



# Plant Scientist/Agronomist

Plant Scientists/Agronomists plan, budget, establish, perform and document research trials and projects as they relate to agronomic crops.



Inspiring Minds to Grow

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# career profile

*Name: Felix Cooper  
Job Title: Plant Scientist/  
Field Agronomist*

*Employer: United States Department of Agriculture*

*Education: BS, University of Nebraska: Lincoln*

 I grew up on my family farm where we produced corn and soybeans. I took agriculture classes in high school and was a member of the National FFA Organization all four years. I was our chapter president my senior year. Through the FFA and the agriculture program, I learned of the many career opportunities within the agriculture industry. Agronomy caught my eye, and I decided to make it my major in college.

 Upon graduation from college, I found employment with the U.S. Department of Agriculture as a field agronomist. In my job, I study and try to improve on the process of growing farm crops. Much of my work takes place in the field conducting research on the land and consulting with farmers. I help farmers

use their land more effectively and suggest methods to increase yields. I place a great deal of emphasis on sustainable agriculture practices. I also spend time in the office. Corn and soybean production is my area of expertise. Other field agronomists specialize in other crops, preventing soil erosion, or combating weeds, crop diseases, or pest infestations.

 I enjoy my work as I'm actively involved in the farming community. I like visiting with farmers in my region, and I get satisfaction knowing that I have helped them solve problems.



# Plant Scientist/ Field Agronomist

## overview



A **plant scientist/field agronomist** plans, budgets, establishes, performs, and documents research trials and projects as they relate to agronomic crops.

## suggested high school courses



**agribusiness**, plant science, biology, chemistry, mathematics, and computer science

## experience needed



Participate on campus in labs and research trials when possible. Plan and implement a related Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE) Program.

## degree(s) required



A master's degree or PhD in plant pathology, agronomy, crop science, soil science, biology, or a related field is preferred. A bachelor's degree in similar fields may be acceptable with some companies.

## potential employers



colleges or universities, crop protection companies, environmental organizations, governmental agencies, seed companies

## salary range



\$42,340 to \$74,004

## employment outlook and trends



The job outlook for plant scientists/field agronomists is predicted to be about **average**.

## professional organizations



American Society of Agronomy [www.agronomy.org/](http://www.agronomy.org/)  
Crop Science Society of America [www.crops.org/](http://www.crops.org/)



## Want to Learn More?

[www.agcareers.com](http://www.agcareers.com)

[www.illinoisworknet.com/vos\\_portal/industry/en/Home](http://www.illinoisworknet.com/vos_portal/industry/en/Home)

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

[www.ffa.org/documents/prof\\_handbook\\_introduction.pdf](http://www.ffa.org/documents/prof_handbook_introduction.pdf)

[www.finding-your-future.org/](http://www.finding-your-future.org/)

[www.faeis.ahnrit.vt.edu/supplydemand/2005-2010/](http://www.faeis.ahnrit.vt.edu/supplydemand/2005-2010/)