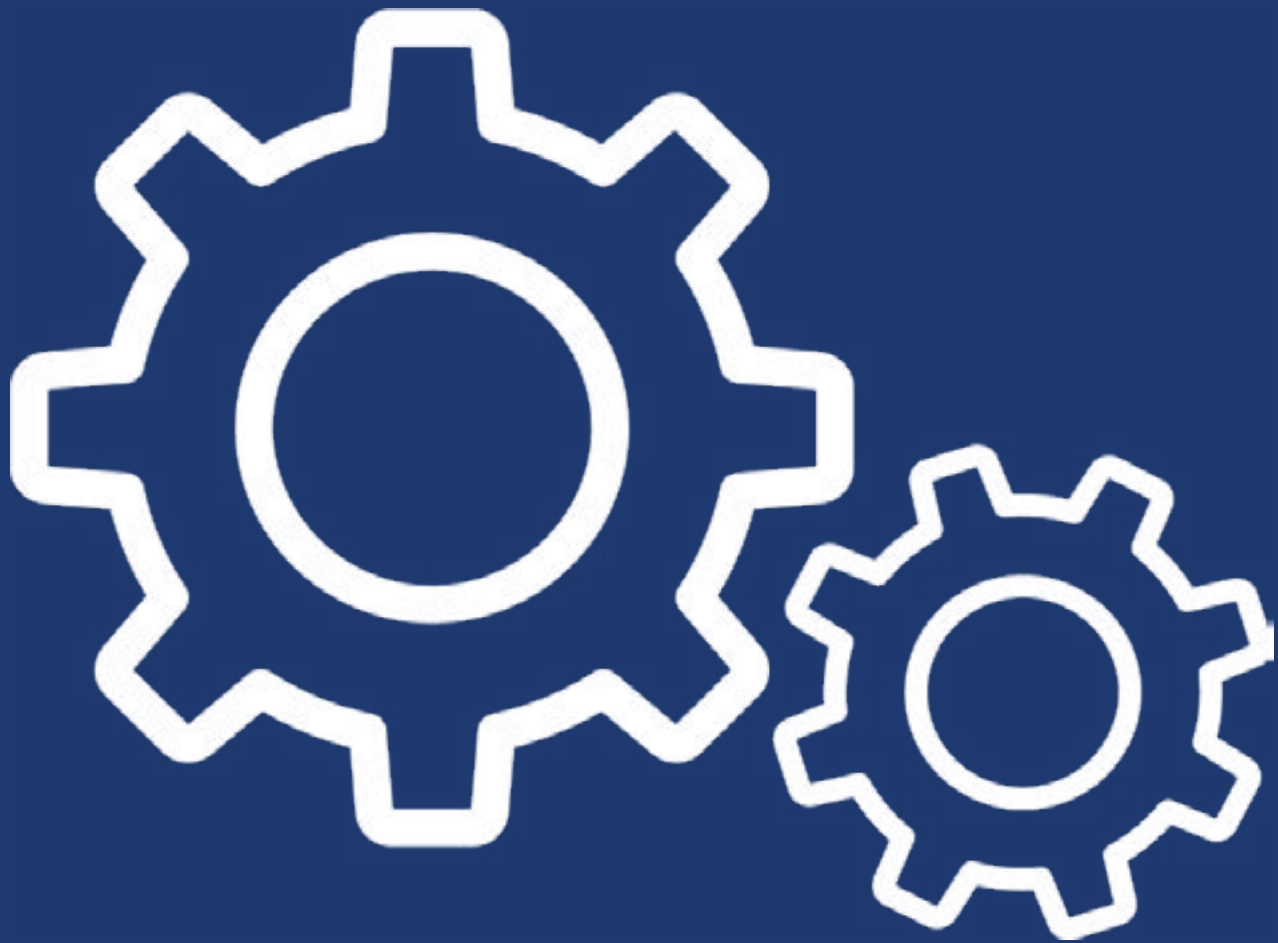


Agribusiness Production Career Guide

A guide for food and tobacco roasting, baking, and drying machine operators and tenders; food batchmakers; food cooking machine operators and tenders; packaging and filling machine operators and tenders; cleaning, washing, and metal pickling equipment operators and tenders.



Finding Your Way to a Career: Agribusiness Production

Food processing companies large and small rely on agribusiness production workers. These team members set up and operate equipment to produce food products in large batches. They perform a variety of tasks in the food production process to ensure a quality batch of product is created and that those products are consistent throughout multiple batches.

How to use this document to learn more.

As one of the Top 100 Hot Jobs for 2022, agribusiness production is a promising occupation for job seekers in West Michigan. To find out if this might be a good career choice for you, use this Career Map to examine:

- Who might enjoy this kind of work.
- Qualifications needed in this career field.
- Growth potential and levels of pay.
- Valuable skills for this type of work.
- Common tools and technology used in this work.
- Occupations, responsibilities, and other job titles.

This information is drawn from national data and insights from West Michigan employers. It is meant as a starting point for job seekers and career coaches to work together in the exploration of meaningful and fulfilling careers.



Exploring Occupations in Agribusiness Production

Agribusiness production workers are employed in a variety of food production organizations. They might follow instructions closely to determine the sequence needed to prepare large batches of food. They may also inspect products for quality and consistency, sort and pack food, and sterilize the equipment used in cooking or processing the food batches. They typically work under the supervision of first-line supervisors or others.

The Path to Success

Who might enjoy this type of work?

People who work in the agribusiness production field tend to enjoy:

- Practical, hands-on problem solving.
- Working with real world materials like wood, tools, and machinery.
- Following set procedures and routines.
- Working with data and details more than with ideas.
- Having a clear line of authority to follow.
- Mental problem solving.
- Working with ideas and using cognitive (thinking) skills.

People who do well in this work generally perform well in such areas as:

- Responsibility
- Information Skills
- Adaptability
- Decisive
- Achievement

Qualifications needed in this career field.

Nationally, most people working in agribusiness production have a high school diploma or equivalent. The next largest group has some college education, but no degree required.

Sample certifications include:

Food Batchmakers credential sample: ServSafe Certification

Packaging and Filling Machine Operators and Tenders credential sample: OSHA Forklift Certification, ServSafe Certification

Cleaning, Washing, and Metal Pickling Equipment Operators and Tenders credential sample: ServSafe Certification.

Growth potential.

In the West Michigan counties of Allegan, Barry, Ionia, Kent, Montcalm, Muskegon and Ottawa, there were 5,728 agribusiness production jobs in 2020. That number is projected to grow by at least 4% to 5,903 by 2025.

Valuable skills for this type of work.

Tasks and functions performed by agribusiness production workers include:

- Getting information.
- Monitor processes, materials, or surroundings.
- Controlling machines and processes.
- Communicating with supervisors, peers, or subordinates.
- Inspecting equipment, structures, or material.

Common tools and technology used in this work.

Tools: cooking machinery, temperature gauges, pressure or steam cleaners

Tech: data entry software, enterprise resource planning software, inventory management software



Mapping a Career:

Food and Tobacco Roasting, Baking, and Drying Machine Operators and Tenders

Food Batchmakers

Food Cooking Machine Operators and Tenders

Packaging and Filling Machine Operators and Tenders

Cleaning, Washing, and Metal Pickling Equipment Operators and Tenders

Wage ranges represent 25th - 75th percentile. Timeframes represent the typical education and experience combined. See page 6 for detailed description of occupations.

Agribusiness Production: A Field Guide

Occupations, responsibilities and other job titles.

Food and Tobacco Roasting, Baking, and Drying Machine Operators and Tenders

Operate or tend food or tobacco roasting, baking, or drying equipment, including hearth ovens, kiln driers, roasters, char kilns, and vacuum drying equipment.

Examples of locally used job titles: bean roaster, coffee roaster, line operator, machine operator, oven operator, oven technician, roast master, roaster, roaster operator, roasterman

Food Batchmakers

Set up and operate equipment that mixes or blends ingredients used in the manufacturing of food products. Includes candy makers and cheese makers.

Examples of locally used job titles: batching operator, blender, brewing technician, compounder, dough scaler and mixer, mixer, process operator, processing operator, syrup maker

Food Cooking Machine Operators and Tenders

Operate or tend cooking equipment, such as steam cooking vats, deep fry cookers, pressure cookers, kettles, and boilers, to prepare food products.

Examples of locally used job titles: fryer operator, kettle fry cook operator, machine operator, mogul operator, peeler operator, retort operator

Packaging and Filling Machine Operators and Tenders

Operate or tend machines to prepare industrial or consumer products for storage or shipment. Includes cannery workers who pack food products.

Examples of locally used job titles: a-operator, bundler, closing machine operator, computer numerical control machine operator (CNC machine operator), filler operator, machine operator, packaging operator, packing attendant, packing machine operator

Cleaning, Washing, and Metal Pickling Equipment Operators and Tenders

Operate or tend machines to wash or clean products, such as barrels or kegs, glass items, tin plate, food, pulp, coal, plastic, or rubber, to remove impurities.

Examples of locally used job titles: anodizer, clean in places operator (CIP operator), filler operator, parts cleaner, sanitation technician, sanitation worker, sanitizer, tub washoperator, tub washer, wash crew person



West Michigan Works! is part of the statewide Michigan Works! system and the workforce development agency in West Michigan. We serve the employers and job seekers of Allegan, Barry, Ionia, Kent, Montcalm, Muskegon and Ottawa counties.

We partner with employers, educators, economic developers and community organizations to create a qualified workforce that meets our region's current and future talent needs and fuels our shared economic future.

Learn more at: <https://www.westmiworks.org/>



CareerPoint helps students and job seekers find their place in the world of work by matching interests and abilities with training, support, and meaningful and rewarding careers.

By providing training and tools, CareerPoint supports the workforce professionals who help people navigate the West Michigan job market.

CareerPoint promotes evidence-based coaching to help students and job seekers discover and follow pathways to rewarding careers. This model follows seven steps to each participant's success.

Learn more at: <https://talnetcareerpoint.org/>