

CTE JOURNEYS | HANDBOOKS

# Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources



CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

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## SECTION 1

# Is This the Field for You?

Do you like being outdoors? Would working on a farm give you a sense of freedom? Maybe growing plants is fascinating. Working with food seems interesting. Perhaps you enjoy being around animals. Spending time in nature appeals to you. Are any of these true? If so, consider a career in the field of **agriculture**, food, and **natural resources**.

# Chapter 1 ›

## Inside the Industry

Agriculture is the science of growing food. It is usually practiced on a farm. Farmers plant **crops** to sell. Apples, corn, and wheat are examples. Farmers also raise animals, such as chickens and pigs.





Farming is not the only job that involves working with food. Grocery workers prepare and sell food. There are many roles within a store. Butchers cut and package meat for people to buy. Bakers prepare bread and other baked goods. It takes many workers to bring food from the farm to the table.





Natural resources come from the earth. People use these resources for daily life. Trees are used to make paper and lumber. Many people work to manage and **harvest** forests. Other workers clean and maintain the water people use. Fresh water is needed for drinking. It is also used for watering crops. Natural resources like oil and coal create energy. Miners take coal out of the ground. These people all work in the field of natural resources.





### Did You Know?

In the 1930s, one farm usually grew enough food to feed three or four people. Today, one farm can grow enough food to feed more than 100 people.



The U.S. has 154 national forests.

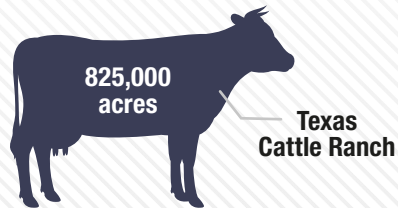


There are more than 61,000 grocery stores in the U.S.



61,626

The biggest cattle ranch in the U.S. is in Texas. It is larger than the state of Rhode Island.







The field of agriculture, food, and natural resources offers a wide range of jobs. They include indoor and outdoor work. Here is a close-up look at a few scenes.

### Scene #1: A Farm

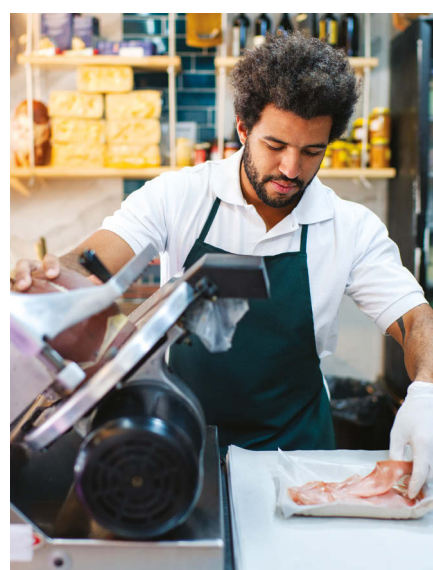
**Farmers** plant seeds in the ground. These will grow into crops.

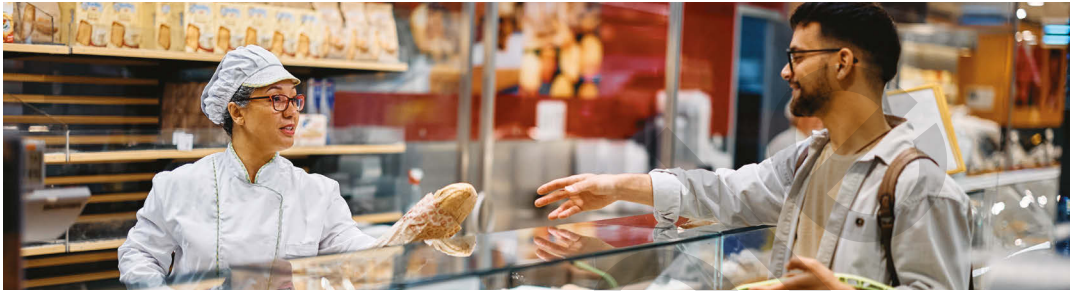
**Ranchers** raise cows for meat. **Dairy farmers** also keep cows.

These cows produce milk. The milk can be made into butter or cheese. A **greenhouse manager** works inside. He is watering plants.









## Scene #2: A Grocery Store

A grocery store has many workers. A **meat cutter** prepares beef and pork to sell. **Bakers** knead and bake bread. A **stocker** places items on shelves. **Deli workers** cut meat and cheese. **Cashiers** ring up shoppers' purchases. The **store manager** oversees the rest of the workers.





### Scene #3: A Forest

**Forest rangers** are one of many workers at national parks. Performing tree inspections is just one of their tasks. A **habitat conservationist** does research. Their job is to observe and protect plant and animal life. **Wildlife managers** focus on animals in the park. **Fish and game officers** make sure hunters and fishers follow park rules. **Loggers** cut down trees for wood. **Forest technicians** keep an eye out for fire hazards. All of these people keep the forest healthy.



