

# The Employment Journey

Get ahead of the career game.

aerospace agriculture aquaculture bioscience business construction culture education energy finance fishery food & beverage food processing forestry health information technology justice manufacturing public service rec/sport retail technology tourism trades transportation trucking

## The Agriculture Sector - 2010

### Did you know?

Production, processing, and marketing of food products accounts for more than **one out of every four** jobs on PEI.

In 2008, farm cash receipts were valued at **\$392 million**. Potato sales accounted for over half. More than half the potatoes grown on PEI are used for processing into such products as french fries and potato chips.

### Labour force:

- There are **1,700** farms on PEI, according to the 2006 Census. The average number of acres per farm is **365**.
- According to Statistics Canada's Labour Force Survey 2008, about **3,100** people are employed directly on farms as agriculture workers **(This number does not include farm owners, migrant workers, or those working in food processing, within government, or in wholesale or retail)**.

### The Big Picture: Industry Initiatives

- Vegetable, fruit and meat production is getting a boost from the "buy local" movement. Newest farmers' market: **Riverview Country Market. The Charlottetown and Summerside Farmers Markets are very popular.**
- Products from crop and livestock commodities show potential for an increase in demand due to research and development in the bioscience sector.
- Organic farming is also becoming more mainstream as producers respond to consumer demands. The provincial government now has a Fresh Farms Directory on its website, which lists farmers who sell directly to consumers.

### Niche Markets:

Farm businesses have developed relationships with brokers and processors in regional and international markets for numerous products including – **organic canola and soybeans, premium quality and specialty table potatoes, milling wheat, flax, swine breeding stock, crops for cosmetic ingredients and nutraceuticals, organic vegetables, dairy products and meats.**

\* source: Growing The Island Way, January 2009

## Careers and wages in agriculture and agri-food:

- Wage information is taken from [www.labourmarketinformation.ca](http://www.labourmarketinformation.ca) and [www.peijoblink.ca](http://www.peijoblink.ca)

### On the farm:

- Farmer/Farm Manager: \$31,235 per year
  - General Farm Worker: \$9.38 - \$13.72 per hour
  - Livestock Specialist: \$43,030 per year
  - Straight Truck Driver (3A Licence): \$11.30 to \$16.50 per hour
  - Tractor Trailer Driver (1A Licence): \$35 000 - \$60 000 per year.
- (2007 labour market research indicated that 90% of long-haul Tractor Trailer Drivers earn over \$700/wk and 53% of short-haul Tractor Trailer Drivers earn over \$700/wk.)**

### Government:

- Quality Control Inspector: (wages not available)
- Agriculture Laboratory Technologist: \$34,615 per year
- Crop Specialist: \$37,980 per year

### Food Processor:

- Sales & Marketing Representative: \$35,550 per year
- Supervisors Food Processing: \$12.50 to 28.45 per hour

### Wholesale/Retail:

- Agricultural Heavy Equipment Mechanic: \$14.47 to \$22.48 per hour
- Nursery and Greenhouse Worker: (wage not available)
- Equipment Sales: \$9.95 - \$18.60 per hour

### Self Employed (makes services available to the farm and the government)

- Veterinarian: \$80,920 per year
- Horticulturist: (wages not available)

## The labour and benefits of Farm Work:

- Harvesting by hand, not by machine is preferred because machines damage crops such as turnips, cabbage, and cauliflower
- Small farms cannot afford big machinery, so they need people for labour-intensive work
- It's summer work for students
- Immigrants can learn about PEI culture and learn English
- Retired persons can give their time and experience
- It's a good fit for people who like to work with their hands and outside.

## **Creates Transferable Skills such as:**

- Mechanics
- Welding
- Carpentry
- Science
- Physics
- Sustainability
- Renewable resources
- Animal care
- Problem solving

## **Education and Training:**

### **Apprenticeship**

- Farm Technician Program for General Farm Workers
- Red Seal Certification for Agricultural Equipment Repair Technicians

**(Both offered through the Apprenticeship Branch of the Department of Innovation and Advanced Learning.)**

### **JVI**

- Straight Truck Driver
- Tractor Trailer Driver
- Heavy Equipment Operation
- Tractor Trailer with Forklift

### **Holland College**

- Bioscience Technology Program
- Environmental Technician
- Precision Machinist

### **UPEI**

- Bachelor of Science
- Pre-Vet Medicine program also offered
- Bachelor of Business Administration

### **Atlantic Veterinary College**

- Doctor of Veterinary Medicine

### **NSAC - Nova Scotia Agricultural College**

- Variety of agriculture-based business, science and technology courses. It also has a Pre-Vet Medicine program.

**To explore agriculture further:**

PEI Agriculture Sector Council, 892-1091 or visit [www.peiagsc.ca](http://www.peiagsc.ca)

PEI Federation of Agriculture, 368-7289 or visit <http://www.peifa.ca>

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, 566-6816 or visit <http://res2.agr.gc.ca>

Apprenticeship Branch of Department of Innovation and Advanced Learning,  
368-4460 or visit [www.apprenticeship.pe.ca](http://www.apprenticeship.pe.ca)

Buy PEI Program, 368-5647 or 368-5606 or visit [www.gov.pe.ca/agriculture](http://www.gov.pe.ca/agriculture)

Riverview Country Market, 892-9632 or visit [www.riverviewcountrymarket.com](http://www.riverviewcountrymarket.com)

For more information about careers in agriculture visit  
[www.pei.jobfutures.org](http://www.pei.jobfutures.org) and [www.peijoblink.ca](http://www.peijoblink.ca) and [www.labourmarketinformation.ca](http://www.labourmarketinformation.ca)