

2012 Employment Summary
Food, Agriculture, Life, and Natural Resources
May Graduates
College of Agriculture
Purdue University

May 2012 graduates in the Purdue University College of Agriculture were fortunate to experience greater success in the employment market. Ninety percent of the May graduates had gained employment or were continuing their education as of February 15, 2013. This represents a 4% point increase. Our May graduates acquired post-graduation internships; these positions were sought by 3% of all graduates of the College. Of the May graduates, 25% continued in programs of education – an increase of 2%. Of these, 77 enrolled in graduate schools and 26 in professional schools.

There was a decrease of 4% in the number of students still seeking employment. Sixty percent of our May graduates are employed or continuing their education here in Indiana. The reported 2011-2012 Entry Level Salary Information for Recent Graduates in Agriculture and Related Disciplines is found in Table 3.

Table 1: Post-Graduation Activities of Food, Agriculture, Life, and Natural Resources Graduates, College of Agriculture, Purdue University

| | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 |
|-----------------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|
| May Graduates | | | | | |
| Number of Graduates | 314 | 342 | 399 | 416 | 466 |
| Percent Reporting Activities | 93% | 90% | 97% | 94% | 97% |
| Post Graduation Activities | | | | | |
| Employed | 69% | 48% | 55% | 59% | 62% |
| Continuing Education | 24% | 28% | 22% | 23% | 25% |
| Not Seeking Employment | 0% | 2% | 1% | 2% | 1% |
| Seeking Employment | 7% | 15% | 14% | 12% | 8% |
| Employed Internship ¹ | - | - | 8% | 4% | 3% |

¹Employed Internship – accepting an internship position when a full-time job could not be found in a tepid economy. A way for young professionals to get their foot in the door of an organization.

Table 2: Educational Program Enrollment of Food, Agriculture, Life, and Natural Resources Graduates, College of Agriculture, Purdue University *

| | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 |
|------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Graduate Schools | 17% | 16% | 14% | 15% | 17% |
| Professional Schools | 6% | 9% | 7% | 8% | 7% |
| Undergraduate Programs | 1% | 3% | 1% | 0% | 1% |
| Total | 24% | 28% | 22% | 23% | 25% |

* Graduates include baccalaureate degree recipients.

Table 3: 2011-2012 Reported Average Starting Salary Summary of Food, Agriculture, Life, and Natural Resources Graduates ¹

| | |
|--|----------|
| Agricultural and Biological Engineering | \$50,274 |
| Agricultural Economics ² | \$43,450 |
| Agronomy | \$41,434 |
| Animal Sciences ³ | \$35,041 |
| Biochemistry/Botany & Plant Pathology/Entomology ⁴ | \$33,623 |
| Food Science ⁵ | \$42,448 |
| Forestry & Natural Resources/Natural Resources & | \$33,033 |
| Environmental Sciences | |
| Horticulture | \$31,376 |
| Landscape Architecture ⁶ | \$41,547 |
| Youth Development and Agricultural Education | \$37,283 |
| All Programs | \$38,950 |

¹Salary information was collected from December 2011 and May 2012 undergraduates from Purdue University – College of Agriculture and fourteen other Agriculture Colleges throughout the United States. The comprehensive report can be viewed on the Purdue Agriculture Career Services website:

[http://www.ag.purdue.edu/oap/career/Documents/2010%20\(Gaul\)%20Regional%20Salary%20Survey.pdf](http://www.ag.purdue.edu/oap/career/Documents/2010%20(Gaul)%20Regional%20Salary%20Survey.pdf) . The comprehensive report includes low to high salary ranges and organizations hiring students in the above disciplines. Salary data does not include associated compensation such as medical plans, retirement contributions, bonuses, etc.

² Placement and salary information for the Department of Agricultural Economics can be viewed at:

<http://www.agecon.purdue.edu/undergrad/prospective/index.asp#careers>

³Many graduates go on to graduate or professional schools within Animal Sciences. Career information for Animal Sciences majors can be viewed on the Animal Sciences career flyer: <http://www.ansc.purdue.edu/anscjobs/CareersFlyer.pdf>

⁴Many graduates go on to graduate or professional schools with majors administered through these departments.

⁵Salary information for the Food Science Department can be viewed at: <https://ag.purdue.edu/foodsci/Pages/Career-Resources.aspx>

⁶Landscape Architecture is one major not represented in the above salary summary report because not all institutions have a Landscape Architecture program. The mean salary (4 year average) is based on graduates' self reports to the College of Agriculture Career Services and Horticulture and Landscape Architecture Department at Purdue University.