REGENERATIVE AGRICULTURE SCIENTIST

Redesign farming or ranching systems to restore soil, ecosystems, and the climate.

WHAT IT IS

Imagine an agriculture system that heals the land while feeding the world. Regenerative agriculture scientists assist landowners in developing management plans that rebuild soil health, sequester carbon, enhance biodiversity, and create resilient food production. As a regenerative agriculture scientist, you will combine soil science, ecology, and big-picture system thinking to transform how food is grown. This isn't just reducing the negative environmental impact—it's actively restoring degraded lands.

A DAY IN THE LIFE

As a regenerative agriculture scientist, your work blends fieldwork, data analysis, and collaboration. Your day might include:

- Monitoring research plots for soil carbon, water quality, and biodiversity
- Collecting soil and plant samples for lab analysis
- Working with farmers to implement cover crops, rotational grazing, or agroforestry
- Designing experiments testing new regenerative practices
- Analyzing microbial communities, nutrient cycles, and ecosystem interactions
- Presenting findings at conferences, publishing research in journals, and developing extension material
- Collaborating with ecologists, soil scientists, and agricultural economists

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CAREER PROFILE

READY FOR SUCCESS

Your success starts with curiosity about food systems, soil, and ecosystems. Build a foundation in soil science, ecology, and agronomy. Develop systems thinking, data analysis, and field research skills, and practice communicating science clearly to farmers, scientists, and policymakers. Be open-minded, patient, and ready to integrate both traditional and modern farming knowledge. Seek mentors, participate in farm projects, and get hands-on experience early. Your work helps restore ecosystems while feeding communities—the impact is immediate and lasting.

EDUCATION REQUIRED

This career is rooted in soil health, sustainable agriculture, and ecosystem science. **Most regenerative agriculture scientists earn a bachelor's degree in:**

- **Agronomy**
- **Soil Science**
- **Agroecology**
- **Environmental Science**
- **Agricultural or Biosystems Engineering**

Scientific research roles usually require a Master's or Ph.D. Coursework emphasizes soil health, ecology, systems science, and sustainable agriculture. Hands-on farm experience and internships with regenerative farms or research stations are essential. Graduate students are often funded through university research or teaching assistantships.

GETTING STARTED

Excel in biology, chemistry, soil science, ecology, or environmental science. Seek internships with conservation organizations or agencies, or on farms or research stations. Join environmental science or sustainable agriculture clubs. Volunteer with local agriculture or soil health organizations. Attend field days and conferences. Consider a professional certification (professional soil scientist or certified crop advisor). Explore university programs that integrate sustainable agriculture.

GROW BY **13%**

JOB OUTLOOK

Scientists working regenerative agriculture are in high demand, with 13% job growth expected in coming years.

$80K

AVERAGE SALARY

The average salary for a regenerative agriculture specialist is $80,000.