EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT & EARNINGS: ANALYZING DATA FROM AGRICULTURE, FOOD, AND NATURAL RESOURCES

This Cluster Analysis of Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources in the Commonwealth highlights information important to each of the seven pathways—Agribusiness Systems; Animal Systems; Environmental Service Systems; Food Products and Processing Systems; Natural Resources Systems; Plant Systems; and Power, Structural and Technical Systems—included in this career cluster.

What trends do we currently see? What trends may we anticipate?

• Though employment is not expected to increase across the cluster as a whole, growth is anticipated in the Animal Systems, Environmental Service Systems, Natural Resources Systems, and Plant Systems pathways.
• An anticipated decrease in the employment of farmers, ranchers, and other agricultural managers—the vast majority of Agribusiness Systems pathway—leads to substantial reduction of job opportunities within that pathway.
• Engineering and technical occupations, including environmental engineers, veterinary technicians, and conservation scientists, are anticipated to see strong job growth.

EDUCATION

Figure 1 shows the predominant level of education and training in each pathway. Education classification is determined by Trailblazers, based on US Bureau of Labor Statistics occupational education and training data.

Footnote 1: Reflects predominant education by the number of occupations in each pathway, not the number of workers
**EMployment**

Figure 2 compares the estimated 2012 employment for each pathway to projected 2022 employment levels.

Data are provided by the Virginia Employment Commission.

**Earnings and Growth**

Figure 3 presents the size and median wage-earning for the two fastest-growing occupations in each pathway. Wage data are provided by the US Bureau of Labor Statistics’ Occupational Employment Statistics program.

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**Figure 2: Employment in VA Agriculture, Food, & Natural Resources**

**Figure 3: Earnings and Growth for Select Occupations in VA 2012-2022**

(Size of circle represents annual number of job openings in the specific occupation)