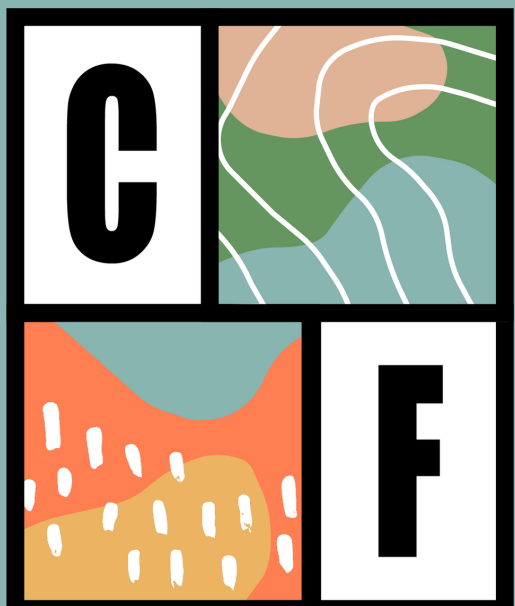




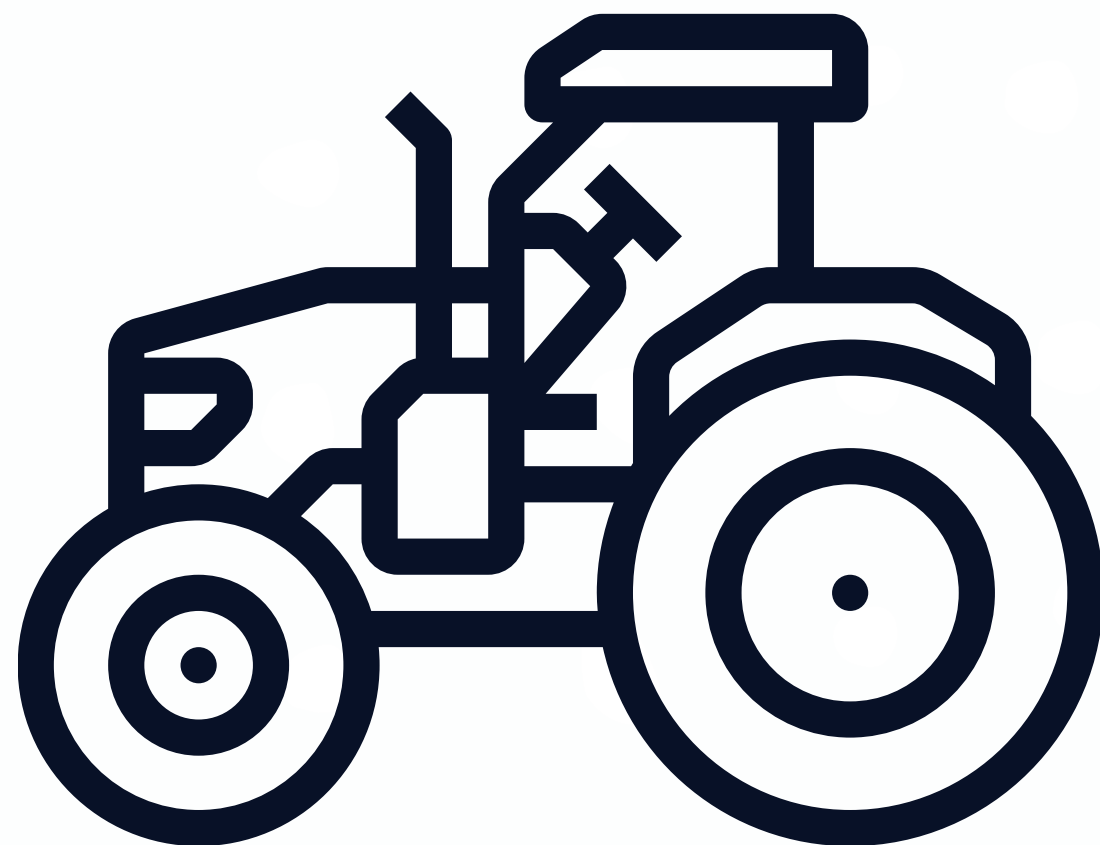
AGRICULTURE



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The world of the environment is forever changing, bringing with it new and exciting careers!

Here we'll be talking through careers in the agriculture industry, that aren't the typical management pathway.



AGRICULTURAL CONSULTANT

Agricultural Consultants give specialist advice to agricultural and farming businesses to help them with technical, financial and commercial matters.

You'll work to ensure your clients businesses or enterprises are running as efficiently as possible.

Having a qualification in agriculture or other relevant subject is often required. These subjects may increase your chances of being successful:

Agricultural Engineering
Animal or Biological Science
Environmental Science
Horticulture

Studying business management as part of a degree can also be advantageous, especially if you want to enter the business side of consultancy.

How to become an Agricultural Consultant

Entry with a Higher National Diploma (HND) is also a possibility, although you will need to have a considerable amount of work experience alongside this.

For those who are looking to enter the technical side of agriculture consultancy, you may find that having a Masters in a subject such as Animal Production or Seed & Crop Technology will be helpful.

Entry into Agricultural Consultancy and advisory work is very competitive. An essential aspect an applicant must have is a broad knowledge of farm management, alongside experience of working in the industry.

Try to gain as much practical experience of farm management, rural planning or surveying as you can, whilst also looking for other agricultural work experiences.



LAND-BASED ENGINEER

Land-Based Engineers use their technical and scientific knowledge to solve problems in agricultural and horticultural sectors. They use their skills to design, develop and install machinery used in the environmental and agricultural industries. They also work on any issues that relate to the functionality and efficiency of vehicles and equipment.

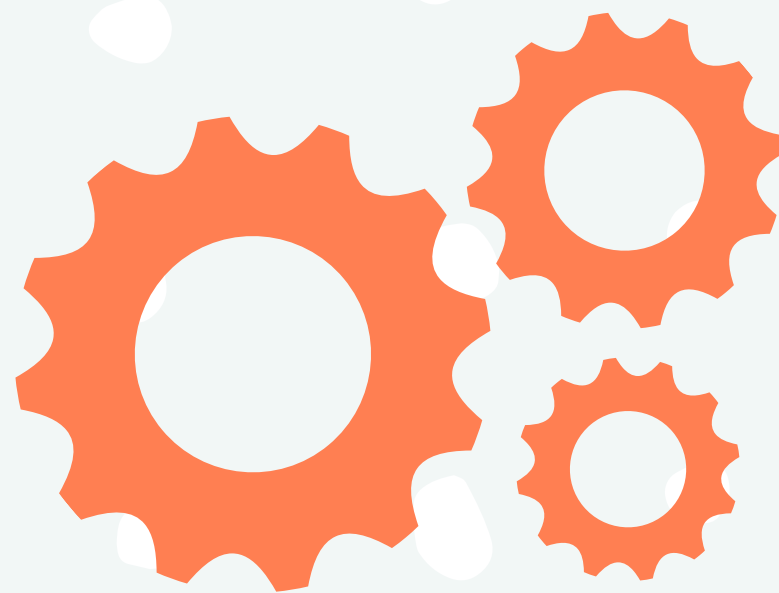
Employers will often look for graduates with engineering degrees. A specific agricultural engineering degree is available, but other general engineering degrees are suitable, such as:
Automotive, Electrical, Ergonomics, Mechanical and Environmental.

HNDs in a similar range of subjects to those listed are acceptable for entry. However, it is likely you'll work at the lower level of agricultural engineering technician. Employers may support further study to degree level, to enable you to become a Land-Based Engineer.

How to become a Land-Based Engineer

Pre-entry experience is desirable, as it can help you to demonstrate your practical skills and can also give you a competitive advantage. Some engineering degrees include a placement year, which can help you with developing practical skills.

You may be able to secure an industrial placement with a large manufacturer, so reach out to them so you can find out what they can offer. Some manufacturers provide sponsorships and bursaries, which may lead to full-time employment. Overseas placements are offered by Engineers Without Borders UK.



SOIL SCIENTIST

By carrying out research and using their findings to solve problems, Soil Scientists help to sustain biological infrastructures across the world. As a Soil Scientist, you'll gather, interpret and evaluate information about the chemistry, biology and physics of soil.

Using the information obtained from this analysis, you'll inform and influence the sector on diverse issues such as:

- 1. Agricultural Production**
- 2. Biodiversity**
- 3. Climate Change**
- 4. Environmental Quality**
- 5. Human Health**
- 6. Land Remediation**

Being a natural and renewable resource, soil is vital to sustaining food production, supporting plant and animal life and having a positive impact on environments globally. Working in soil science enables you to be part of this important area of research and development.

How to become a Soil Scientist

In order to become a Soil Scientist, you'll need a degree in a science or science-related subject. The following can be extremely advantageous:

- **Biology**
- **Chemistry**
- **Geology**
- **Geoscience**
- **Mathematics**
- **Microbiology**
- **Physics**

In the UK, the University of Aberdeen is the only university to offer a degree in Soil & Plant Science. Soil Science is commonly studied within a broader undergraduate degree, such as Biology.

Entry with a Higher National Diploma, or equivalent practical experience is only possible at technician level.

Progressing as a Soil Scientist

Although not essential, you could choose to study for a Masters or PhD in a soil or environment-related subject, particularly if your degree did not cover this in much detail.

There are also opportunities to do a PhD overseas as this area of science moves increasingly up the political agenda. A PhD is necessary if you wish to become a specialist researcher or lecturer.

Try to gain as much related experience as possible through coursework and vacation or voluntary work, particularly in practical, soil-related field work, such as sampling and surveying, or laboratory work.

