

Essential Components of Agriculture and Food Systems

Agriculture Production

Agriculture production not only includes occupations such as farmers but also a broad infrastructure that ranges from seeds, fertilizer, young stock, feed, and contract operators to bankers, insurance people, equipment sellers and repairers, etc. Many states include related industries to the agriculture and food industry. For example, lumber production and processing, landscaping services, and veterinary services are among the other industries that are often considered part of the agriculture and food industry. Some agriculture is seasonal; some is year-round. The career pathways in this segment of the industry are many and varied as a result.

Food Processing

Food processing bears a strong resemblance to advanced manufacturing with many occupations that revolve around machine operation, industrial maintenance, and material handling. There are many occupations, however, that are unique to food processing such as food batchmakers, butchers and meat trimmers, bakers, and food safety workers and sanitarians. The skills needed for career pathways in this segment of the industry cross over into other industries, particularly in the world of automated process equipment.

Distribution, Logistics, and Transportation

Similar to food processing, occupations and career pathways in the wholesale distribution, logistics, and transportation segments of the agriculture and food industry overlap substantially with similar components of other industries as well. The industry moves much of its product around the country by truck transportation making truck driver one of the most in-demand jobs of the industry.

- [Apprenticeship in Transportation, Distribution, & Logistics](#)

Retail Food Distribution

Food retailers and food services of all sizes complete the distribution side of the agriculture and food industry network. Grocery stores and restaurants are among the largest employers in almost every local area with distinctly different career pathways in retail and hospitality.