

In Demand Agricultural Careers

AGRICULTURAL & FOOD SCIENCE TECHNICIAN

DIESEL MECHANIC

EDUCATION



An associate's degree in biology, chemistry, crop or animal science, or a related field. Some positions may require a bachelor's degree.



High school diploma or equivalent. Completion of postsecondary training programs in diesel engine repair and industry certification preferred.

IMPORTANT QUALITIES



- Analytical skills
- Communication skills
- Critical-thinking skills
- Interpersonal skills
- Physical stamina



- Customer-service skills
- Detail oriented
- Dexterity
- Mechanical skills
- Organizational skills
- Physical strength
- Troubleshooting skills

WHAT THEY DO



Work with agricultural and food scientists in food, fiber, and animal research, production, and processing. Assist with animal breeding and nutrition. Conduct tests and experiments to improve crop yields or increase the resistance of plants and animals to disease and insects.



Inspect, repair, and overhaul buses and trucks, or maintain and repair any type of diesel engine. Consult with customers, read work orders, and determine work required. Perform basic care and maintenance, including oil changes and tire rotations, read and interpret diagnostic test results to identify problems, and repair or replace worn parts.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

MEDIAN HOURLY WAGES \$17.71

Employment of agricultural and food technicians is projected to grow 8 percent from 2016 to 2026, about as fast as the average for all occupations. Demand will continue for research in a large variety of areas.

MEDIAN HOURLY WAGES \$19.85

Employment of diesel mechanics is projected to grow 9 percent from 2016 to 2026, about as fast as the average for all occupations. As more freight is hauled cross-country, more diesel mechanics will be needed to maintain and repair the trucks.

WORK ENVIRONMENT



Agricultural and food science technicians work in a variety of settings, including laboratories, processing plants, farms, and greenhouses. Technicians typically work full time, have standard work schedules, and may travel for work.



Diesel mechanics usually work in well-ventilated and sometimes noisy repair shops. Occasionally repair vehicles on roadsides and at worksites. Most work is full time and overtime is common.

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Rural Minnesota
CEP

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