

## Animals, Land and Environment

Do you like working outdoors in the fresh air, or like the idea of working with animals? You might enjoy working with engines or machinery, or want to help save the world from the impact of global warming! If this all seems wide ranging, then you will find that this career area stretches across many disciplines, abilities and areas of expertise, from science or forestry, to fishing or mechanics!

The aquaculture industry in Scotland as part of their Aquaculture 2030 strategy hope to increase the number of jobs from around 8,800 to 18,000.

Lantra (the Sector Skills Council for food based and environmental businesses) have developed a new STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) resource which highlights how STEM is used within land-based, environmental conservation and aquaculture careers. This helps to demonstrate the range of careers available in these sectors.

### What areas can I work in?

This career area is concerned with the natural world and appeals to those interested in animal care, the countryside, planting and landscaping, and the environment.

Jobs and courses are available in agriculture, aquaculture and fishing, arboriculture and horticulture, earth studies, environmental and rural resource management, environmental services, forestry and working with animals.

To see the routes to getting into each of these sectors, take a look at our [Career Pathway](#).

### What kind of companies can I work for?

- Possible employers include:
- gardening centres
- agricultural chemical manufacturing companies
- livestock farms or fisheries
- veterinary surgeries
- educational institutions
- stables and riding schools
- zoos and wildlife parks
- conservation trusts.

### What's the job market like?

According to Lantra, advances in technology, such as automation to reduce human labour, means there is increasing demand for highly skilled staff in this industry. As well as essential skills and knowledge, for example, health and safety, literacy and numeracy, the most sought-after skills are:

- technical

- ICT (such as robotics), and
- leadership and management (successful planning, entrepreneurial skills, knowledge skills).

In many cases, job prospects can depend on where you live, or are prepared to live, as well as on the type of work you do and your qualifications.

Growing awareness of climate change and the need for sustainable development is also creating opportunities for younger entrants with transferable skills.

## Facts and figures

- £7 million from the Scottish Government is to be set aside for Timber Transport Projects.
- 10,860 hectares of new woodland in Scotland were planted from April 2019 - March 2020.
- Scotland's Forestry and Land are home to over 1,000 species 172 of which are protected.
- £40 million was allocated in the Scottish Budget in February 2020 to the Agricultural Transformation Programme.
- Agriculture directly employs 67,000 people in Scotland, and is the third largest employer in rural Scotland.
- The beef industry is the largest sector of Scottish agriculture with 1.8 million Scottish cattle.
- The UK Animal Care Industry has 13,000 businesses and employs 78,000 people.
- The UK Farming industry is worth almost £122 billion each year with more than 138,000 farms.
- There are currently over 500 horses in training in Scotland.
- Aquaculture contributes £1.8 billion annually to the Scottish Economy employing around 8,800 people
- The landbased engineering industry is worth £4 billion a year, with 3,550 businesses and employs 22,800 people.

## Want to find out more?

- Lantra is the Sector Skills Council for food based and environmental businesses. You can find more information about the sectors it covers and related careers and training pathways on the [Lantra Careers](#) website.

## Sources

- [Scottish Forestry](#) (2nd June 2020)
- [Aquaculture Growth to 2030](#).
- [Forestry and Land Scotland](#) Business Plan 2020 - 2021 (April 2020)
- [Confor](#) (11th June)
- [Scotland's Rural College](#) Undergraduate Prospectus (2021)
- [National Farming Union Scotland](#) (NFU Scotland Stability for Change Proposals - (2021 - 2024)
- Lantra Annual Report (2019 - 20)