

Farmer

Run a business that grows food. Long hours, big machinery, and weather you cannot control.

TYPICAL PAY

\$62,000

a year, full time

PAY RANGE

\$34k to \$120k

starting to experienced

TIME TO QUALIFY

up to 4 years

after high school

DEMAND

Moderate

job outlook

LICENCE NEEDED

No

anyone can do it

WHERE YOU WORK

**Fields, barns, machinery sheds,
grain elevators, farm offices**

How you get there

- 1 High school diploma** Grade 12
Work summers on a farm. Join 4-H or a young farmers group. Learn to weld and to fix an engine.
- 2 Diploma or degree (optional but common)** 2 to 4 years
A two-year agriculture diploma or a four-year agriculture degree teaches soil, animal science and, most importantly, farm business management.
- 3 Work for other farmers** 3 to 10 years
Seeding, harvest, calving, milking. Paid, and the fastest way to learn what a well-run farm looks like.
- 4 Get access to land** Varies hugely
Rent acres, buy a small parcel, join a family succession plan, or lease quota in a supply-managed sector such as dairy or poultry.
- 5 Run your own operation** Ongoing
Register the farm business, line up financing, buy inputs, market the crop or the animals.

Pros and cons

- + You own the business and set the plan
- + Outdoors, hands-on, never the same two months running
- + Real assets build up over a career
- Weather and prices can wipe out a year of work
- Huge debt against the land and equipment
- Livestock means no days off, ever

Good to know

The average Canadian farmer is close to 60

Farm operators in Canada are one of the oldest workforces in the country, and a large share have no written succession plan. That is why land and whole operations keep coming up for sale or for a keen...

Dairy, eggs and poultry run on quota

Canada's supply management system sets how much milk, eggs and chicken can be produced. To sell any, you must hold quota, which is bought and sold and is often worth more than the barn it goes with.

Optional boosts

Pesticide applicator certificate. Class 1 or 3 driver's licence. Welding and diesel mechanics. Artificial insemination and herd health training.

Where these numbers come from

Job Bank: Farmer, Hog in Canada, wages (updated Nov 2025)
Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
Ontario Agricultural College, University of Guelph
Canadian Federation of Agriculture

Numbers checked September 2026. Pay figures are typical full-time annual amounts in Canadian dollars, based on Government of Canada Job Bank wage data and published salary grids. They vary by province, employer and experience. Tuition is for domestic students. Sources, links and the click-through version: <https://career.help/ca/careers/farmer>



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