

Agronomist

Description

An agronomist is knowledgeable about the production of field crops, including all the variables involved such as soil and land management, nutrient and water needs, pest control and minimizing environmental impact. An agronomist provides knowledge and leadership to growers in their assigned market while performing job duties such as field scouting, soil management and market analysis.

Education/Training Requirements

- Bachelor's or Master's degree in agronomy or a related field (required)
- Certified Crop Advisor (CCA) certification (recommended)

Recommended High School Coursework

- Agriculture Education
- Biology
- Chemistry
- Computer Skills
- Mathematics

Common Responsibilities

- Ensure accurate knowledge or reliable referrals to make recommendations to growers
- Manage field trials, plant physiology and irrigation practices
- Scout customer fields for weed, insects, disease and nutrition issues
- Ensure that application of seed, fertilizer and pesticide occurs when weather conditions are optimal
- Gather, compile, analyze and interpret test results and prepare progress reports
- Analyze crop claim issues as necessary
- Document field evaluation of seed, chemical, specialty products and fertilizers
- Assist with agronomic budgeting and cost monitoring
- Interact with suppliers, applicators and agronomy laboratories
- Remain up-to-date on crop nutrition and protection technology

Typical Employers

Agronomists work for medium- to large-scale farms, crop and seed production companies, crop protection companies, government agencies, research firms, environmental organizations and colleges or universities.

Additional Resources

[American Society of Agronomy](#)

[American Society of Plant Biologists](#)

[Crop Science Society of America](#)

[Weed Science Society of America](#)