



VET and Agriculture

Sector Summary

Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries is the 10th highest employing industry in Tasmania with 11,000 employees as of May 2021. However, this sector has seen a decrease in employment of 14% over the past 5 years¹. The sector is largely made up of agribusiness and self-employed workers. Half of the workforce does not have any post-school qualifications. The increase in technology use in the sector will see an increased need for highly skilled workers. Seasonal work, such as fruit picking, may present short-term opportunities².

The agricultural industry has diverse pathways with industry and regionally specific training needs. This includes specific 'tickets' that are highly desired in any employee. Training and skill development must utilise the latest industry standard technology.

Employability is enhanced through access to quality and relevant work placements whilst undertaking training. Students should undertake practical experience on a range of different tasks and be able to work with limited direction.

Perception of Training

There is some disconnect between training and working in the agricultural sector. A 'one size fits all' training program that covers all roles is not available. Training may not have a place in some businesses.

More work is needed in promoting the agricultural sector, the various jobs and the training pathways. There are strong employment outcomes post-school; however, the disconnect between training and work makes it difficult for young people to enter the industry. There can be difficulties in accessing employers to provide work experience or traineeships for young people.

Attributes for New Entrants

- Employability skills, maturity, and an ability to work independently and follow instructions are highly valued attributes.

¹ [Tasmania | National Skills Commission](#)

² [Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing | National Skills Commission](#)

- Due to the practical nature of many of the jobs, work and life experience are highly valued.
- A driver's licence is considered essential by many businesses and employers
- A basic understanding of Work Health and Safety (WHS) can aid in obtaining work placements.
- Increased technology means that the literacy and numeracy of the workforce is important.

Preferred Training and Pathways

- Induction and WHS training have been identified as being valuable for new entrants. There are two industry platforms (AgCard³ and VegPRO⁴) that are specifically valued by industry.
- There are opportunities for industry or job-specific training post school or whilst employed.
- There is not generally a culture of training in the sector so many workers may be unsupported in the workplace.
- Apprenticeship delivery of VET qualifications, either via ASbAs (Australian School based Apprenticeships) or post school, are generally preferred over institutional delivery.
- Industry is supportive of schools reaching out for support to deliver content and ensure that it is relevant and current.
- There is support for agricultural studies to happen with school farms through the Primary Schools to Primary Industries initiative.
- Best practice is seen as contextualising industry information in other learning areas such as in the Packages of Learning approach.
- Qualifications aren't valued as much as work experience in the industry. The exception are a few examples of specific tickets that are needed, such as wool classing, safe chemical handling, and chainsaws.
- There is a strong preference in Years 11 / 12 for VET to be offered alongside complementary TASC programs to provide a balance of practical skill development and academic rigour.
- Certificate III Qualifications delivered in schools outside of a traineeship are not generally supported.

Published: Version 1 | November 2021



State of Tasmania
(Department of Education)

³ www.primaryemployers.com.au/agcard

⁴ www.vegpro.com.au