



Agriculture, Water, and Environmental Technologies



2026

Far North Career & Training Pathways Profile

Five-Year Outlook

3,700+ annual job openings

6.9% of the Far North's jobs



POWERED BY



Introduction



The Agriculture, Water, and Environmental Technologies sector comprises many different industries. These include:

- Farming,
- Crop production and animal husbandry,
- Logging,
- Agribusiness, such as farm supply and wholesale,
- Veterinary care, and
- Water and wastewater management.

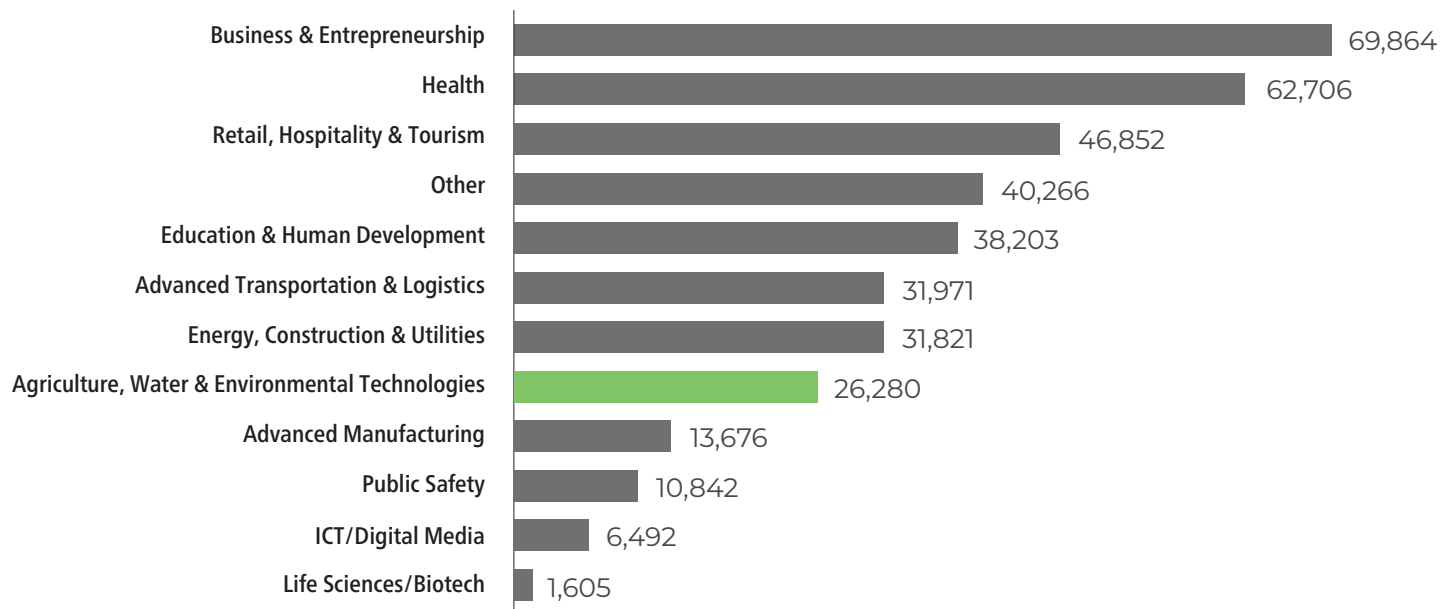
The Far North subregion is unique in that it is home to a vast amount of public land managed by state and federal agencies, which are major employers in this sector.

The subregion is home to seven national forests, including Shasta-Trinity National Forest and Mendocino National Forest, as well as land managed by the Bureau of Land Management. The subregion also encompasses two national parks: Lassen

Volcanic National Park and Redwood National Park.

The rise of precision agriculture has increased demand for workers with technological skills in the use and repair of mechanized equipment to improve efficient and effective practices in farm and livestock management. These innovations will be crucial to future development in the sector and for combating challenges, such as climate change or the scarcity of resources.

2024 Sector Employment



Note: The Far North subregion encompasses 15 counties (Butte, Colusa, Del Norte, Glenn, Humboldt, Lake, Lassen, Mendocino, Modoc, Plumas, Shasta, Sierra, Siskiyou, Tehama, and Trinity) and seven community colleges (Butte, Feather River, Lassen, Mendocino, Redwoods, Shasta, and Siskiyou). The North Far North region spans 22 counties and 15 community colleges, stretching from the Greater Sacramento area, north to California's border with Oregon, and east to Nevada.

Sector Highlights

26,280
Jobs in 2024

26,219
Projected Jobs in 2029

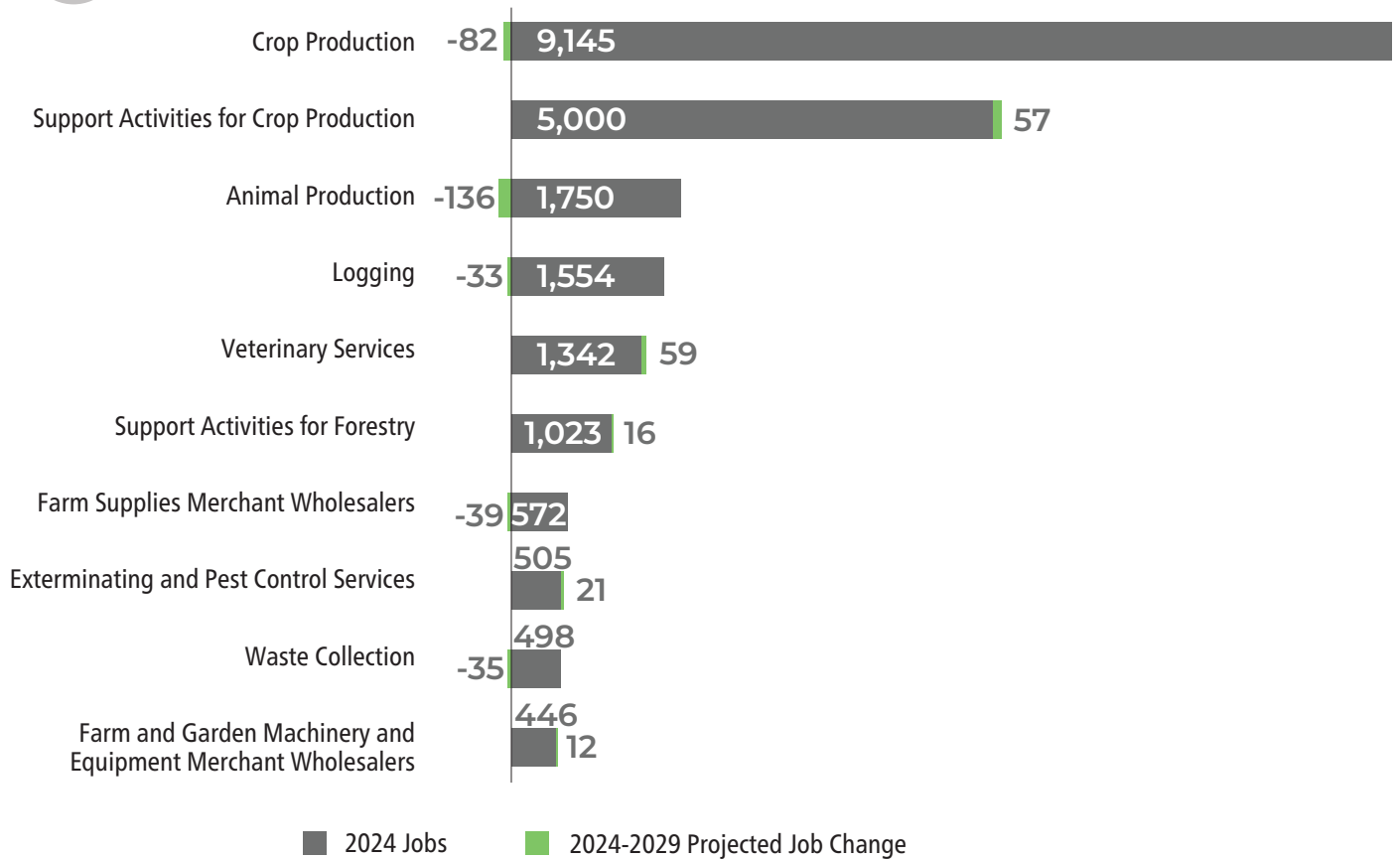
61
Jobs Lost by 2029

2,476
Businesses

6.9%
% of Far North
Employment, 2024



Employment by Subsector



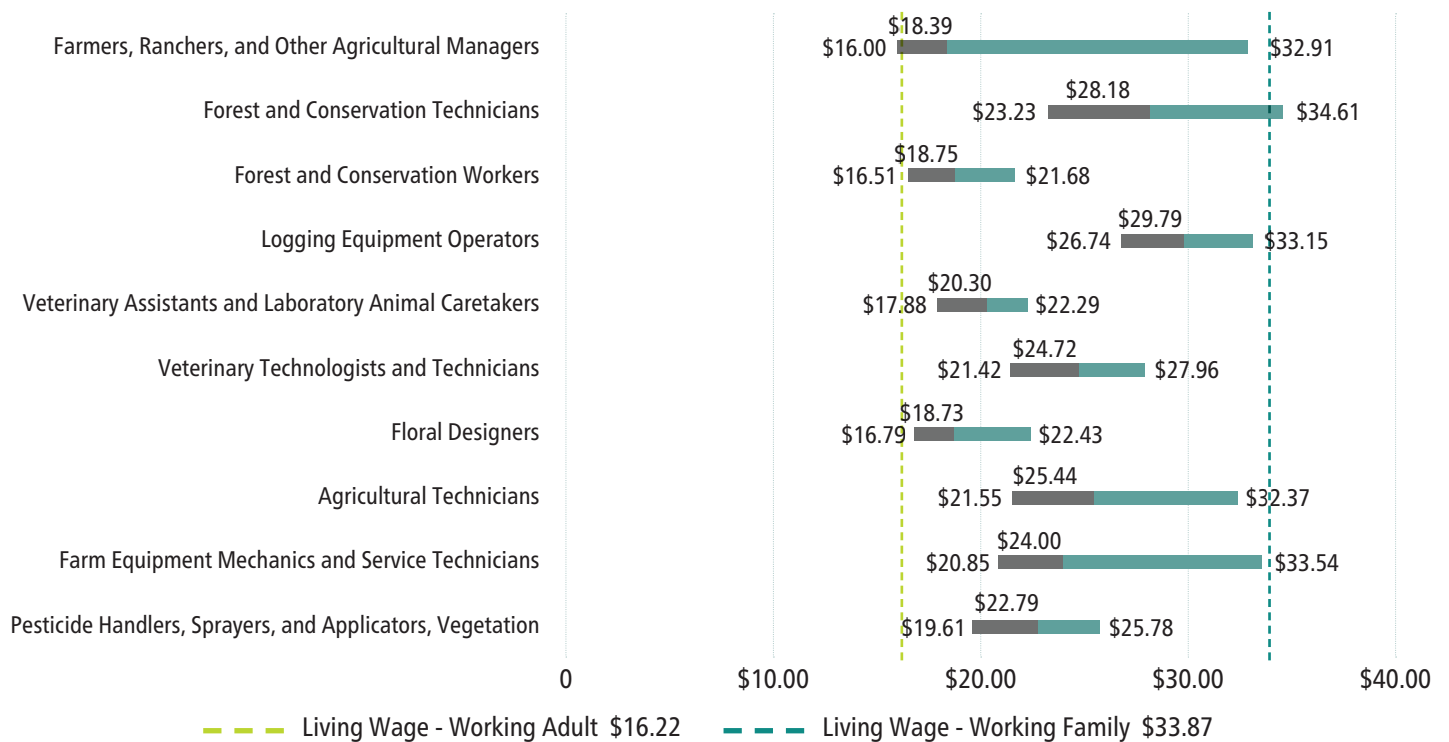
Note: The Agriculture, Water, and Environmental Technologies sector includes 42 distinct 6-digit NAICS codes. Contact the NFN COE for a complete listing of NAICS codes by sector.

Top Occupations

Occupation	2024 Jobs	2024-2029 Projected Change	2024-2029 Average Annual Openings	Typical Entry-Level Education
Farmers, Ranchers, and Other Agricultural Managers	3,098	-1%	341	High school diploma or equivalent
Forest and Conservation Technicians	1,771	-6%	218	Associate degree
Forest and Conservation Workers	837	0%	179	High school diploma or equivalent
Logging Equipment Operators	647	0%	96	High school diploma or equivalent
Veterinary Assistants and Laboratory Animal Caretakers	340	6%	67	High school diploma or equivalent
Veterinary Technologists and Technicians	273	6%	30	Associate degree
Floral Designers	163	-9%	20	High school diploma or equivalent
Agricultural Technicians	123	2%	19	Associate degree
Farm Equipment Mechanics and Service Technicians	196	3%	18	High school diploma or equivalent
Pesticide Handlers, Sprayers, and Applicators, Vegetation	93	4%	14	High school diploma or equivalent

Note: Jobs for the above occupations may not solely exist in this sector and may be found in other sectors that require related services. Projected change includes new job growth and replacements. Occupations with significant annual openings, active training programs in the subregion, wages at or close to the living wage, and training beyond a high school diploma but short of a bachelor's degree were prioritized for inclusion in the top middle-skill occupations.

Hourly Wages for Top Occupations



Note: The hourly wage ranges include the 25th percentile (entry-level), median, and 75th percentile (experienced) hourly earnings for workers employed in these occupations across the Far North subregion where the living wage in 2024 for a single working adult was \$16.22 and for a working family (defined as an adult and one infant) was \$33.87.



Job Posting Trends

Job posting trends examine all occupations assigned to the Agriculture, Water, and Environmental Technologies sector, regardless of skill or education level in the Far North subregion.

Unique Online Job Postings

1,595

(3% of Region's Postings)

Median Advertised Hourly Salary

\$24.98

(Regional Average \$29.05)

Median Posting Duration

31 days

(Regional Average 23 Days)

Posting Intensity

2:1

(Regional Average 2:1)

Note: Job postings count the number of online job postings advertised in the 15-county Far North subregion between November 1, 2024 and October 31, 2025. COE has identified 44 occupations aligned with the Agriculture, Water, and Environmental Technologies sector, and those SOC codes were used to generate the list of aligned job postings. Contact the NFN COE for a complete listing of SOC codes by sector. Postings are limited to in-state employers and exclude staffing companies. Posting Intensity is the ratio of total job postings to unique (de-duplicated) job postings. Job posting results are weighted toward occupations with the most postings, influencing the frequency of results for employers, job titles, skills, work experience, and education.



Top Employers

Employers with the Most Postings

1. Sierra Pacific Industries
2. State of California
3. PetCo
4. VCA Animal Hospitals
5. Rentokil Initial
6. United States Forest Service
7. Clark Pest Control
8. University of California
9. Stantec
10. United States Department of the Interior

Most In-Demand Skills

Specialized Skills

- Forestry
- Landscaping
- Irrigation
- Biology
- Agriculture

Soft Skills

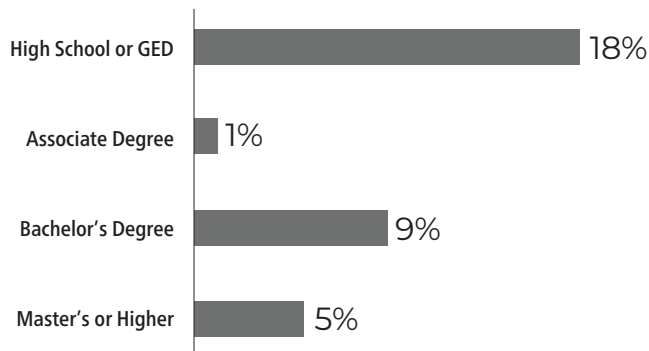
- Communication
- Management
- Operations
- Lifting Ability
- Customer Service

Software and Technical Skills

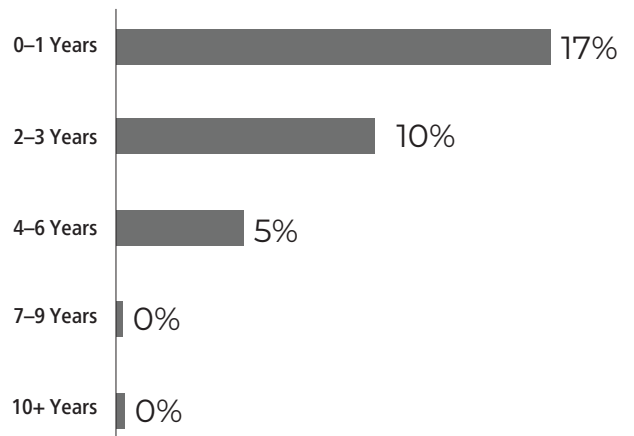
- Microsoft Office (Excel, Outlook, PowerPoint, Word)
- Geographic Information Systems
- Spreadsheets
- Software Systems
- Database Software

Education & Experience in Job Postings

Employer-Preferred Education



Employer-Preferred Work Experience



The percentages might not equal 100% because not all employers include education or work experience in their job postings.

COMMUNITY COLLEGE Training Programs



Butte	Feather River	Lassen	Mendocino	Redwoods	Shasta	Siskiyous*
Agriculture and Natural Resources	Agricultural Studies	Agriculture Animal Science	Agriculture - Horticulture	Agriculture Plant Science	Agriculture Equipment Operations & Maintenance	
Agriculture Business	Agriculture Business	Agriculture Business	Agriculture - Nursery Production	Agriculture, General	Agriculture: Forest Science and Technology	
Agriculture Plant Science	Biological Science Technician	Agriculture Science and Technology	Agriculture - Landscape Practices	Forestry and Natural Resources Technology	Agriculture: Horticulture and Landscaping	
Agriculture Science	Ecological Farming	Forestry Management	Agriculture - Sustainable Small Farms Management	Horticulture & Landscape Practices	Agriculture: Natural Resources	
Environmental Horticulture	Ecosystem Restoration and Applied Fire Management		Viticulture Skills	Organic/ Sustainable Agriculture	Agriculture: Pest Control Advisor Preparation	
Landscape/ Turfgrass Technician	Equine Studies				Agriculture Animal Science	
Mechanized Agriculture	Forestry Technician				Agriculture Business	
Nursery Technician	Hatchery Technician				Agriculture: Plant Science	
Plant Protection	Hydrologic Technician				Agriculture Science, Education, & Management	
					Agriculture: Small Farm Operations	
					Agriculture: Sustainable Landscape	

* This/these college(s) do not offer programs related to the sector.

Note: Due to discrepancies in the California Community Colleges Curriculum Inventory (COCI) and how Taxonomy of Programs (TOP) codes are categorized by sector, this list may not include all related or currently available training programs.

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Sources

- Lightcast 2025.4 - QCEW Employees, Non-QCEW Employees, and Self-Employed
- Centers of Excellence for Labor Market Research Occupation Crosswalk
- California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office Data Mart
- California Community Colleges Curriculum Inventory (COCI)

