

## FIELD AGRONOMIST

Where soil and crops meets science—and your work feeds thousands.

### WHAT IT IS

Imagine standing in a field and knowing exactly what the soil and crops need to thrive. Field agronomists do just that by working at the intersection of soil and plants. As a field agronomist, you are the expert who understands how nutrients move through soil, how crops use them, and how to optimize that relationship for healthy plants and maximum yields. This is hands-on science in real fields, where your knowledge directly affects food, fuel, and fiber production.

### A DAY IN THE LIFE

As a field agronomist, your day blends fieldwork, lab analysis, and collaboration. Your day might include:

- Walking fields to identify nutrient stress or pest issues
- Troubleshooting yellowing leaves, stunted growth, or other problems
- Pulling soil and plant tissue samples, reviewing lab results, and implementing real time corrective solutions
- Calculating and recommending modern fertilizer programs
- Meeting with growers to explain findings and adjusting crop input plans
- Using GPS and precision tools to design variable-rate prescriptions
- Staying current on new products, technologies, and research

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**DIG IN. DO GOOD.**



## READY FOR SUCCESS

Your success begins with curiosity about how plants and soil interact. Build strong skills in chemistry, biology, and soil science. Practice problem-solving, analytical thinking, and clear communication—farmers depend on your recommendations. Be comfortable outdoors, willing to travel between locations, and ready to build trusting relationships. Seek mentors—experienced agronomists, teachers, or local farmers—and get hands-on experience in labs or fields.

## EDUCATION REQUIRED

This career is rooted in understanding soil, plants, and nutrient management. **Most field agronomists earn a bachelor's degree in:**

- **Agronomy**
- **Crop Science**
- **Soil Science**

Coursework typically includes soil fertility, plant nutrition, soil chemistry, crop physiology, and nutrient management. Many pursue Certified Crop Adviser (CCA) certification. Hands-on experience through internships or fieldwork is essential for building practical skills.

## GETTING STARTED

Take biology, chemistry, physics, math, and computer science classes. Try a genetics or biotech project for science fairs or competitions. Join STEM clubs to get hands-on experience. Seek internships or volunteer opportunities in research labs



GROW BY  
**6%**  
UNTIL 2034

## JOB OUTLOOK

Field agronomists are classified as agricultural and food scientists by the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Employment is projected to grow 6 percent from 2024 to 2034.



**\$79K**  
AS OF 2024

## AVERAGE SALARY

The median annual wage for agricultural and food scientists was \$78,770 in May 2024.