

# AGRONOMIST



*Your field of dreams.*

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**A**gronomists deal with interactions among plants, soils, and the environment. They use sophisticated research tools and techniques to develop new crop hybrids and varieties that grow more efficiently and are more beneficial to society. Soils specialists conduct research in everything from the very basic to applied issues of soil and water management and land use. Agronomists research ways to produce crops and turf, and ways to manage soils in the most environmentally friendly way. Agronomists can be found teaching, conducting business, and doing research in food production and environmentally oriented industries around the world.

Agronomists work for USDA, State Departments of Agriculture, the Soil Conservation Service, and as agriculturists in foreign countries. They work for banks; farm co-ops; seed, ag supply, and lawn care companies; and government agencies. Agronomists also are employed as weather forecasters, environmentalists, researchers, and teachers.

To be an agronomist, you should have an interest in science and environmental issues. A bachelor's degree is necessary to obtain a rewarding and productive job. In college you should enroll in agriculture, biology, chemistry, mathematics, physics, and statistics courses, as well as broad-based general education courses, including English and speech. You should enjoy working with people and should have a keen interest in applying science to practical feed and food production issues.

The high school college preparatory curriculum that includes [biology](#), [chemistry](#), [physics](#), and [mathematics](#) will provide an excellent background. [English](#), [speech](#), and [foreign language](#) will strengthen your communication skills.



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