

# Agriculture & Animal Care



**78,000**  
PEOPLE WORK IN  
ANIMAL CARE

**86%**  
OF ANIMAL CARE  
BUSINESSES EMPLOY 5  
STAFF OR LESS

**3,350**  
AGRICULTURE RELATED  
BUSINESSES IN THE UK

The UK is blessed with some of the most beautiful countryside in the world; rolling hills, green fields and more breathtaking views than you can shake a stick at. It's also an important part of our economy, with farming, landscaping, conservation and national parks all bringing in money in various ways. Animal care is all about caring for animals (duh...); making sure they are fit and healthy, as well as grooming them for both domestic and professional use.

## You ask us...

### WHAT'S THE AGRICULTURE & ANIMAL CARE SECTOR ALL ABOUT?

Agriculture is quite a broad term for land based industries such as farming, landscaping, environmental conservation and forestry. It also covers the manufacturing of machinery for various uses on farms, forests and foliage alike. Animal Care involves the treatment of animals in both a domestic and professional environment. Whether this is through veterinary means or if you are grooming the next Grand National winner, you'll need to know everything about the animals you will be looking after.

### WHAT KIND OF SALARY CAN I EXPECT TO EARN?

Because this is such a broad sector, we can't list all the salaries for every single job, but as a rough guide, farm based job roles start at between **£10,000** and **£13,000** and increase as you progress up the career ladder. Specialist career paths such as farriery (making horseshoes) and park rangers (who look after our national parks) can start on around **£18,000** and be on upwards of **£30,000** after experience. In animal care, a veterinary nurse can expect to start out on about **£13,000**, whereas professional horse-groomers usually begin on about **£12,000**.

### WHAT KIND OF ENVIRONMENT WOULD I BE WORKING IN?

Well, given that it's land based and animals are mostly found outside, then you'll be doing most of your work in the great outdoors! You could be in a field harvesting crops, on a farm looking after the animals or in a forest keeping everything natural looking. In an animal care environment, you could be working in a veterinary surgery treating people's pets, or going out and about in your community doing house calls. You could even be working at a race track helping horses prepare for their next big competition.

### HOW DOES THIS SECTOR COMPARE TO OTHERS ACROSS THE COUNTRY?

Just under half of the people that work in this sector are self employed, as most agricultural farms are family run businesses. On the animal care side of things, the demand for qualified veterinary staff is on the rise; the government predicts that from now until 2020, this sector will require at least **44,000** people with a minimum Level 3 qualification in their chosen field.

### WHERE IS THE WORK MOST CONCENTRATED?

It goes without saying that this sector is focused on working in the countryside, so don't be looking to the big cities for work! Most farms are family run businesses, but you might find some that are willing to take on apprentices. You'll also find veterinary surgeries in nearly all small towns and villages, but you'll find it easier getting work in surgeries that have a larger catchment area.





## Careers Choices

So, do you think you could thrive in an Agricultural environment? If you don't like working outside but still like the idea of working with animals, then perhaps you would want to consider a career in veterinary sciences or as an animal trainer! This sector is truly massive, so massive in fact that the job roles we've listed below don't really begin to scratch the surface of what you can do! These are the most popular job roles you can expect to find:

### HORTICULTURE & LANDSCAPING

Ever wondered what it is that makes our country that little bit more beautiful? From the city centre parks people stroll in to the rolling hills of the Yorkshire Dales, this sector is all about making the areas we visit look good. You might be arranging flowers in a local community or maintaining our national parks; either way you'll be getting plenty of satisfaction from people taking in your work. Your starting salary will be around **£15,000**, but could be more depending on what it is your working on.

### FARM WORKER

It's not all big beards and wellies (although you should probably get a pair for this; you might end up losing your trainers pretty quickly). Farming is hard work, but the rewards that come out of it, in terms of money and pride, are well known. You could be looking after animals such as sheep, cows and pigs, or working with high-tech machinery cultivating and harvesting crops. You can expect to earn around **£7,200** if you are aged 16 or over, while those who are 19 and over will expect to bring in around **£10,000**, rising to around **£15,000** with experience.

### RANGER

Rangers are responsible for keeping our national parks clean and tidy, while also making sure that the wildlife and plants are also kept healthy and safe. This is definitely a career for those who want to work outdoors but also for those who are avid about the environment and working with animals. Salaries start out at around **£18,000**, but Senior Rangers can earn in excess of **£30,000**.

### VETERINARY NURSING

Animals get sick just like people do (and unlike people, they can't drive themselves to the doctors; their feet can't reach the pedals for one thing) and require treatment, checkups and if necessary, surgery. Veterinary nurses assist vets in treating various different types of domestic animals, such as dogs, cats, rabbits, hamsters, parrots and horses. You'll learn all about the different types of animal anatomies, as well as the kinds of treatments each animal needs in each situation. Don't be afraid to get your hands a bit messy in this industry! Your starting salary will be around **£14,000**, but Senior Veterinary Nurses earn around **£25,000**.

### LAND BASED ENGINEERING

As you can imagine, farm working involves a heck of a lot of complex machinery, such as threshers, harvesters, processors, tractors and many others. Land based engineers are responsible for building and maintaining these machines, so an eye for mechanics and systems will be handy here. Starting salaries in this sector are quite high and usually between **£20,000** and **£26,000**.

### ADVANCED APPRENTICESHIPS

These are the equivalent to A-Levels and can usually be joined after completing the associated Intermediate Apprenticeship. They are ideal for people who want a practical role as they learn while gaining valuable employment experience. People with Advanced Apprenticeships tend to progress up the ladder a lot quicker than those without, as the skills they learn are more suited to management and supervisory roles. Here are some of the Apprenticeship Frameworks for this sector and all of these will result in a Level 3 qualification such as a BTEC, a Diploma or an NVQ.

**Animal Care • Environmental Conservation • Game and Wildlife Management • Land Based Engineering • Veterinary Nursing**

### A-LEVELS

A-Levels are the most popular gateway into university and are sought after by employers. They are also useful for getting into more senior roles such as management and team leading. The following A-Levels will help you get into this sector:

**Biology • Chemistry • Maths • English • Geography • Geology**

### FOUNDATION DEGREES

A Foundation Degree combines university lifestyle with practical, hands on work. It's sort of like a cross between an Apprenticeship and an Honours Degree. They are often used as gateway qualifications to a full time Degree as they count towards the first two years of an Honours Degree. They usually take two years to complete and you'll be both in the work place and on the university campus. There are a wide range of Foundation Degrees available for this sector, such as **Farm Management** and **Wildlife Conservation**.

### COLLEGE COURSES

A college course is another way to get into this sector. For more information, check out [www.careersworld.co.uk](http://www.careersworld.co.uk)

### VOCATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS

These can be undertaken instead of doing A-Levels and can be done at Level 2 and 3. They, like Apprenticeships, can result in a BTEC, NVQ or Diploma and are handy for getting into more specific job roles in this sector. **CW**

## Where to begin

### APPRENTICESHIPS

If you are aged 16 and over you could enter an Apprenticeship, which would teach you the skills you need while you work and earn a salary. You'll spend half your time in the classroom and half out on the job. Listed below are the apprenticeship frameworks for this sector, which when completed will give you a Level 2 qualification in the form of a BTEC, Diploma or NVQ:

**Game and Wildlife Management • Animal Care • Horticulture • Environmental Conservation • Land Based Engineering**