



Yorkshire
Apprenticeship
Service



Sector
Spotlight

Agriculture



Yorkshire Learning Providers

www.yorkshireapprenticeshipservice.co.uk

The agriculture sector is at the heart of our economy and society, responsible for producing food, managing natural resources, and supporting rural communities. As the industry advances with new technologies and sustainable practices, there's a growing need for skilled workers who understand both traditional agricultural techniques and modern innovations. Apprenticeships in agriculture provide a hands-on pathway to enter this vital field, offering practical experience alongside formal education.





Why Choose an Apprenticeship in the Agriculture Sector?

1

High Demand for Skilled Workers: Agriculture is one of the oldest industries but faces a new wave of demand for skilled workers trained in sustainable and tech-driven practices. With a growing global population and the need for more efficient food production, apprenticeships in agriculture offer stable and fulfilling job opportunities with room for career advancement.

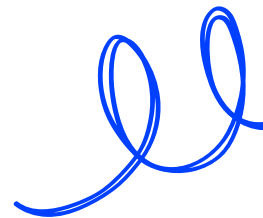
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Earn While You Learn: A major advantage of apprenticeships is the ability to earn a wage while developing your skills. This is especially beneficial for young people or career changers who want to gain hands-on experience without incurring student debt. Apprentices in agriculture work alongside experienced professionals, applying their learning directly in the field.

3

Diversity of Opportunities: Agriculture is a broad industry with opportunities in crop production, livestock management, agricultural technology, and environmental conservation. Apprenticeships allow individuals to explore different facets of agriculture, providing a comprehensive foundation and the flexibility to specialize in areas that match their interests.

Key roles in the Sector



Agricultural apprenticeships lead to a variety of roles, with options to work directly with crops and animals or to focus on technology, research, and management. Some of the key roles include:

Livestock Unit Technician (Level 3)

This apprenticeship focuses on caring for and managing livestock, such as cattle, sheep, and poultry. Livestock Unit Technicians monitor animal health, manage feeding and breeding programs, and ensure that operations meet welfare and safety standards. This role is ideal for those passionate about working with animals and interested in animal science.

Crop Technician (Level 3)

Crop Technicians are responsible for monitoring and maintaining the health of crops, managing irrigation, controlling pests, and optimizing soil quality. This apprenticeship provides a pathway into more specialized areas of plant science, where apprentices learn the scientific and practical techniques required to maximize crop yields sustainably.

Agricultural Technician (Level 4)

This role combines knowledge of agriculture with technical skills in machinery, equipment, and new technology, including GPS systems, drones, and data analysis. Agricultural Technicians are critical to modernizing farm operations, working to increase efficiency, reduce environmental impact, and enhance productivity.



What to Expect During an Apprenticeship

An apprenticeship in the agriculture sector typically involves a blend of hands-on work and structured learning. Depending on the level and role, most apprenticeships last between one and four years, giving apprentices time to develop practical skills and industry knowledge under the guidance of experienced mentors.

Training and Assessment:

Apprentices receive training in areas such as animal welfare, crop management, machinery operation, and environmental stewardship. Assessments are conducted through practical evaluations, coursework, and observations, with training providers and employers working together to ensure that apprentices meet industry standards.

Progression Opportunities: After completing an apprenticeship, individuals can pursue further education, such as higher-level qualifications in agricultural science, environmental management, or business. Career progression can lead to roles in farm management, agricultural research, or even specialized fields like agronomy and veterinary science.



What real apprentices have to say...

I really enjoy this – I've always been in education, but I much prefer this way of learning as it combines academic studies with practical experience in the workplace.

When I started the course, I had no previous experience in the agricultural industry due to me not being from a farming background. I feel doing an apprenticeship was the best thing for me to do as it meant that I got a lot of hands-on skills as well as the theory behind it during sessions at college. Since starting, I've received lots of training from my employer, including telehandler training, milking, and tractor work to name a few.

Before a recent session visit to a feed mill, I didn't fully understand how animal feed blends and pellets was produced. I also visited a large scale farm – I'd heard of it before but didn't realise the size and work needed to keep it working. I was then able to form my own opinion on what I thought about it and was able to discuss with both my employer and tutors.

If I have any issues, whether in the workplace or with training, I know I can speak to my tutor or my employer, depending on what it's about. During each visit to college, we review the qualification and plan for what needs to be completed. My tutor is at my workplace regularly, so I often see them, and they support other learners as well. – Noah, Level 3 Livestock Unit Technician apprentice

Quote provided by:





What real employers have to *say*...

Our Agriculture Apprenticeship provides students with a hands-on learning experience across areas such as conservation, habitat management, livestock, and arable farming, on our diverse mixed farming estate. Apprentices gain essential practical skills whilst working in a safe and compliant manor which should help prepare them for a successful career in agriculture.

A highlight of the apprenticeship is the strong team ethos, where apprentices work alongside experienced professionals on a beautiful estate. Being part of a large company offers exposure to various agricultural aspects, creating a dynamic learning environment. For anyone considering an apprenticeship, it's an excellent way to gain practical industry experience and explore different career paths in agriculture, whether in crop management, livestock, machinery operations, or agronomy.

Personally, for me, the most I enjoy about providing the apprenticeship is the rewarding experience of developing people. It's a privilege to see apprentices grow, gain confidence, and succeed, and staying in touch with them throughout their careers, maintaining long-term relationships and becoming a mentor to them if required. Watching their development from apprentices to skilled professionals is incredibly fulfilling. Completing the apprenticeship opens doors to long-term employment and helps apprentices develop key skills, while also providing opportunities to explore various areas of the industry.

*One success story is a young man who joined us at 16, gaining a strong foundation through the apprenticeship. After studying at Bishop Burton College, he returned to work with us as an arable operator and completed his BASIS and FACTS training. Today, he is a fully qualified agronomist, a great example of how our programme supports long-term career development in agriculture. – **Chris Baylis, Farming Director & Head of Rural Business at Sir Richard Sutton Ltd.***

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The agriculture sector
offers an opportunity to
build a fulfilling career
*while making a
positive impact on the
world.*



The Future of the Sector

The agriculture sector is experiencing rapid transformation with advancements in technology, climate change challenges, and shifting consumer demands for sustainable and ethically produced food. Innovations such as precision farming, genetic research, and environmental monitoring are reshaping the industry, creating a demand for workers skilled in new technology and sustainable practices. Apprenticeships are an ideal way to prepare for these changes, equipping individuals with both foundational agricultural knowledge and the technical skills to thrive in a modernised agriculture environment.

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