

# 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 System; 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.

# 0%

Expected growth in Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources jobs by 2022.

## EDUCATION

Figure 1 shows the predominant level<sup>1</sup> 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.

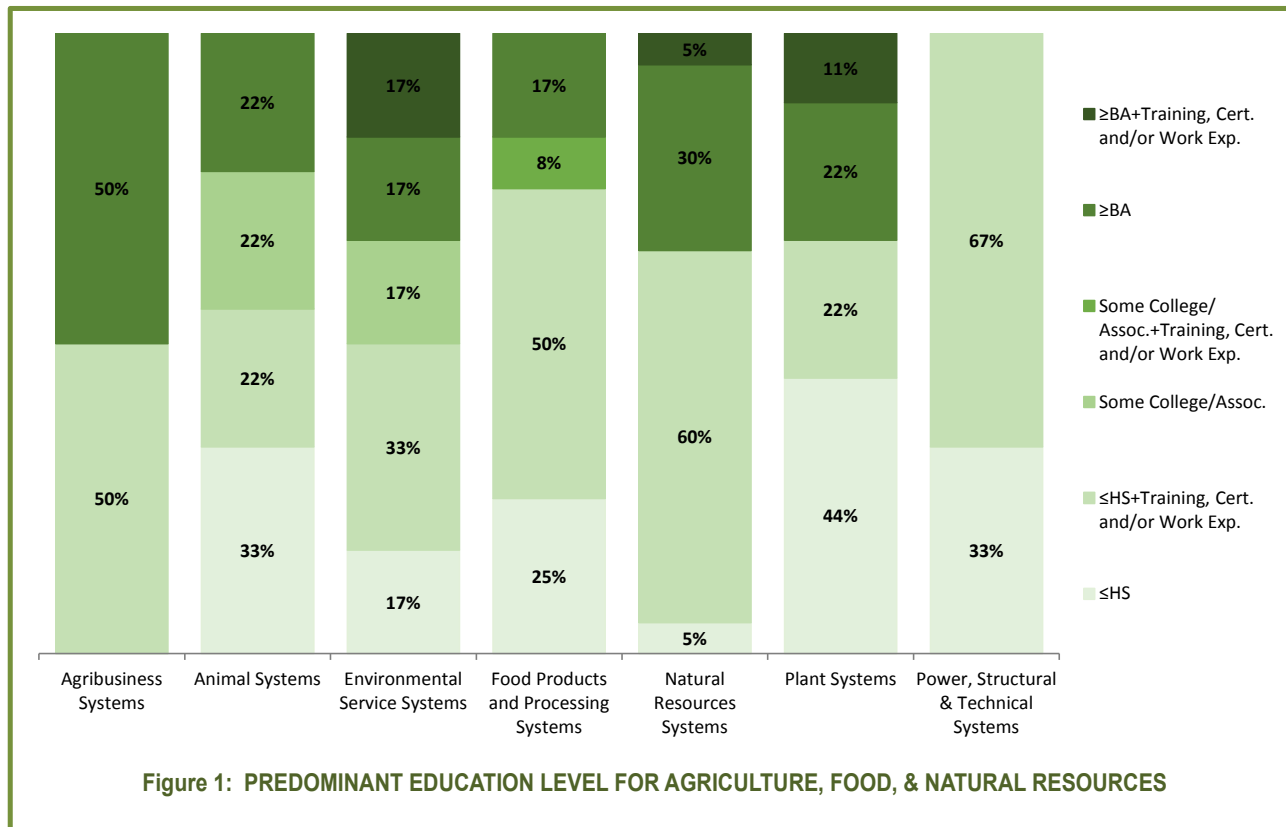
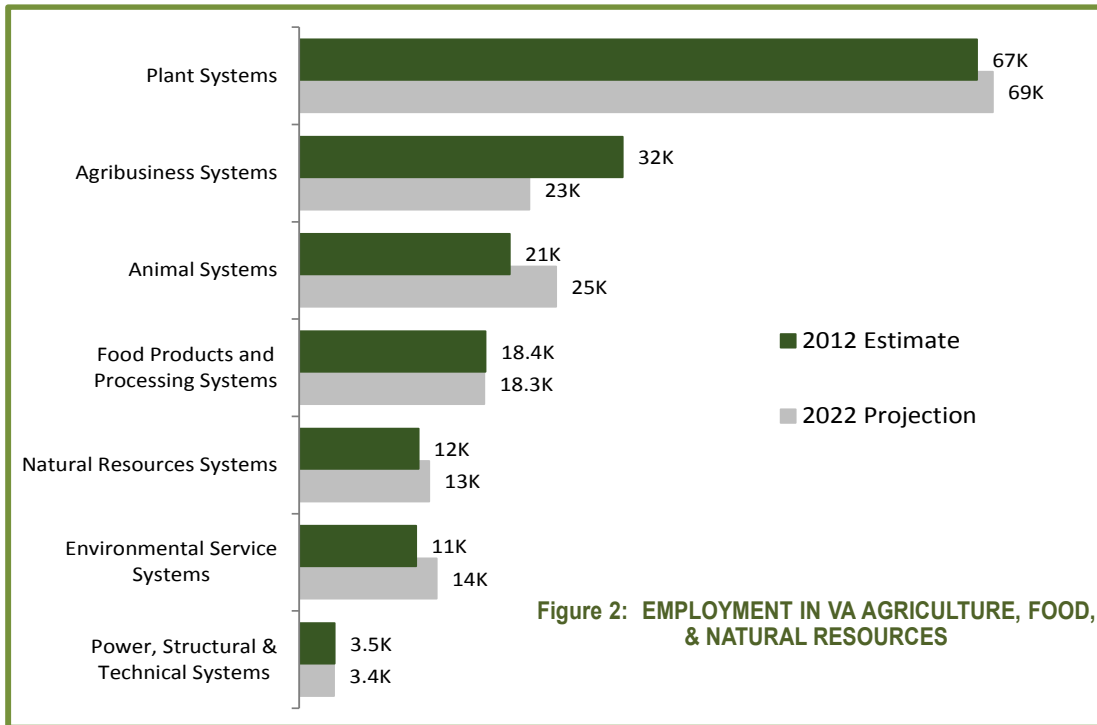


Figure 1: PREDOMINANT EDUCATION LEVEL FOR AGRICULTURE, FOOD, & NATURAL RESOURCES

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.

