

# Crop farmer

Average salary: \$57,200  
Career trend: some growth

## Job description

Whether it's growing organic heirloom tomatoes or acres of wheat, crop farmers cultivate high quality and high yielding produce. Crop farming involves a thousand different tasks, but you'll gain satisfaction making things grow and knowing that you're providing food, feed and fuel for our growing population.

## What crop farmers do

Crop farmers perform manual labour from morning to night. They need physical strength, stamina, and vast agricultural knowledge to ensure their fields are well maintained so they can till, plant, fertilise, cultivate and harvest their produce. Crop farmers also need to know how to run a business.

Throughout the growing season, they scout and tend every field to ensure it's growing into healthy, mature crops. During the off-season they spend time servicing their tractors, combines and planters, which are essential to their work.

Crop farmers are also busy year-round exploring new ways to become more efficient and lessen their farm's impact on the environment by learning about new crop practices and equipment.

Technological advances in agriculture also see crop farmers installing GPS devices in their tractors so they can collect and analyse data and improve their processes.

## You'll like this job if...

You're good at physical labour, critical thinking, and running a business. You enjoy a variety of tasks, a quick pace and you can multi-task. You like to focus on the facts and details. You apply common sense to come up with practical solutions to problems. You're sensitive and cooperative.



## Will I get a job?

- Some growth is expected in this occupation over the next four years, with 600 new jobs in Australia, bringing the total to 41,600.

## What will I earn?

- \$1,100–\$1,350 median full-time weekly salary (before tax, excluding super).

## Roles to look for

- Cotton grower
- Flower grower
- Floriculturist
- Fruit or nut grower or farm manager
- Grain, oilseed or pasture grower or farm manager
- Grape grower
- Mixed crop farmer
- Sugar cane grower or farm manager
- Turf grower or farmer
- Vegetable grower or farm manager

## A day in the life...

Work as a crop farmer may involve these tasks:

- plan and coordinate the production and market of crops, such as grain, cotton, sugar cane, fruit and nuts, vegetables, turf, and flowers
- select and plant seeds, seedlings and bulbs, and graft new varieties to root stocks
- maintain crop production by cultivating, de-budding and pruning
- conduct farming operations such as collecting, storing, and grading
- organise the sale, purchase and despatch of produce
- direct and oversee general farming activities
- maintain farm buildings, fences, equipment, and water supply systems
- maintain and evaluate records of farming activities
- monitor market activity and plan crop preparation and production to meet contract requirements and market demand
- select, train and supervise staff and contractors if required.

## VET qualifications

The following government-subsidised qualifications are available in NSW:

### **CIII in Rural Operations (AHC32816)**

#### **Certificate IV in Production Horticulture (AHC40316)**

- Up to 2 years full-time
- Available as a traineeship
- Graduates employed or in further study: 92.7%\*

#### **Certificate IV in Organic Farming (AHC41616)**

- Up to 2 years full-time

- Available as a traineeship
- Graduates employed or in further study: 92.7%\*

#### **Certificate IV in Agriculture (AHC40116)**

- Up to 2 years full-time
- Available as a traineeship
- Graduates employed or in further study: 92.7%\*

### Main employing industries

- Agriculture, forestry and fishing

### Other jobs you may like...

- Mixed crop and livestock farmer
- Agricultural technical officer
- Aquaculture farmer
- Farm hand
- Farmer or farm manager
- Horticultural tradesperson
- Rural heavy vehicle operator
- Stock and station agent

## VET offers possibilities for hundreds of careers.

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[www.vet.nsw.gov.au](http://www.vet.nsw.gov.au)

**Information sources** Income: Australian Government Department of Employment, Australian Jobs Report 2017, Occupation Matrix. ANZSCO ID: 2211. Earnings can vary greatly depending on the skills and experience of the worker, and the demands of the role. Job prospects: Australian Government Department of Employment 2017 employment projections to May 2022. Graduate outcomes: National Centre for Vocational Education Research. \*Approximately 6 months after they completed VET.

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