

## **Agriculture and Food Manufacturing Employment Opportunities in NYS**

**May 2023**

These are types of agricultural jobs available now in New York. Most will require you to lift over 50 pounds (23 Kilos) and be on your feet for an 8-hour day or longer. Some jobs require little prior knowledge and others require specific experience with equipment, supervising others and more.

**Agricultural Equipment Operator:** Machine operation is common across farms of all types. These positions often require experience on how to operate and repair basic farm equipment. Some farms are willing to train employees how to operate highly specialized items. Types of equipment vary across commodities.

- Specific duties may include a combination of the following:
  - o Handle and mix chemicals pesticides and place these in sprayer equipment
  - o Spray fertilizer or pesticides to control insects, diseases and weeds using both machinery and hand sprayers
  - o Operate or fix equipment used in agricultural production, such as tractors, planters, combines, and irrigation equipment
  - o Adjust and service farm machinery and notify supervisors when machinery breaks
  - o Attach farm implements such as plows, discs, sprayers, or harvesters to tractors
  - o Operate towed implements such as seed drills or manure spreaders
  - o Drive large trucks to haul crops out of fields and unload harvested crops

**Dairy Farm Employee or Herdsperson:** These positions involve direct contact with dairy animals. Jobs may range from manual activities, such as milking cows and caring for young animals, to more specialized herd management that requires advanced animal knowledge, operation of specialized equipment and more.

- Specific duties may include a combination of the following:

- Milk cows two to three times per day
- Operate machinery to clean the barn
- Operate tractors and towable machinery such as manure spreader and field equipment
- Identify and treat sick cows
- Assist with calving and care of cows and newborns
- Assist with hoof care
- Administer vaccines
- Breed cows
- Assist with moving cattle

**Nursery Farm Employee:** This industry is dedicated to propagating plants, growing seedlings, and transplanting or selling maturing plants.

- Specific duties may include a combination of the following:
  - Plant, weed, water, fertilize, transplant and transport annual flowers, greenhouse vegetables and fall plants
  - Maintain nursery equipment,
  - Maintain greenhouse and outdoor flower fields
  - Operate equipment
  - Help manage compost production

**Controlled Environment Agriculture (CEA) Production or Marketing Employee:** These farms grow vegetables and herbs in greenhouses or buildings in rural and urban locations. This sector is searching for individuals to work at an entry level growing plants all the way to managing greenhouses and the business.

- Specific duties may include a combination of the following:

- Assist with seeding, care, maintenance, and harvest of leafy greens, herbs, tomatoes and other crops
- Provide leadership for the day-to-day operations
- Clean growing trays and spaces to prevent diseases
- Work on packing lines for vegetables and herbs
- Supervise and train staff

**Dairy Plant Employee:** This sector processes milk and makes dairy products such as bottled milk, yogurt, sour cream, cottage cheese and ice cream. There are multiple plants operated by many companies across NYS. These positions range from working with the processing equipment to monitoring product quality, packaging and shipping. On-the-job training is provided by dairy plants.

- Specific duties may include a combination of the following:
  - Operate equipment used to process and package products
  - Clean and monitor equipment and materials needed on processing and packaging lines
  - Provide support to production line employees, to maintain output and product quality
  - Drive trucks for distribution of products (Commercial Drivers License required)
  - Provide support to production line employees, to maintain output and product quality
  - Troubleshoot and resolve some operating challenges
  - Assist with preparing products for shipping
  - Assist with food safety and quality assurance programs
  - Supervise and train staff

**Food Processing Plant Employee:** This sector focuses on the creation of new products using agricultural commodities ranging from fruits and vegetables to coffee. Across NYS, we have several processors looking for employees to support production lines, distribution and quality assurance.

- Specific duties may include a combination of the following:

- Operate production machinery and solve problems
- Provide support to production line employees, to maintain output and product quality
- Drive trucks for distribution of products (Commercial Drivers License required)
- Assist with quality control monitoring, including sampling products at different stages of production and packaging.
- Assist with record keeping and reporting for food safety and quality assurance.