

## Career of the Week



# Agricultural engineer

Agricultural engineers build, service and repair agricultural, horticultural and forestry machinery and equipment.

**Salary:** £25,000 (starting) to £45,000 (experienced)

**Typical hours:** 38-41 per week

## Skills and knowledge

You'll need:

- complex problem-solving skills
- knowledge of engineering science and technology
- design skills and knowledge
- to be thorough and pay attention to detail
- analytical thinking skills
- concentration skills
- the ability to work well with others
- persistence and determination
- to be able to carry out basic tasks on a computer or hand-held device

## Day-to-day tasks

In your day-to-day duties, you might:

- assess the environmental impact of agricultural production methods
- supervise building projects, like land drainage, reclamation and irrigation
- solve engineering problems, like designing vehicles for all ground and weather conditions
- test and install new equipment, like harvesters or crop sprayers
- use GPS, weather data and computer modelling to give advice on land use
- plan service and repair programmes for machinery

You can get into this job through:

- a university course
- a college course
- an apprenticeship
- working towards this role

# Agricultural engineer continued.

## College

A level 2 or level 3 Diploma in Land-based Technology or Agricultural Engineering may get you started in this role.

You could also do a T Level in Agriculture, Land Management and Production.

### *Entry requirements*

- 2 or more GCSEs at grades 9 to 3 (A\* to D), or equivalent, for a level 2 course
- 4 or 5 GCSEs at grades 9 to 4 (A\* to C), or equivalent, for a level 3 course
- 4 or 5 GCSEs at grades 9 to 4 (A\* to C), or equivalent, including English and maths for a T level

## Apprenticeship

You may be able to start by doing a land-based service engineering technician advanced apprenticeship.

This usually takes about 36 months to complete as a mix of on the job learning and study.

Once working, you would complete further training to become an engineer.

### *Entry requirements*

You'll usually need:

- 5 GCSEs at grades 9 to 4 (A\* to C), or equivalent, including English and maths, for an advanced apprenticeship

## Work

You could work as an agricultural engineering technician and train on the job to qualify as an engineer.

<https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/job-profiles/agricultural-engineer>

Useful links:

<https://www.gov.uk/become-apprentice>

<https://www.gov.uk/what-different-qualification-levels-mean/list-of-qualification-levels>

<https://nlbc.uk/partners/members/>