



Agriculture, Water, and Environmental Technologies



2026

North (Greater Sacramento) Career & Training Pathways Profile

Five-Year Outlook

5% sector growth

6,000+ annual job openings

3.2% of Greater Sacramento's jobs



FOR LABOR MARKET RESEARCH
NORTH FAR NORTH

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Introduction

The Greater Sacramento area is known as America’s “Farm-to-Fork Capital” for its numerous farms and thriving culinary scene.

The region generates an estimated \$12 billion annually from its agricultural products, which include 96% of California’s rice crop, 96% of the country’s processed tomatoes, and 80% of domestic-grown caviar, according to a Food Manufacturing report.

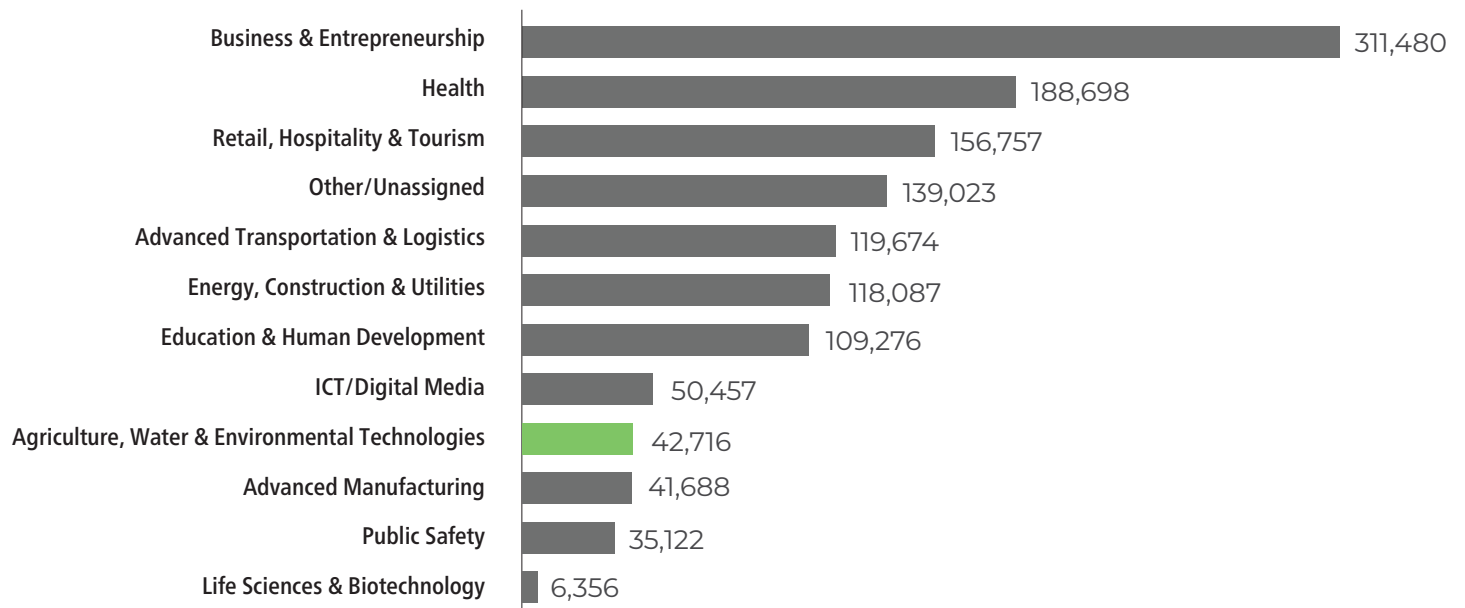
Agricultural production is just part of the Agriculture, Water, and Environmental Technologies sector (AgWET), which also incorporates solutions for improving farming and livestock management, conserving water resources, and protecting the environment. This sector also includes forestry, landscaping, and veterinary care.

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 combatting challenges, such as climate change or the scarcity of resources.

2024 Sector Employment



Note: The North subregion encompasses seven counties (El Dorado, Nevada, Placer, Sacramento, Sutter, Yolo, and Yuba) and eight community colleges (American River, Cosumnes River, Folsom Lake, Lake Tahoe, Sacramento City, Sierra, Woodland, and Yuba). 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

42,716
Jobs in 2024

44,857
Projected Jobs in 2029

5%
Projected Job Growth,
2024-2029

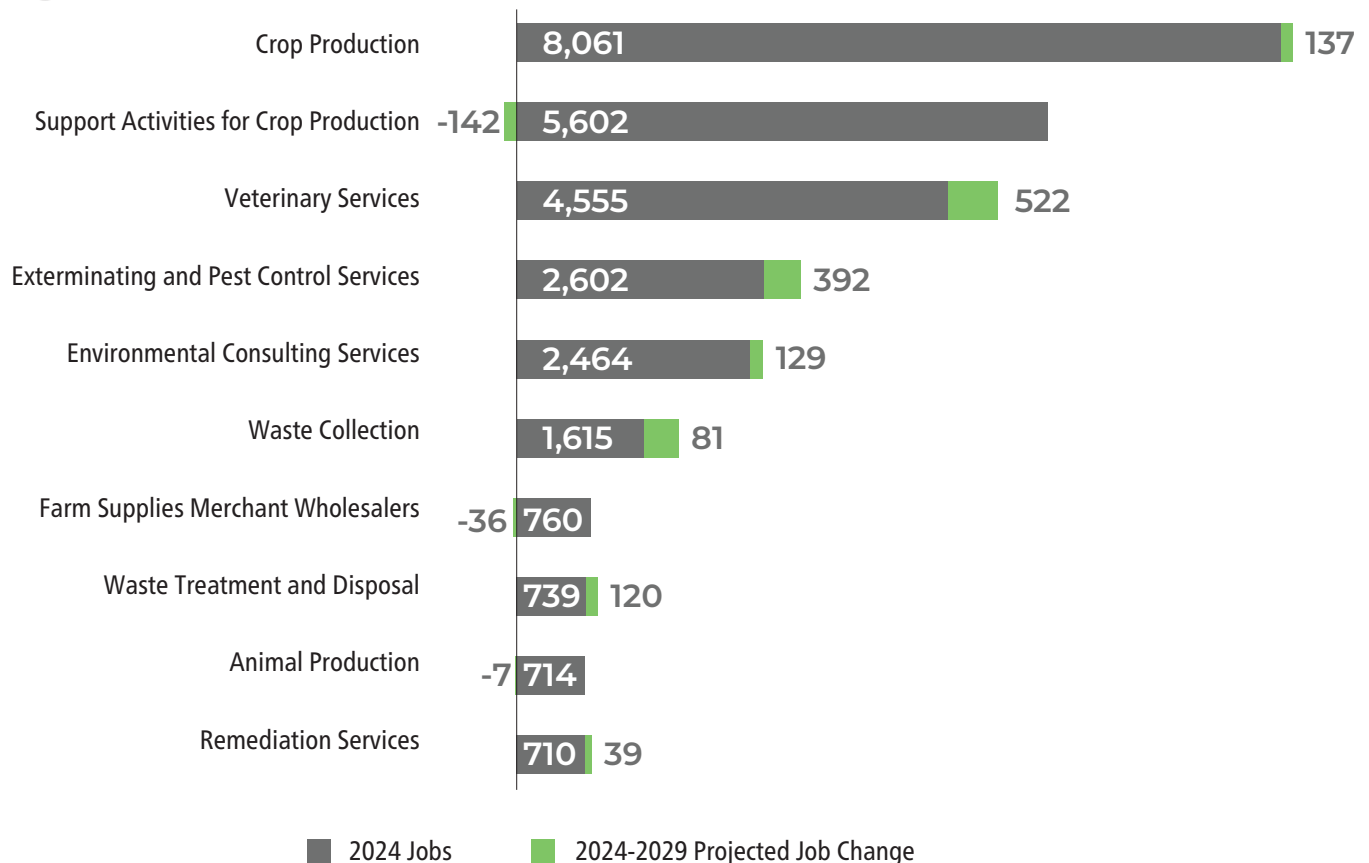
2,141
New Jobs by 2029

2,297
Businesses

3.2%
% of Greater Sacramento
Employment, 2024



Employment by Subsector



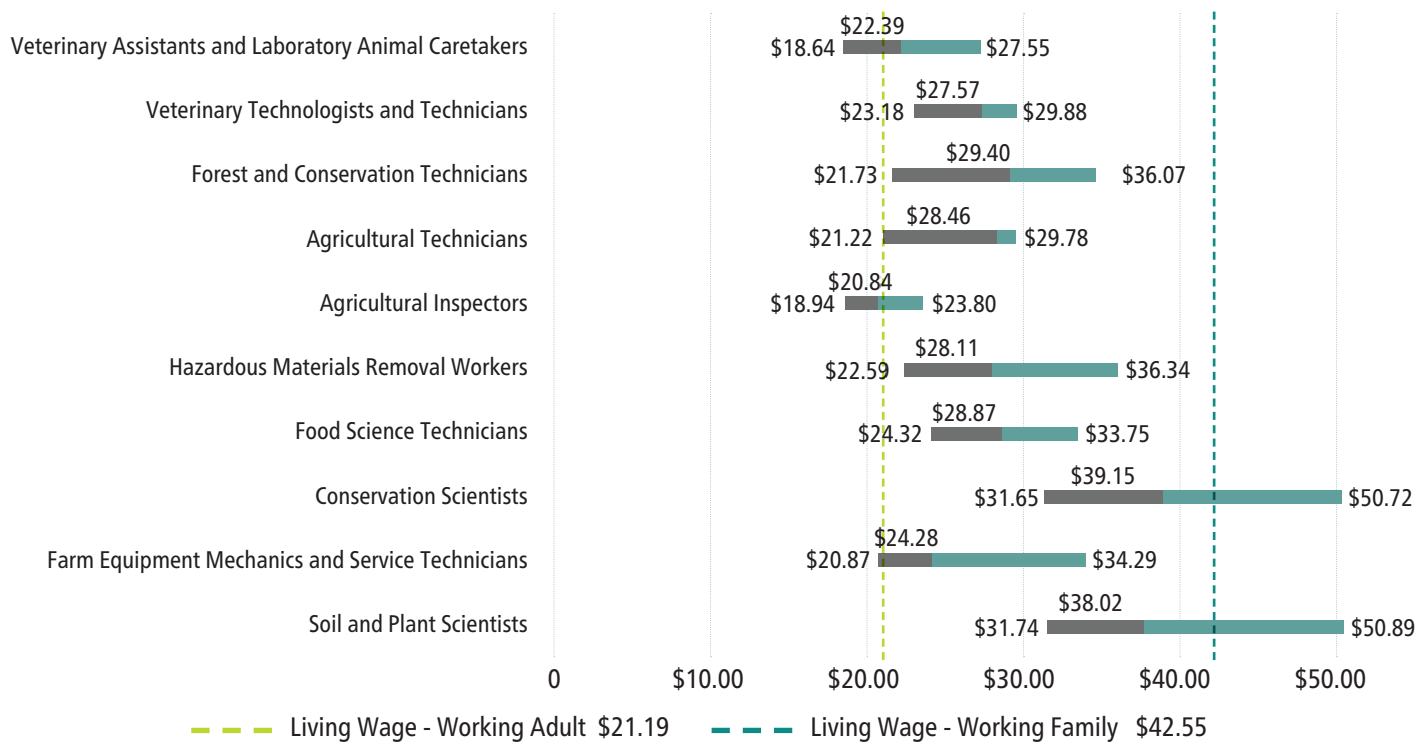
Note: The Agriculture, Water, and Environmental Technologies sector includes 42 distinct 6-digit NAICS codes. Contact the NFN COE for a complete listing of NAICS codes by sector.

Top Occupations

Occupation	2024 Jobs	2024-2029 Projected Change	2024-2029 Average Annual Openings	Typical Entry-Level Education
Veterinary Assistants and Laboratory Animal Caretakers	1,727	9%	359	High school diploma or equivalent
Veterinary Technologists and Technicians	1,114	12%	138	Associate degree
Forest and Conservation Technicians	871	4%	118	Associate degree
Agricultural Technicians	488	1%	72	Associate degree
Agricultural Inspectors	398	7%	71	Bachelor's degree
Hazardous Materials Removal Workers	517	3%	54	High school diploma or equivalent
Food Science Technicians	209	7%	34	Associate degree
Conservation Scientists	245	13%	29	Bachelor's degree
Farm Equipment Mechanics and Service Technicians	256	2%	23	High school diploma or equivalent
Soil and Plant Scientists	215	3%	17	Bachelor's degree

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 North (Greater Sacramento) subregion where the living wage in 2024 for a single working adult was \$21.19 and for a working family (defined as an adult and one infant) was \$42.55.



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 Greater Sacramento subregion.

Unique Online Job Postings

4,776

(2% of Region's Postings)

Median Advertised Hourly Salary

\$25.48

(Regional Average \$30.77)

Median Posting Duration

30 days

(Regional Average 25 Days)

Posting Intensity

2:1

(Regional Average 2:1)

Note: Job postings count the number of online job postings advertised in the 7-county North (Greater Sacramento) 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. University of California, Davis | 6. Brightview |
| 2. Petco | 7. Sierra Pacific Industries |
| 3. VCA Animal Hospitals | 8. PetVet Care Centers |
| 4. State of California | 9. ACRT Pacific |
| 5. Banfield Pet Hospital | 10. Official Pest Prevention |

Most In-Demand Skills

Specialized Skills

- Landscaping
- Irrigation
- Biology
- Pest Control
- Veterinary Medicine

Soft Skills

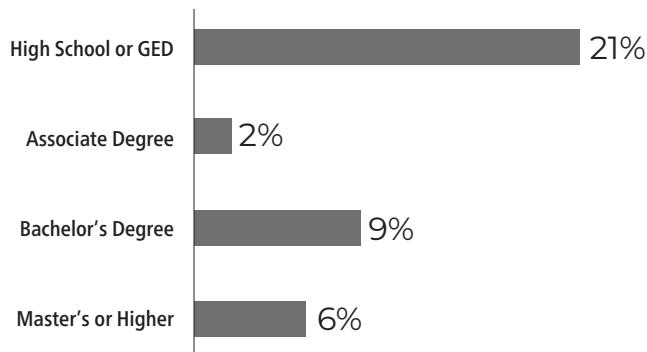
- Communication
- Management
- Customer Service
- Operations
- Detail Oriented

Software and Technical Skills

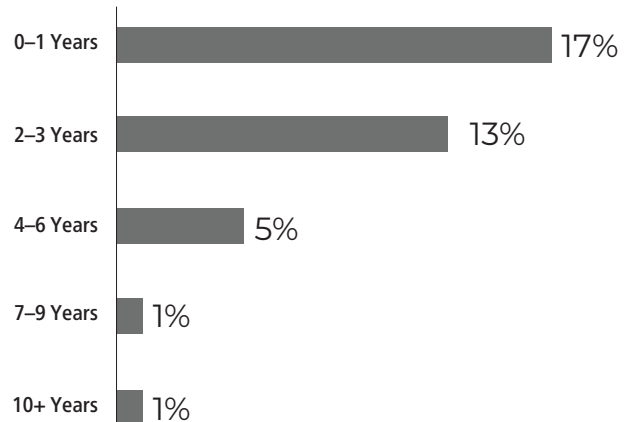
- Microsoft Office (Access, Excel, Outlook, PowerPoint, Word)
- Geographic Information Systems
- Spreadsheets
- Google Workspace

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



American River College	Cosumnes River College	Folsom Lake College	Lake Tahoe College	Sacramento City College	Sierra College	Woodland Community College	Yuba College
Horticulture	Agriculture Business	Viticulture and Enology	Forestry	Food Science and Technology	Sustainable Agriculture	Agriculture Animal Science	Agriculture Technology
Landscape Design Technology	Animal Science: Equine Science		General Conservation	Field Ecology	Watershed Ecology	Agriculture Business	Veterinary Assistant and Animal Care
Environmental Conservation	General Agriculture		Environmental Science			Agriculture Mechanics	Field Technician - Watershed Management
	General Horticulture		Wilderness Education and Outdoor Leadership			Agriculture Plant Science	Soil Conservation Technician
	Mechanized Agriculture Technician		Outdoor Foundational Skills- Wilderness Medicine			Agriculture Research Technician	Veterinary Technology
	Sustainable Irrigation and Water Management Technology					Drinking Water and Wastewater Technology	
	Sustainable Landscape Design					Environmental Horticulture	
	Veterinary Technology					Floral Design	
						Plant Protection	
						Sustainable Agriculture	

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.

This publication was supported through Strong Workforce Program (SWP) funding from the North Far North Regional Consortium and the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office Economic and Workforce Development Grant. SWP is an initiative designed to expand career education (CE) programs offered by the California Community Colleges to supply a skilled workforce to California's employers. The North Far North Regional Consortium (NFNRC) is charged with coordinating the planning and implementation of CE programs among community colleges within the 22-county North Far North region, which includes the North (Greater Sacramento) and Far North subregions. The NFNRC has 12 sectors, which are listed in the chart on page 1. This sector profile summarizes key data about current and projected workforce demand, hourly wages, job postings, and community college programs to support the goals of SWP.



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Sources

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- California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office Data Mart
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