

# Agriculture

The agriculture industry stands as a vital cornerstone of the economy and is critical to American food security. The industry faces significant opportunities to address critical workforce needs, from managing labor shortages to integrating AI and precision farming technologies. Registered Apprenticeship is a proven solution for employers to recruit, train, and retain American agriculture talent. In 2025, there were 4,688 registered apprentices served in the agriculture industry, a 40% increase over the past 5 years.

## SNAPSHOT: EXAMPLES OF PRIMARY AGRICULTURE APPRENTICEABLE OCCUPATIONS

- ▶ Soil and Plant Scientists;
- ▶ Farmers, Ranchers, and Other Agricultural Managers;
- ▶ Conservation Scientists;
- ▶ Pesticide Handlers, Sprayers, and Applicators, Vegetation;
- ▶ Agricultural Equipment Operators;
- ▶ Farmworkers, Farm, Ranch, and
- ▶ Aquacultural Animals;
- ▶ Farm Equipment Mechanics and Service Technicians; and
- ▶ Animal Caretakers.

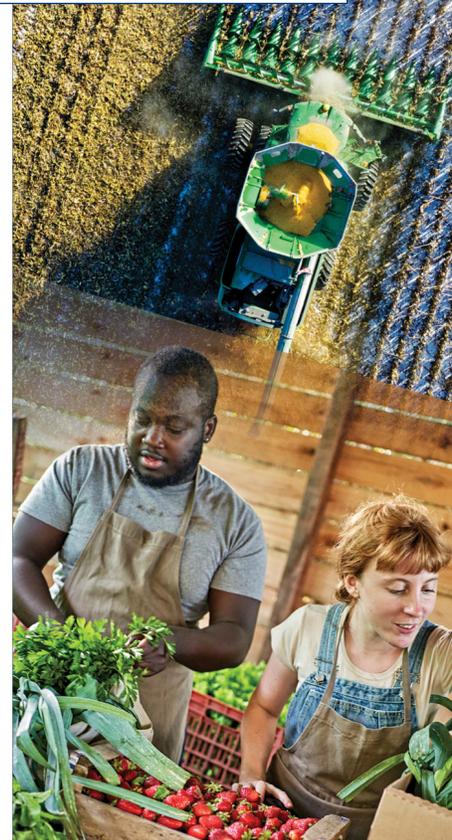
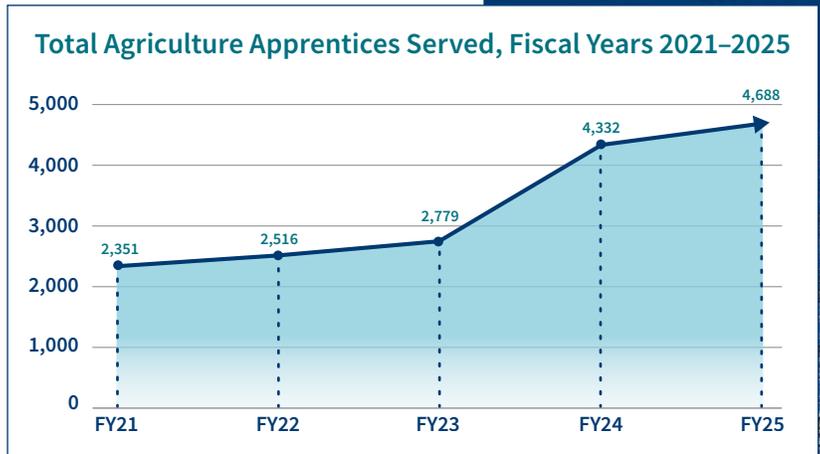
In addition to the occupations listed above, there are a multitude of other apprenticeable occupations that support the agriculture supply chain in production, processing, distribution, marketing, and more.

## THE NEED FOR REGISTERED APPRENTICESHIP IN AGRICULTURE

The agriculture industry is critical to the country's well being and the economy. The challenge? Significant talent shortages are slowing employers' efforts to expand, innovate, and excel. Among these challenges:

- ▶ An aging workforce of highly skilled and experienced workers;
- ▶ Expanding knowledge of rewarding, long-term agriculture career pathways to those entering the workforce; and
- ▶ Keeping pace with the latest technology trends.

These workforce challenges undermine productivity and profitability. The good news? There is a proven solution that can be integrated into existing training and workforce development strategies to meet critical talent challenges: **Registered Apprenticeship**.



## WHAT IS REGISTERED APPRENTICESHIP?

Registered Apprenticeship is an industry-driven, high-quality career pathway through which employers can develop and prepare their future workforce, and individuals can obtain paid work experience with a mentor and receive progressive wage increases, classroom instruction, and a portable, nationally recognized credential. Registered Apprenticeships are industry-vetted and approved and validated by the U.S. Department of Labor or a State Apprenticeship Agency.



## REGISTERED APPRENTICESHIP: AGRICULTURE EMPLOYERS' TALENT DEVELOPMENT SOLUTION

Employers in the agriculture sector across the U.S. use the Registered Apprenticeship training model to recruit, train, and retain workers with the right skills. Registered Apprenticeship has been the most effective training model for enhancing business performance and competitiveness.



## HOW CAN REGISTERED APPRENTICESHIP HELP COMPANIES?

Agriculture employers realize many benefits from implementing Registered Apprenticeship programs. Through Registered Apprenticeship, employers will:

- ▶ Vet workers and instill the company's culture;
- ▶ Recruit and develop a highly skilled workforce;
- ▶ Improve productivity and profitability;
- ▶ Reduce turnover, improve loyalty, and retain top talent; and
- ▶ Demonstrate investment in the community.

Partner with the Office of Apprenticeship, your respective State Apprenticeship Agency [or our investment partners](#) to access a nationwide network of expertise, customer service, and support. Our apprenticeship team creates business solutions and helps you quickly achieve workforce results.

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## Explore Registered Apprenticeship Today!

Want to learn more? Visit the U.S. Department of Labor's one-stop source for all things apprenticeship: [www.apprenticeship.gov](http://www.apprenticeship.gov) or email us at [agricultureapprenticeship@dol.gov](mailto:agricultureapprenticeship@dol.gov).

**APPRENTICESHIPUSA™**  
★★★