Employment Facts

According to the 2019 Idaho Career Information System—

- **Agricultural Scientists/Agronomists** earn $62,233 per year (Idaho median) and have at least a Bachelors Degree. About 12 percent are self-employed.

- **Food Scientists** earn $63,814 per year (Idaho median). Some conduct research while others discover new food sources and products.

- **Agricultural Inspectors** make sure food is safe to eat; they earn $37,299 per year (Boise area median wage). This is a small occupation. In Idaho, there are 209 inspectors.

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Since 1982, we have consistently trained only about 1,000 PhDs in applied agricultural and related sciences each year. And over the last decade, the U.S. has annually produced only 800 or so plant scientists working in applied agricultural science and only 100 with the skills for basic plant research. (See “Plant science stagnates.”) Given the global agricultural challenges we now face, this is a problem.

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Many career and technical education (CTE) courses offer Technical Skills Competency credits and certifications. Instructors inform students of these opportunities and encourage them to consider the benefits of joining a related student organization providing students opportunities to participate in related competitions and develop strong leadership skills.
Plant Science training is offered through the Career & Technical Education (CTE) Center—Meridian Campus. Students engage in hands-on botany instruction in a greenhouse where they learn plant nursery skills and study botany attributes and plant needs. An advisory board made up of local business help guide and direct the programs curriculum so that students understand current practices, issues and industry employment opportunities.

### Home High School classes:
(If the home high school does not offer these, students travel to the CTE center for access.)

- **Botany/Plant & Soil Science**—This course develops botany knowledge and skills while examining soil and plant relationships that affect the production of food/fiber. Topics include soil science, plant anatomy and identification, growth and development, basic plant processes, weeds and pest control.

- **Horticulture I/Botany**—This course prepares students to produce, propagate and maintain greenhouse plants.

- **Horticulture II/Science of Plant Growth & Development**—This course examines the importance of plant cell structure, functions of cells, plant processes, types of plants and plant parts, plus the reproduction/propagation of plants.

### CTE Center courses:

- **Natural Resources I**—acquaints students with human land-use including forest, range, and aquatic ecosystems and management practices.

- **Natural Resources II**—an investigation of human connection and reliance on natural resources and the relationship to animal science, plant science and environmental science.

- **Landscape Design** *(taught at Mtn. View H.S.)* —a semester class for seniors in the Plant Science Pathway.

- **Floral Design & Marketing** *(taught at Mtn. View H.S.)* —a semester class for seniors in the Plant Science Pathway.

### Recommended Courses:

- **Consumer Economics/ Agricultural Business & Economics**

- **Advanced Leadership in Agriculture & Marketing**

- **Science of Food Production**

- **Intro to Mechanics or Intro to Small Gasoline Engines**

- **Zoology/Animal Science**

Learn more about …

CTE Magnet Programs at:
[www.westada.org/CTE](http://www.westada.org/CTE)

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