

Apprenticeship-style Agriculture Training

What is the Green Certificate Program?

It is an apprenticeship-style, workforce development, training program serving the agriculture industry.

How does it work?

Alberta Agriculture and Forestry (AAF) works in partnership with the agriculture industry and Alberta Education (via the off campus education policy) to offer the Green Certificate Program to all Albertans. Trainees select a specialization and under the guidance of their trainer, work towards mastering all of the skills within their training program.

What is in it for me, as a high school student?

- Earn up to 16 grade-twelve diploma credits per specialization completed
- Have fun learning more about agriculture in a practical, hands-on environment
- Increase your knowledge and skill level and gain valuable work experience
- Reach further educational goals; many post secondary agricultural institutions and scholarship programs look favorably upon Green Certificate involvement
- Explore career options in the agriculture industry
- Earn recognition for what you can already do on the farm
- Learn more about crops or animals, agriculture, machinery and farming operations
- Include the experience and training on your resume and add the certificate of completion to your portfolio.

What will I learn?

You will learn specialized skills in one of the specializations:

Greenhouse

- Employability and safety skills
- Complete Seasonal Maintenance
- Understand Basic Botany
- Establish and Maintain Proper Growing Conditions
- Prepare to Grow Plants
- Seed, Root and Transplant Propagation Material
- Identify Plant Problems
- Maintain Production Quality
- Market and Sell Product

Equine

- Employability and safety skills
- Production cycles
- Handling, behavior and anatomy
- Facilities and environment
- Maintain equine health
- Administer nutritional programs
- Business management practices

Field Crop, Irrigated Crops

- Employability and safety skills
- Fertilizing and seeding
- Harvesting, handling and storing grain and forage crops
- Land preparation, field and crop care
- Operating and servicing equipment and facilities
- Management systems

Cow-calf, Feedlot, Sheep, Swine, Dairy

- Employability and safety skills
- Processing and handling systems
- Feeding systems and rations
- Waste management and sanitation
- Health and treatment of livestock
- Reproduction
- Management systems

Beekeeping

- Employability and safety skills
- Handling bees
- Maintaining bee health
- Operating bee equipment
- Beekeeping business planning

Poultry

- Employability and safety skills
- Industry structure
- bird biology & animal welfare
- Handle birds & biosecurity
- Barn/facility systems
- Receive chicks and poults
- Raise broilers or turkeys
- Produce broiler hatching eggs or table eggs
- Prepare for ship out
- Clean and maintain facility

How does funding work?

- Effective September 1, 2017, new students enrolling in the Green Certificate Program will have their fee paid directly by Alberta Education.

What are the minimum student requirements?

- 15 years of age
- Enrolled in grades 10, 11 or 12

What do I have to do?

Trainee

- Attend an induction
- Develop a training plan with your trainer
- Train on all the skills in the book
- Search out additional resources with your trainer to complete all skills (workshops, other producers, agri-businesses)
- Perform an on-farm test of skill competencies
- Communicate regularly with your school representative on your progress
- Attend regional training days when offered by your regional coordinator
- Attend the certification test at a regional test center when scheduled
- Turn in the test report forms to your school representative to receive your credits
- If incomplete, develop a further training plan with your trainer

Trainers/Parents

- Attend an induction
- Provide a work site with conditions that support the trainee's learning
- Develop a training plan with your trainee
- Mentor trainee on all skills
- Use the workbook as a training guide to develop best management practices
- Encourage and support finding additional resources
- Administer an on-farm test with the trainee, signing off on the skill profile sheet, where competency has been achieved
- Support the trainee's attendance at a regional certification tests
- Communicate with the school representative on the trainee's progress



How long does it take to complete the Green Certificate Program?

- In general, it takes about one year to achieve completion. In one year, the trainee will experience all of the seasons on a farming operation. Trainees are allowed up to three years to complete their training, if needed.

How can I get more info?

Contact your Green Certificate Regional Coordinator or School Representative.