • Biotechnologist • Botanist • Chemical engineering technician • Drone pilot • Ecologist • Environmental consultant • Farmer • Food manufacturing inspector • Hydrologist • Maintenance fitter • Meat hygiene inspector • Meteorologist • Research scientist • Rural (agricultural) surveyor • Sales Manager

Skills and qualities

In agri-tech, employers are particularly looking for:

- An analytical and logical approach to solving problems •
- An interest in maths, science and technology •
- Good communication skills • Teamwork and interpersonal skills • Health and safety awareness •
- Ability to manage own time and prioritise tasks •
- Technical and practical skills • Good attention to detail •
- Good at using initiative • Sales skills • Thinking and reasoning skills

What could you earn?

Agricultural engineer **£25,000 - £40,000**

Agricultural engineering technician **£20,000 - £38,000**

Agronomist (crop scientist) **£20,000 - £45,000**

Biotechnologist **£19,000 - £60,000**

Farmer **£20,500 - £50,000**

Hydrologist **£22,500 - £46,000**

Rural (agricultural) surveyor **£20,000 - £45,000**

Find out more

<http://jobs.fwi.co.uk>

www.tastycareers.org.uk

www.lantra.co.uk

<https://www.rhs.org.uk/education-learning/careers-horticulture>

<http://www.skills4worcestershireshire.co.uk/>

Routes into this sector

Ways to get into this sector will vary depending on the job role.

Apply directly for some roles that don't ask for specific qualifications or ask for GCSEs – basic IT skills may help. A temp job may also be a good way in.

Choose a **college course** at level 3 (A level equivalent) or level 4 to add to your qualifications.

An apprenticeship could be a good route in – from **dairy stockperson** (intermediate apprenticeship) and **crop technician** (advanced apprenticeship). Always check the requirements for each individual apprenticeship.

For some roles, employers will look for someone who has a **university degree** but also check to see if a degree apprenticeship route is an option for a graduate-level job.

Pershore College offers a foundation degree in Agri-Tech (Horticulture).

Work your way up to roles such as supervisor or manager by training on the job.

For more job profiles and careers information visit the National Careers Service website: <https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk> or call 0800 100 900



@CareersWestMids