

# Ontario Agricultural College

## Associate Diploma in Agriculture



### ABOUT THE PROGRAM

The Associate Diploma in Agriculture (DAGR) combines practical experiences in agricultural production with the technical and scientific skills required to successfully operate a farm or work in agribusiness. You'll learn the science, technology, and business of agriculture, and can focus your studies in the areas of agribusiness, crops, livestock, or fruit and vegetable production. You'll gain insight into current industry issues and research solutions through classroom teaching and laboratory sessions. The DAGR is offered at the Ridgetown campus and will prepare you to manage farm operations, work in global agribusiness, finance agricultural innovation, advance new crop and livestock genetics, or work in advancing agriculture technology.

### WHY CO-OP?

As a co-op student, you will gain firsthand work experience, build professional networks, and develop interpersonal skills that are essential for pursuing a career in agriculture. You will also get paid while earning your diploma. Guelph's co-op program is unique due to the exceptional level of support provided, including a co-op preparatory course, a personal connection with Co-op Coordinators to assist you during the employment process, and access to senior student mentors.

### COURSE SEQUENCING

In the DAGR co-op program, you will participate in one co-op work term in addition to four academic semesters throughout your two years at the University of Guelph.

YEAR	FALL	WINTER	SUMMER
ONE	Academic	Academic	Work
TWO	Academic	Academic	

### SAMPLE JOBS

Below are some examples of possible Agriculture co-op positions.

#### Equipment Operator and General Labour

The student will conduct safe operation of large machinery including but not limited to tractor, grain cart, stone picking and rolling equipment; inspection, maintenance and washing of equipment; grain elevator operation and maintenance; support the implementation of land improvement and environmental special projects; planting trees, conducting and recording soil samples.

## Grain Operations Intern

The student will provide support to Elevator facilities through the completion of various duties in the areas of crop inputs, grain operations, or a combination thereof. Day-to-day activities will include assisting the facility as needed to support the grain business; unloading inbound trucks and shipments of grain; performing routine grain sampling and grading (i.e. dockage testing, moisture testing); assisting with data entry and paperwork as required; assisting in maintaining a strong Sanitation Program; other duties as directed by Management and working collaboratively with facility employees to ensure the smooth operation of the facility.

## Field Research Assistant

Students will assist with summer applied research and demonstration projects focused on production practices such as soil health, weed control, pest management, and fertility. Field work could include field scouting, crop identification, identification and monitoring of insects, weeds and crop diseases, soil and plant sampling, and other data collection. Students are responsible for recording agronomic and pest data and other pertinent information from research plots, survey sites and trap locations; developing and maintaining databases for plot and pest information; assisting staff to gather existing literature and conduct new literature reviews and develop written reports and presentation materials on key initiatives.

## Artificial Insemination Technician

Students will provide artificial insemination service (A.I.) and sell farm and agri-products; promote current/new products and services to established and potential clients; offer consulting service to breeders answering questions related to reproduction, and participate in staff development opportunities, and staff/client meetings.

## SAMPLE EMPLOYERS\*

- Burnbrae Farms Limited
- GROWMARK Inc.
- Ministry of Agriculture, Food & Rural Affairs
- Parrish and Heimbecker
- Corteva Agriscience
- Agribrands Purina
- EastGen
- Sylvite

\*Sample co-op employer list only. Employers will vary depending on recruitment needs. During a job search, students are encouraged to be actively engaged and are also supported in establishing and maintaining their own personal contacts.

## SALARY INFORMATION

Students receive compensation from their employer for co-op work terms. The rate of pay will vary depending on a number of factors including the industry, the student's program of study and the student's previous work experiences. For your reference, a **Co-operative Education Salary Guide** is available on our website, which provides hourly rates (averages and ranges) for associate diploma programs.

## SKILLS & KNOWLEDGE ACQUIRED

Agriculture co-op students exhibit strengths in the following key areas, developed through the combination of educational, extra-curricular and work experiences:

- Skills-oriented approach to agricultural production systems
- Business management and computer skills
- Practical experience in agricultural production
- Technical and scientific information to successfully operate modern food production enterprises
- Abilities required for self-employed managers of production systems
- Technical and sales skills for agri-business firms, commodity boards, and other agencies related to the agri-food system