State-Approved (Chapter 74)
Program Overview

Agricultural Mechanics

Agricultural Mechanics involves maintaining and operating the large equipment used in today's modern farms.

What Students Learn & Do

Farming, also known as agriculture, is one of the largest sectors in the U.S. economy, and skilled mechanics are vital to keeping modern farms running. Agricultural mechanics programs are available at several Massachusetts Agricultural schools, offering hands-on experience working with a variety of farm equipment. Students learn about industry safety standards and develop transferable skills such as troubleshooting, collaboration and project management.

A wide range of techniques are used in this field. Students learn the fundamentals of woodworking, electrical systems and diagnostics, cold metalwork and welding technology, mechanical systems, concrete, gasoline and diesel engine principles, fuel systems, exhaust systems, and hydraulics.

Students in Agricultural Mechanics programs are required to meet the same high academic standards as peers in other high school programs. These standards are set by the State of Massachusetts. In addition, training in Agricultural Mechanics reinforces mathematics, physics, and engineering concepts.

Licenses & Certifications

Programs will prepare students to earn industry-recognized credentials, and typically students will be able to complete one or more before they graduate from high school. Examples:

- CPR/First Aid/AED training
- Outdoor Power Equipment Technician
- OSHA 10 hour - General, Construction

Options After High School

State-Approved (Chapter 74) programs provide precise training required for entry-level employment in this in-demand career field. Here are some possible Agricultural Mechanics career options.

High School Diploma

- Equipment Operator
- Parts Counter Person
- Small Engine Mechanic
- Entry Level Welder
- Entry Level Carpenter
- Tool Supplier (i.e. Snap-On)
- Livestock Hauler

Trade School or Associate Degree

- Construction Foreperson
- Crane Operator
- Advanced Welder
- HVAC Technician
- Commercial Truck Driver
- Maintenance and Service Tech

Bachelor's Degree (4 Years of College)

- Mechanical Engineer
- Maintenance Service Manager
- Electrical Engineer

Questions to Ask a Program You Are Considering

1. **What workplace experiences do you offer to students - at school, or with an employer?**
2. **What are some common next steps for graduates of this program and how do you support them to get there?**

Learn about differences between State-Approved (Chapter 74) and Local programs:
http://www.doe.mass.edu/ccte/cvte/cte-families/state-vs-local.html

Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education
Federation for Children with Special Needs