A Welder joins, connects, and fuses steel framework for buildings, machines, and other equipment.
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/](http://www.aws.org/w/a/)
- United Association [www.ua.org/](http://www.ua.org/)

Want to Learn More?

- [www.agcareers.com](http://www.agcareers.com)
- [www.mycaert.com/career-profiles](http://www.mycaert.com/career-profiles)
- [www.agnic.org/](http://www.agnic.org/)

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