



AGRICULTURAL
MECHANICS

Welder

A Welder joins, connects, and fuses steel framework for buildings, machines, and other equipment.



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Inspiring Minds to Grow


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career profile

Name: Lawrence Jenkins
Job Title: Welder


Employer: Tom's Welding


Education: High School Diploma,
Beulah High School: Beulah, North Dakota

 I took agriculture classes in high school. One of my favorite classes was agricultural mechanics. In the class I learned how to weld. My teacher told me I had a knack for welding and encouraged me to consider welding as a career. I took her advice, and after high school I became a certified welder.

 I've done a lot of different welding projects in my job ranging from new construction to the repair of failed metal. Some examples of my work include welding steel frames; patching the sheet metal on combines and other farm equipment; repairing aluminum irrigation pipes; fixing wagons, seeders, spreaders, and other machines; repairing auger flighting; welding together the self-locking panels in feeding

alleys; hardfacing skid loader buckets and tillage equipment; reattaching A-frame hitches on cattle trailers; and repairing stainless steel sprayer tanks.

 I use different welding processes for different jobs, and as a result I must select the proper equipment and supplies for each job. I'm skilled in shielded metal arc welding, gas metal arc welding (GMAW or MIG), flux-cored arc welding (FCAW), and gas tungsten arc welding (GTAW or TIG). I maintain, inspect, and troubleshoot the welding equipment. I also order supplies and manage the inventory.

 I like the process of welding and being able to assemble and repair different things.



Welder

overview



A **welder** welds or joins metal parts.

suggested high school courses



[agricultural mechanics](#), welding, physical science, and mathematics

experience needed



Seek job placement opportunities while attending school. Plan and implement a related Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE) Program.

degree(s) required



A high school diploma is required. Welding certification may also be required in many cases.

potential employers



cooperatives, farm equipment dealers and manufacturers, feed and grain companies, food production companies, seed production companies

salary range



\$25,761 to \$44,188

employment outlook and trends



The employment outlook for welders is projected to be **good** to **excellent** depending on skills, certification, and location.

professional organizations



American Welding Society www.aws.org/w/a/
United Association www.ua.org/
Welding Research Council www.forengineers.org/wrc/



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