



**The agriculture, forestry and fishing sectors are essential industries that support life on earth in a variety of ways, ranging from providing food and physical products to preserving the environment we live in.**

As it is such a broad sector, it encompasses many different roles, including hands-on jobs such as farming and veterinary science, as well as roles in marine biology and horticulture.

The wide range of career pathways in the sector makes it a great industry to work in, where you can have a positive impact on the world around you.





## KEY FACTS

- Half of the world's habitable land is used for **agriculture**.
- There are around **25,000 farms in Northern Ireland**, with around **75%** of Northern Ireland's countryside farmed in some way.
- In Northern Ireland, **the sector employs more than 3.5% of the total workforce**, well above the UK average of 1.2%.
- Meat, dairy, and eggs account for **80% of agricultural output** in Northern Ireland.



## WHY AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY & FISHING?

Individuals with an interest in environmentalism, wildlife and animals, or science may be interested in a career in this sector. Working within the sector may give you the opportunity to make a difference in the ongoing climate crisis; supporting sustainability and conservation efforts.



Many roles in the sector provide the opportunity to work outdoors, which for some individuals is much more engaging and rewarding than working in an office environment, and many jobs in the sector also offer variety in daily tasks and activities.

The sector is essential to sustaining human life, which means it often offers good long-term prospects. Generally, it benefits from good retention and satisfaction rates, and is an accessible industry, with many roles requiring minimum entry qualifications and suitable for individuals with minimum previous experience.



For further information, click the links highlighted in **blue**



## WHAT ARE THE OPPORTUNITIES?

The sector includes many broad and diverse careers, with opportunities in a wide range of professions. Whether you have a scientific mind or love working with animals, there are opportunities for everyone.

Opportunities available in the sector include

- Zoologist / Wildlife Biologist
  - Food Scientist
  - Agricultural Engineer
  - Environmental Engineer
  - Animal Nutritionist
  - Commercial Horticulturist
  - Ecologist
  - Environmental Education Officer
  - Environmental Health Officer
  - Farm Manager
  - Fish Farm Manager
  - Forest/Woodland Manager
  - Hydrogeologist
  - Marine Biologist
  - Nature Conservation Officer
  - Oceanographer
  - Plant Geneticist
  - Soil Scientist
  - Sustainability Consultant
  - Veterinary Nurse
  - Veterinary Surgeon
  - Water Hygiene Engineer
  - Water Quality Scientist
- ...and more!



## SALARY EXPECTATIONS

Salaries may vary based on the job role, your experience level, and the entry qualifications required. Here are some **average salaries** for job roles within the sector:

Marine Biologist  
Average salary  
**£36,007 per year**

Veterinary Surgeon  
Average salary  
**£43,201 per year**

Water Hygiene Engineer  
Average salary  
**£23,045 per year**

Veterinary Nurse  
Average salary  
**£24,866 per year**

Horticulturalist  
Average salary  
**£23,864 per year**

Environmental Health Officer  
Average salary  
**£38,500 per year**



For further information, click the link highlighted in **blue**



## WHAT QUALIFICATIONS DO I NEED?

The entry qualifications needed will vary due to the broad range of roles available in the sector. For some jobs, you won't need any specific qualifications and will instead learn on-the-job, for other roles that are more specialist you will need specific qualifications.



Having a minimum of five GCSEs at Grade C or above, including English and Maths, is a strong baseline for many entry level roles. However, for roles like a Veterinary Nurse or Surgeon, Marine Biologist, or Environmental Health Officer, there are specific qualifications – usually at degree level – that are required.

If you are interested in a role within the sector, it's a good idea to research the careers you are interested in before making your GCSE and/or A Level subject choices, to ensure you choose the subjects best suited for your chosen career path.



## WHAT SKILLS ARE USEFUL?

Beyond the qualifications needed to pursue a career in the agriculture, forestry, and fishing sector, there are a range of employability skills and personal attributes that are useful to have. These include:

- Problem-solving skills
- Interpersonal skills
- Time management
- Creative thinking
- Good communication skills
- Physical strength/stamina
- Organisational skills
- Flexible and adaptable
- Project management
- Patience





## WHERE CAN I GO TO FIND OUT MORE?

### Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA)

DAERA is the government department responsible for fishing, farming, and forestry in NI, including the environmental and sustainability aspects of industry. It looks after the rights and well-being of consumers as well as wildlife and animals.

### College of Agriculture, Food and Rural Enterprise (CAFRE)

CAFRE provides many training programmes for the sector, including courses on food, floristry, horticulture, and agriculture.

### Northern Ireland Forest School Association (NIFSA)

NIFSA delivers outdoor environmental programmes throughout NI, helping children connect with nature from a young age.

### Young Farmers Club of Ulster

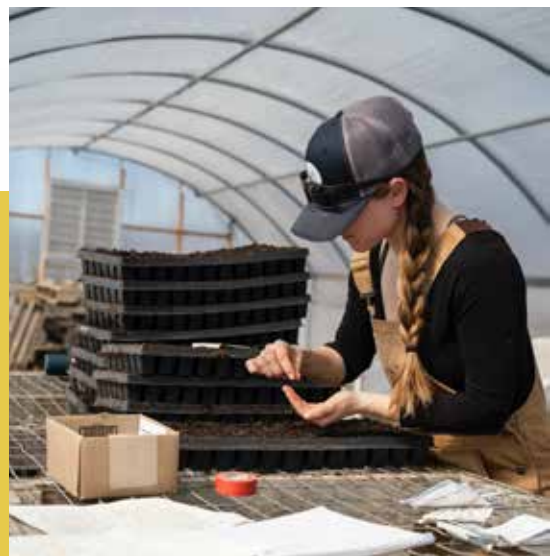
Young Farmers is the largest rural organisation in the country, encouraging individuals to take up farming and agriculture, whether it be as a hobby or a career.

### NI Vet Association (NIVA)

NIVA represents all veterinary practices in NI.



## AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY & FISHING EMPLOYERS



For further information, click the Company Logos or the links highlighted in **blue**