Trailblazers
Career and Technical Education in Virginia

AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND NATURAL RESOURCES

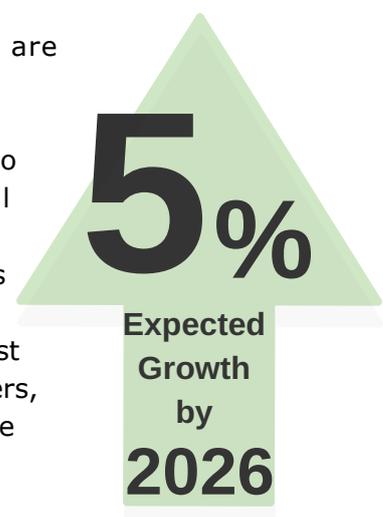## ANALYZING EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT & EARNING DATA

This analysis of the Agriculture, Food, & Natural Resources cluster in the Commonwealth highlights important information for each of its career pathways—Agribusiness Systems; Environmental Service Systems; Food Products & Processing Systems; Natural Resources Systems; Plant Systems; and Power, Structural, & Technical Systems.

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

- In 2016, there were approximately 70,200 Virginia jobs associated with this cluster, and about 3,200 additional jobs are expected by 2026.
- Of all the pathways in this cluster, Environmental Service Systems has the greatest number of occupations projected to experience double-digit growth through 2026: Environmental Engineering Technicians (13%), Refuse and Recycle Material Collectors (12%), and Hazardous Materials Removal Workers (11%).
- Nonfarm Animal Caretakers are projected to experience the highest rate of job growth in this cluster through 2026 (27%) while Farmers, Ranchers, and Other Agricultural Managers are expected to see the greatest number of annual job openings (2,657).
- Most occupations in this cluster require work experience or training/certification.

5%
Expected
Growth
by
2026

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🎓 EDUCATION

Figure 1 shows the predominant level of education and training in each pathway. Education data was determined by Trailblazers based on U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics occupational education and training data. The percentages in the graph below reflect the number of occupations, not the number of workers. For example, the Agribusiness Systems pathway consists of three occupations; two of them require a bachelor's degree or more and training/certification (67%), and one requires a high school diploma and work experience (33%).
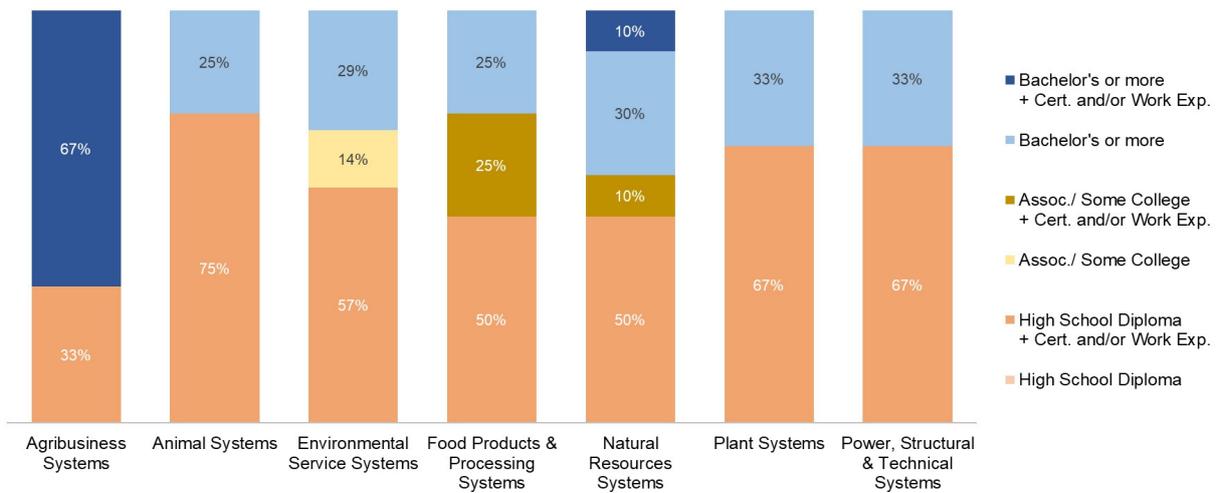

Figure 1: Predominant Education Level for Agricultural, Food, & Natural Resources, 2016-2026

💼 EMPLOYMENT

Figure 2 compares the estimated 2016 employment for each pathway to projected 2026 employment levels. Data are provided by the Virginia Employment Commission.
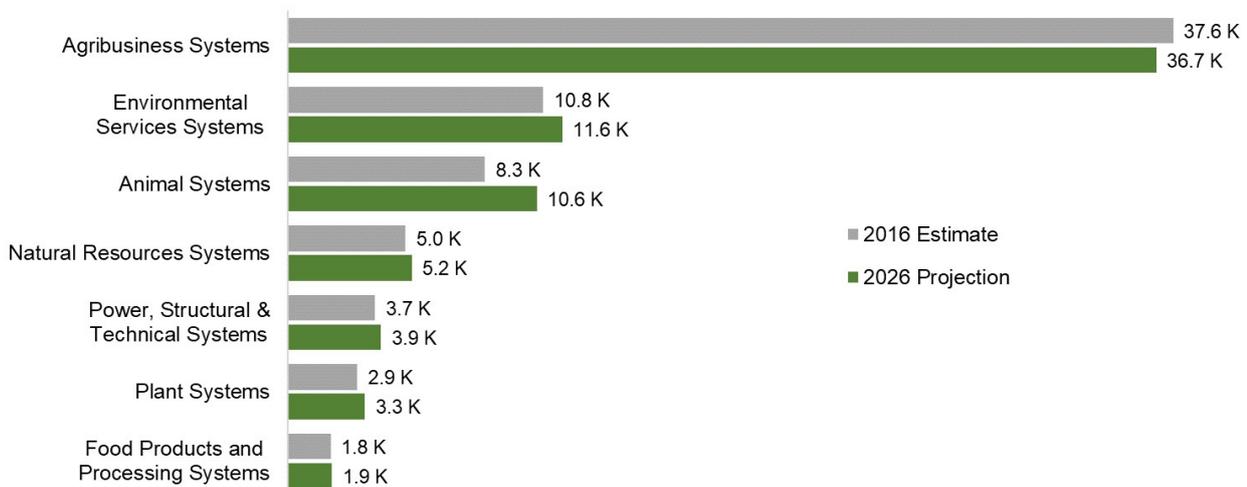

Figure 2: Employment in Virginia for Agricultural, Food, & Natural Resources Cluster, 2016-2026

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💲 EARNING AND GROWTH

Figure 3 presents the size and median wages of the occupations in each pathway with the highest projected percentage of growth. Wage data are provided by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics Occupational Employment Statistics program.
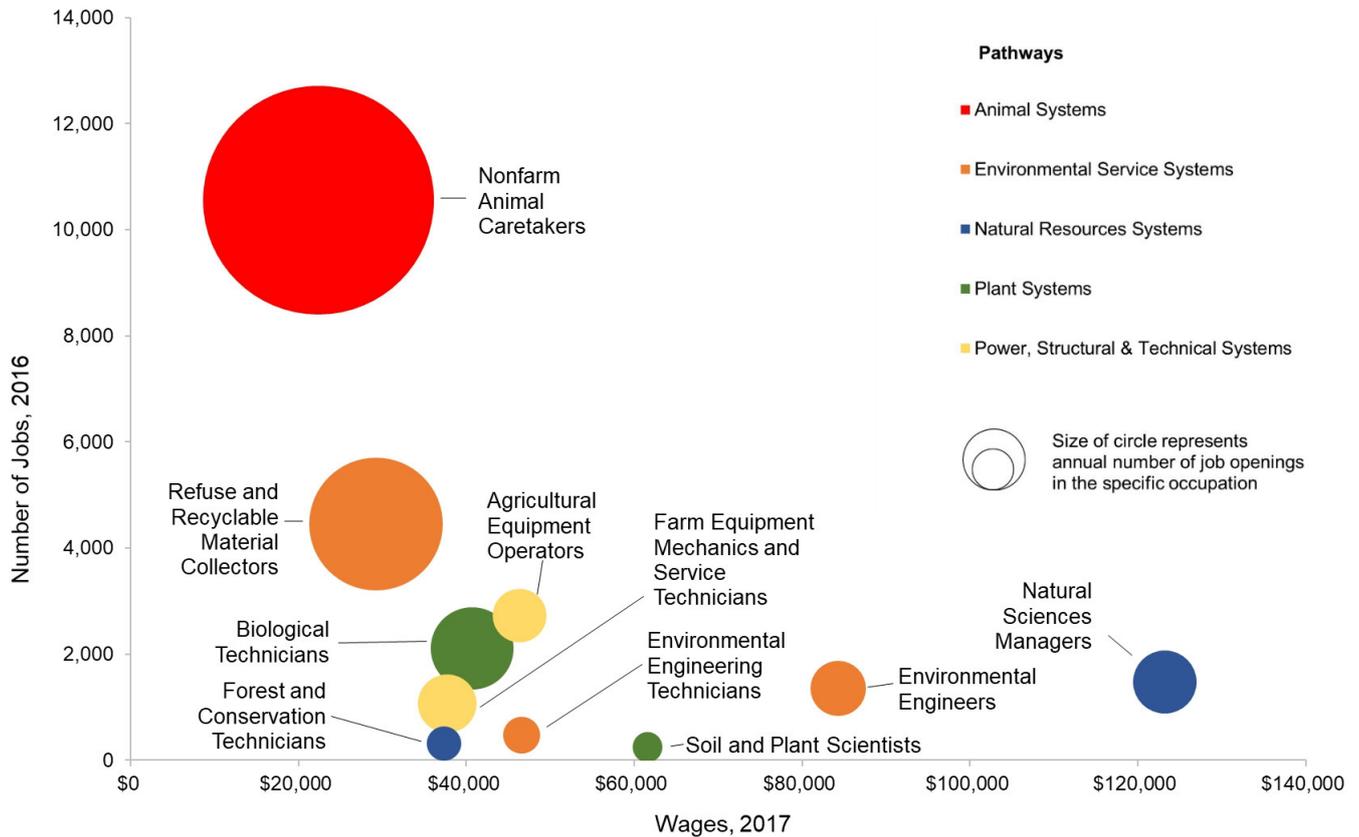

Figure 3: Earning and Growth for Selected Occupations in Virginia, 2016-2026

🧳 Employment Growth by LWIA

The following Labor Workforce Investment Areas (LWIAs) will experience higher occupational growth rate in the Agriculture, Food & Natural Resources Cluster.

- West Piedmont
- Capital Region Workforce Partnership
- Western Virginia
- Hampton Roads
- New River/ Mt Rogers

👷 Nontraditional Occupations

Nontraditional Occupations for Females

- Water and Wastewater Treatment Plant System Operators
- Refuse and Recycle Material Collectors

Nontraditional Occupations for Males

- Nonfarm Animal Caretakers