Tips for getting accepted
Where to find housing
How to find scholarships

CANADA'S BEST AG PROGRAMS
(which one is best for you?)

PLUS: Side-by-side listings of agricultural colleges and programs
Getting started in agriculture?

Let’s talk

No matter what stage you’re at in your career, we’re ready to help. Customized loans, agriculture software, farm management training, specialized publications and support for ag clubs and colleges – if you think building the future for tomorrow’s producers is important, let’s talk.

To learn how we’re helping young farmers, visit fcc.ca/YoungFarmer.
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FARMING A GROWING INDUSTRY

By Michael Raine | Managing Editor

Considering an agricultural education? If you come from a farm, you probably have an idea of the opportunities that exist in your community. However, the careers related to farming stretch well beyond even a Prairie horizon.

More and more, people entering post-secondary agricultural programs don’t have farm backgrounds. Once considered a way for farm boys and girls to stay connected to a rural life or prepare them to take over a family farm someday, food and agriculture has always offered opportunities, but many flew under the radar of those seeking a career straight out of high school.

The need for technicians and farm labourers to power the industry has grown over the past two decades, as farm consolidations have resulted in fewer farmers operating ever-larger farms.

The technology incorporated into machinery has been refined, but has also become more complex in the process. Technicians were once mechanics. Now, having the knowledge and the skill to repair farm machinery are only some of the duties that work entails. Understanding the electronics that run GPS and logic circuits are as important as replacing a broken shaft or worn part.

Livestock breeding programs often require technicians to have a sound understanding of genetics and basic veterinary practices. And veterinarians are expected to provide whole-farm animal health programs that include plans for feed efficiency and disease avoidance, rather than responding to individual cases of animal illness. Veterinarians’ work spans the space between the functional science of primary practice and food inspection to the region where super-speed electrons are passed through animal tissue to discover answers that were once only theoretical.

The demand for certified professionals to provide advice and information for primary producers remains strong, as private industry fills some of the gaps left by existing public institutions.

The extension research that provides farmers with tools and choices to improve their operations is done by yet more people with agricultural training. Those jobs bridge the fields of scientific research and practice, and practitioners often say they are among the most rewarding in agriculture, as their work translates directly into farm profitability, improved environmental conditions and increased food production for a hungry planet.

Plant breeders and livestock researchers with specialties in chemistry and biology now rely heavily on skills in genetics. And genomics specialists rely on researchers working on the fundamentals of bioengineering.

Agricultural engineers develop more than just the ways to couple power to wheels, feeding, seeding and threshing components. Today’s machines are increasingly tied to highly-refined agronomic practices.

Farms can’t make use of great science, tools and staff without sound business management skills. Producers and industry require the best in financial planning abilities. And people with those skills rely on the work of agricultural economists to guide them.

Agriculture and food production and the information that fuels it is now global. Opportunities for those with training in agriculture stretch from the farmyard to the boardroom and around the world.
Done with high school and unsure about your next step? We asked ag colleges across Canada to tell us about themselves and why you should choose them.
The UBC Faculty of Land and Food Systems aims to educate new generations of scientists to solve the most fundamental issues faced by society: human health, a sustainable food supply and the responsible use of finite land and water resources.

The Food and Resource Economics group uses economic analysis to examine applied problems in the areas of food markets and the economics of renewable resources and the environment.

UBC established the Animal Welfare Program in 1997 to improve the welfare and humane care of animals in agriculture, research, companionship and other areas, and to help build consensus on the broader ethical questions surrounding the use of animals.

The B.Sc. in Applied Biology major integrates diverse topics in soil-water-plant-atmosphere systems with a focus on the science underpinning crop production and ecosystem management. It allows students to tailor their experience towards a major area of interest while focusing on global and local environmental issues.

The University of Lethbridge has a wide variety of agricultural programs including livestock — primarily cattle — hogs and poultry, grains, oilseeds, pulses and numerous specialty crops. In this setting, aspiring agriculturalists learn about the physical and economic inter-relations between agricultural production, marketing, trade and nutrient management, water, grazing, rangeland and riparian management.

Students can achieve a Bachelor of Arts or a Bachelor of Science in Agricultural Studies, or a multidisciplinary major in Agricultural Studies offered by the Departments of Biological Sciences, Economics, and Geography. With an approved agricultural diploma, a student can transfer into the BA or B.Sc. Agricultural Studies Post-Diploma program at the University of Lethbridge. Both of these programs require students to participate in a Technical Studies Semester at Olds College or an approved equivalent program in order to develop technical and practical skills.

Students in the BA programs select courses in agricultural economics, rural sociology, economic geography, development, public policy and administration, and environmental issues. There is an optional concentration in agricultural business.

Students in the B.Sc. programs select courses in animal and plant physiology, genetics, ecology, microbiology, and biotechnology, or courses in weather and climate, soils, environmental resource management, irrigation, and global information systems. Other options are a concentration in Agricultural Business or Geographical Information Science.
Red Deer College offers a **Heavy Equipment Technician Training Program** and a first year Bachelor's of Science Agriculture or Agriculture Food Business Management program.

The remaining three years of the B.Sc. Agriculture program can be completed at the University of Alberta or Lethbridge. The **Agriculture Food Business Management Program** can be done at the U of A.

The Heavy Equipment Technician program develops skills for those who enjoy precise work, problem-solving and working with their hands. Students train to maintain, repair and overhaul heavy vehicles, industrial heavy equipment and commercial transport devices. It is a four-year program with a minimum of 1,500 hours of yearly on-the-job training, plus eight weeks of studies at RDC each year.

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**STANDBOUT PROGRAMS**

**RED DEER COLLEGE**

*Campus location: Red Deer, Alta.*  
*Minimum entering grade: Completed 30 levels*  
*Tuition: $997 - 4,199*  
*Application opened for fall 2016: Oct. 1, 2015*  
*Website: [www.rdc.ab.ca](http://www.rdc.ab.ca)*

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**LAKELAND COLLEGE**

*Campus location: Vermilion, Alta.*  
*Minimum entering grade: dependent on program*  
*Tuition: $5,000 - $7,900 depending on program*  
*Application deadline: first qualified, first accepted*  
*Website: [www.lakelandcollege.ca](http://www.lakelandcollege.ca)*

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*Application deadline: first qualified, first accepted*  
*Website: [www.lakelandcollege.ca](http://www.lakelandcollege.ca)*
UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY COLLEGE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE

Campus location: Calgary, Alta., and others
Minimum entering grade: Four semesters with a GPA of 3, with specific course requirements as a prerequisite; a resident of Alberta.
Tuition: $5,432
Website: www.vet.ucalgary.ca

The University of Calgary’s Faculty of Veterinary Medicine is the first veterinary college in Alberta. Fully funded by the province, UCVM is dedicated to meeting the animal and public health needs of Alberta through its education, research and outreach programs.

The veterinary medicine program has four areas of emphasis beyond general veterinary medical practice studies.

Production animal health
- Population and individual animal health of all food and other production animal species; educating veterinarians to meet the needs of the livestock industry and rural Alberta.

Equine health
- Population and individual veterinary care of horses; educating veterinarians to meet the needs of the horse industry, horse owners, and rural Alberta.

Investigative medicine
- Comparative medicine and biomedical research; encouraging students to pursue careers advancing animal and human health through research (basic, clinical, applied, or population health)

The DVM program includes nine semesters of instruction. The first three years each have two semesters and follow the University academic calendar. The fourth year is the equivalent of three semesters – 40 weeks of rotation experiences, plus two weeks for assessment, delivered over a full calendar year, May-April.

Through the Distributed Veterinary Learning Community, students will gain hands-on clinical, diagnostic and professional experience in the fourth year of the program. The DVLC is comprised of private and public practices, non-government organizations, federal and provincial agencies and other animal industry partners who work with UCVM faculty.

The DVM curriculum provides a balance of opportunities for students to learn comparative medicine and acquire discipline-based knowledge, to acquire and practice clinical and professional skills, and to develop diagnostic reasoning ability during the first three years.

Early exposure to clinical material at the individual animal and population levels is provided in the Clinical Presentations courses, which integrate basic, pre-clinical, clinical and population health material.

STANDBOUTH PROGRAMS

UCVM is committed to strengthening the connections between human and animal medicine, a concept known as One Health through a collaboration with the University of Calgary’s Faculty of Medicine.

Post-graduate studies in the health and welfare of animals and humans are offered, with doctoral training in veterinary sciences to veterinarians after obtaining their DVM degrees with full scholarship support of $45,000 per year for four years.
Choosing a career in Agriculture will open doors. Working with The Rack will walk you through them.

www.therackonline.com
The Faculty of Agricultural, Life & Environmental Sciences (ALES) is an applied science faculty that draws on the social sciences, business and the arts and humanities to provide solutions to issues such as global food safety and security, the environment, bioresource development, and individual and community health and well-being.

**B.Sc. in Agriculture**, students choose one of four available majors: Agriculture Resource Economics; Animal Science; Crop Science; Sustainable Agriculture Systems.

**B.Sc. in Agricultural/Food Business Management**, students choose one of two available majors: Agricultural Business Management; Food Business Management

**B.Sc. in Nutrition and Food Science** offers General, Specialization, and Honors programs.

**B.Sc. in Animal Health**, students choose one of three majors: Companion and Performance Animals; Food Animals; Food Safety and Quality.

There are six departments within ALES:

**Agricultural, Food and Nutritional Science**
This department is the first of its kind in North America, integrating many disciplines to meet growing demands for safe and nutritious foods; bioproducts; and healthy human environments. Students practice cutting-edge research to improve the health and quality of life, from primary production and biotechnology in plant and animal sciences, to innovative food and agrifood products, and nutrition and wellness.

**Human Ecology**
This interdisciplinary applied field uses a holistic systems approach to focus on the dynamic relationships people have with their environments: clothing, family, home and community.

**Renewable Resources**
This department looks at natural and managed ecosystems with a focus on the management of natural resources based on understanding the integration of landscape elements and the biota people share with the planet. This critical field of study relies on the contributions of students and staff to understanding interacting ecological systems ranging from soil pedons to watersheds.

**Resource Economics and Environmental Sociology**
Students delve into socio-economic research and teaching with a focus on agriculture, forestry and the environment. Students are involved in cutting-edge research on the socio-economic aspects of managing natural resources.

**Alberta School of Forest Science and Management**
The department is the integration of ecological, economic and social forestry research and education and builds and supports effective local, provincial, national and international partnerships.

**Related facilities**

**Agri-Food Discovery Place**: world-class bio-product processing facility dedicated to

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**STANDOUT PROGRAMS**

- ALES’ canola breeding program received $1.6 million in funding from Viterra (now called Crop Production Services) to create canola hybrids that have better yields, improved agronomic traits and better resistance to disease.

- Other partnerships include Alberta Livestock and Meat Agency, Alberta Crop Industries Development Fund, and Alberta Innovates Bio Solutions.
applied research activities in the areas of food safety, ag-industrial technologies, functional food, and natural health products.

The Edmonton Research Station spans 600 acres and houses some of the best agricultural research and teaching facilities in North America for animal metabolism, crops, dairy, poultry and swine in addition to Agri-Food Discovery Place.

The Breton Plots are one of few long-term soil study projects in the world and contain valuable information about how management practices affect soils and crops. Research conducted here over the past 78 years has led to significant economic impact through improved crop production.

The Devonian Botanic Garden features 80 acres of display gardens and 100 acres of natural areas and ecological preserves. It offers a variety of educational courses in horticulture, design, arts and personal wellness for adults and children. The garden also provides key research in biodiversity, ecology and conservation of rare species, wetlands and ecosystems restoration.

Established in 1960, the Roy Berg (Kinsella) Research Ranch is a 12,000-acre beef cattle breeding facility located 150 km southeast of Edmonton. It houses 650 cattle that support bovine genomic research. The ranch is also home to Precision Ranching Research, which studies the complexities of interactions between animals and the environment.

The Mattheis Ranch is located near Duchess, 150 km east of Calgary. Sitting on 12,000 acres, it has a diversity of ecosystems and habitats, a rich variety of plant life, different riparian areas and several wetlands. The Mattheis Ranch is named after Edwin and Ruth Mattheis who generously donated their land to the university to broaden knowledge of rangeland ecology and management. The Mattheis Ranch supports the work of the University of Alberta Rangeland Research Institute.
At the University of Saskatchewan's College of Agriculture and Bioresources, certificate, diploma, undergraduate and post-graduate degree training is available in a wide range of specializations. Student experience is enhanced by offering teaching and scholarship in a research-rich environment.

Programs are focused in four theme areas: plants and animals; food, feed and bioproducts; environment and ecology; and business and applied economics.

Plants and Animals is about the sustainable management, production, and genetic improvement of agricultural and domesticated plants and animals. Both diploma and bachelor programs are offered in agronomy. BSA degrees are offered in a wide variety of agricultural disciplines.

The use of renewable resources to provide safe and accessible food, sustainable sources of nutrients, pharmaceuticals and fuels is the focus of the food, feed and bioproducts study area.

Environment and ecology offer a variety of BSA degree options, including a couple B.Sc choices in Resource Science and Economics and Policy. Protecting renewable resources and the environment through responsible management and conservation of the world’s soil, water and ecosystems is the focus of the department.

The management, entrepreneurship, policy and economics relating to agricultural and bioresources area of study offers a diploma as well as a B.Sc in agribusiness. Agricultural economics, resource economics and food and bioproduct entrepreneurship are also offered as BSA courses.

There are five departments at the U of S: Animal and Poultry Science; Bioresource Policy, Business Economics; Plant Science; Soil Science; and Food and Bioproducts Sciences. AgBio students in Animal and Poultry Science have a unique advantage in their studies with easy access to dairy, poultry, sheep, fish and metabolic teaching facilities located on-campus close to the state-of-the-art agriculture building.

The department has extensive, high-quality applied and basic research programs covering a wide range of topics in animal science and related areas, and maintains an excellent relationship with industry. The Department of Bioresource Policy, Business & Economics offers three graduate programs beyond its undergraduate programs.

Its research and teaching activities sit at the nexus of applied economics, business and policy analysis for the agriculture, food and resource sectors. Recent and ongoing research encompasses areas such as innovation (biotechnology, plant breeders’ rights, bioproducts), rural communities, resources & the envi-

**STANDOUT PROGRAMS**

- The Crop Development Centre is a centre of excellence field crop breeding organization that is fully integrated within the department.

- The department, along with the CDC, provides a unique experience to students by offering undergraduate and graduate level studies in agronomy, crop science, horticultural science, plant ecology or rangeland studies in one department.
Our programs are focused in 4 theme areas:

- Plants and Animals
- Food, Feed and Bioproducts
- Environment and Ecology
- Business and Applied Economics

The College of Agriculture and Bioresources offers undergraduate, post-graduate, diploma and degree options in a wide range of specializations:

- Bachelor of Science in Agriculture, in Agribusiness in Renewable Resource Management and in Animal Bioscience, as well as Diplomas in Agribusiness and Agronomy. A Certificate Program in Indigenous Peoples Resource Management is also offered.

Our programs are focused in 4 theme areas:

- Plants and Animals
- Food, Feed and Bioproducts
- Environment and Ecology
- Business and Applied Economics

www.agbio.usask.ca
The Western College of Veterinary Medicine (WCVM) is the premier centre of veterinary education, research and clinical expertise in Western Canada.

Established in 1963, the WCVM serves as the regional veterinary college for Canada’s four western provinces and the northern territories.

As one of Canada’s five veterinary colleges, the WCVM is a key member of Canada’s veterinary, public health and food safety networks.

More than 450 veterinary and graduate students are enrolled at the internationally recognized veterinary college that includes a veterinary medical centre, a provincial diagnostic laboratory for veterinary medicine and large-scale research facilities.

Most large animal practitioners in Western Canada are graduates of WCVM, internationally recognized for the quality and depth of its four-year Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM) program. Students gain hands-on experience in food animal health through elective courses, clinical rotations, externships and a summer research program.

The college’s Production Animal Club brings together students who are interested in cattle, swine, poultry and specialized livestock for wet labs, monthly rounds, field trips and seminars.

In addition, WCVM offers combined Master of Veterinary Science and clinical residency programs in theriogenology, internal medicine, surgery and field service — specialized disciplines in which residents can focus on food animal health.

Graduate students come from around the world to conduct specialized research in areas such as reproduction, genetics, infectious diseases, zoonoses, epidemiology, diagnostic pathology and herd health.

The DVM program is a non-direct entry program. Applicants require 60 credit units of pre-veterinary courses (at least two years) from an accredited university. For more information, visit usask.ca/wcvm/admissions/documents/vetmed-brochure.pdf.

Whether it’s through large-scale field studies, laboratory-based research or clinical case studies, WCVM scientists work with researchers on campus and across Canada to find practical solutions to issues facing Western Canada’s livestock industry.

Their efforts have led to new therapies and diagnostic tools, along with better management strategies for food animal health care.

The college maintains a beef cattle herd as well as bison, elk,

**STANDOUT PROGRAMS**

**The Veterinary Medical Centre (VMC)** is responsible for more than 12,500 large and small animal cases per year. In addition, its field service annually cares for another 30,000 animals in rural Saskatchewan. Students gain practical, real-life experience with common disorders and routine procedures and opportunities to be involved in challenging cases involving a diverse variety of species before they enter practice.

Veterinary students take part in clubs that focus on a variety of topics including health care for individual animal species (for example, the Production Animal Club and the Equine Club) and global veterinary medicine. Other volunteer organizations for WCVM students include Global Vets, Veterinarians Without Borders/Vétérinaires sans frontières, SCI-FI VetMed Camps, Saskatoon’s Pets in the Park and Canadian Veterinary Reserve.
and deer for research projects at the WCVM Goodale Research Farm.
In addition, WCVM scientists also work closely with producers, veterinarians and other research centres to carry out valuable field studies involving hundreds of animals throughout the region.

QUICK FACTS:

- Undergraduates: 320 DVM students (four class years)
- Graduate students: 155 graduate students (MVetSc, MSc, PhD, MPH), clinical interns and postdoctoral fellows
- International students: 84 international graduate students (DVM program only accepts students who are from Western Canada or northern Canada).
- Faculty to student ratio: 1 to 4
- Co-op programs available: No. Externships (non-paid) are available in the fourth year of the DVM program.
- Housing options: Visit explore.usask.ca for more information about on campus residences and housing.
- Financing options: WCVM doesn’t administer financial assistance programs. For more information, prospective students can contact the student financial aid branches of their respective provincial departments of education.
- Entrance scholarships: Yes

FAMOUS GRADS & OTHER NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS

- Dr. Stephen Acres (WCVM ’70): developed first vaccine to combat the most common form of calf enteritis. During his research career at Vaccine and Infectious Disease Organization (VIDO), he also participated in the development of several other conventional and recombinant DNA vaccines to prevent pneumonias in cattle and swine.
- Dr. Hugh Townsend (WCVM ’73) is best known for his pioneering work in the treatment of equine influenza. His research team was also the first to challenge the efficacy of existing equine influenza vaccines, and their findings led to major improvements in equine vaccine development around the world. In addition, Townsend was part of an international team of collaborators that researched, challenged and developed the first modified-live virus, intranasal equine influenza vaccine.
- Dr. Cheryl Waldner (WCVM ’88) is a prolific researcher who was the principal investigator for the six-year, multi-million-dollar Western Canadian Beef Productivity Study that involved 33,000 cows in more than 200 herds across Western Canada. The research team’s task was to investigate the impact of exposure to oil and gas emissions on the reproductive performance of cattle and calf survival. During her career, Waldner has helped to attract more than $13 million in research funding to the U of S — $8.6 million of which was granted to projects led by her as a principal investigator.
UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA

Campus location: Winnipeg, Man.  
Tuition: $4,000  
Minimum grades required: 85% in critical classes, 60% overall. GPA of 2.  
Application deadline: May 1, 2015  
Website: www.umanitoba.ca

Since its inception in 1906, the Faculty of Agricultural and Food Sciences has been a leader in the agrifood industry in Manitoba. The standard of excellence it has attained in its teaching and research programs is recognized across Canada and around the world.

The Faculty of Agricultural and Food Sciences has earned a reputation for its high-calibre teaching programs and its friendly, helpful staff. Students benefit not only from the expertise of staff in the Faculty, but also from the close proximity of other faculties on campus, federal research facilities, and a vibrant Winnipeg-based agricultural community.

Diploma in Agriculture: practical, hands-on education in business management, crop management, livestock management or general agriculture.

B.Sc. Agribusiness: the study of the business and economics of food, with a focus on agribusiness, agricultural economics, or international agribusiness.

B.Sc. Agriculture has three areas of specialization:
Animal Systems: the study of animal production including genetics, anatomy, physiology, nutrition, health and reproduction.

Agronomy: the study of crop production, soil management and water resources.

Plant Biotechnology: an education in the sciences and advanced biotechnologies applied to the improvement, protection and uses of agricultural and horticultural crops.

Other programs
B.Sc. Agroecology: the study of managed ecosystems and how to achieve economically and environmentally sustainable agricultural production.

B.Sc. Food Science: explores how raw commodities are processed into healthy, safe and appealing foods, with a focus on either business or science.

B.Sc. Human Nutritional Sciences: promoting human health through food, nutrition and healthy eating for individuals and communities.

Post-graduate programs
Masters and Ph.D. programs are offered by seven departments and include the Interna-

STANDBOARD PROGRAMS

The T.K. Cheung Centre for Animal Science Research is used extensively for teaching and training of undergraduate and graduate students and for visiting scientists. The modern and flexible facilities are used to facilitate laboratory classes, individual training programs, and institutional animal care training programs. Additionally, it is used to facilitate the extension and outreach activities of the Department of Animal Science and the Faculty of Agricultural and Food Sciences. Students from local and visiting elementary and high schools visit the centre to gain an appreciation of how animals are raised to provide food for humans.

The Ian N. Morrison Field Research Farm, Carman and Region Facility, located at Carman, 70 km southwest of Winnipeg, is home to the faculty’s off-campus field crop research. This 320 acre site features a $1.5 million building that houses a wet lab, seed lab and cleaning equipment; computer facilities; and classrooms for teaching and extension programs. A full line of small plot field research equipment is available at the site. One full-time technician is based at the farm. A branch office of Manitoba Agriculture, Food and Rural Initiatives is located in Carman. This provides an excellent opportunity for U of M faculty and provincial extension specialists to work together.
tionally Educated Agrologists Post-Baccalaureate Diploma Program and the Co-operative Education Program.

Pre-Veterinary Studies: the faculty offers a two-year pre-veterinary program to prepare Manitoba students for study at the Western College of Veterinary Medicine, located in Saskatoon.

U of M Centres
The Richardson Centre for Functional Foods and Nutraceuticals is in the midst of exciting and ongoing research. Located in Smartpark Research and Technology Park, University of Manitoba, the Centre is dedicated to the discussion, discovery, and development of functional foods and nutraceuticals with a focus on the crops of the Canadian Prairies.

The National Centre for Livestock and the Environment is a University of Manitoba-based research community that engages in multi-disciplinary, multi-agency research partnerships to further the long term economic and environmental sustainability of integrated livestock and crop production systems. NCLE draws on the extensive, diverse expertise of the NCLE research team, state-of-the-art facilities and equipment, and multiple research locations.

The Canadian Wheat Board Centre for Grain Storage Research is a 1,340 square metre, state-of-the-art facility commissioned for the purpose of doing research into all aspects of grain storing, drying, handling and quality monitoring under one roof. Activities within the building consist of integrated research studies into grain storage and handling with an aim to preserve stored grain in Canada and around the world.
ACC's two-year agribusiness program combines agriculture, technology and business for an in-depth education in one of Canada's largest industries. It involves hands-on learning through labs, field trips and projects in a student-focused atmosphere with small classes and experienced faculty.

The program develops skills in agronomy, GIS/GPS and computer applications, livestock production, communications, customer service, sales and marketing, and business management. Problem-solving skills are developed by creating agrimarketing strategies and dynamic presentations.

Studies are not just centred around the classroom. There's plenty of field work outdoors, introducing the key features of the prairie agro-ecological landscape. This includes tours of crop and livestock operations, land formations and watersheds.

Work experience provides the opportunity to use academic knowledge in a practical employment setting as well as the benefit of extensive networking with employers and job search support.

After graduation students are eligible for membership in the Manitoba Institute of Agrologists, with the option to achieve certifications for the Pesticide Applicators/Dispenser license, and challenge the Certified Crop advisor exam.

An agricultural equipment technician is certified to service, repair, assemble and maintain any agricultural equipment and attachments used for farming operations. This includes equipment for harvesting, material handling and processing, spraying and irrigation, seeding, tillage and hay and forage.

Learn the science of horticultural production with hands-on greenhouse training and field production lab experience.

ACC's one-year Horticultural Production certificate program is designed to meet a growing need for trained personnel in the horticultural industry. Horticulture is a broad and diverse field of commercial enterprises that supply a variety of products and services, as well as a large portion of the diet and aesthetic enrichment of communities.

The course provides hands-on exposure to greenhouse and field production. The focus is on production horticulture (fruits and vegetables, greenhouse, nursery and ornamentals) with an emphasis on food safety and security, innovation and sustainability, as well as a strong applied research component.

Training, combined with cooperative work experience, results in grads with strong technical skills in production hor-
Why is ACC considered Manitoba’s agricultural college?

Spend a Day with us and find out. Get a more in-depth look at college life and learn more about our agriculture and environmental programs, including Agribusiness, Land and Water Management, Horticultural Production and Industry certification courses.

*Source: Survey of ACC graduates between June 2012 and July 2013 conducted by Probe Research Inc.

www.assiniboine.net/spendaday
UNIVERSITY OF THE FRASER VALLEY

Campus location: Chilliwack, B.C.
Minimum grade requirements: Variable, but Gr. 11 foundation classes; BBA GPA requirement 2.67.
Application deadline: Year-around applications
Tuition: $4,000 - $5,000
Website: www.ufv.ca

STANDOUT PROGRAMS

In addition to using local producers and agribusinesses for real world experience, UFV has greenhouse and barn facilities on the Chilliwack campus. Students spend part of their time, both in and out of class, working with plants or animals in those facilities. Students are responsible for producing greenhouse and nursery crops, and are also responsible for raising livestock as part of the course requirements. Students participate in a wide variety of local field trips to gain more experience. Local agricultural professionals regularly join with classes to give guest lectures on special topics, and many of these professionals hire the school’s graduates.

RED RIVER COLLEGE

Campus location: Winnipeg, Man.
Tuition: $3,755
Application deadlines: July 31
Website: www.rrc.ca

STANDOUT PROGRAMS

Credit transfer opportunities for Greenspace include University of Manitoba Prairie Horticulture Certificate Program and the Canadian Nursery Landscape Trades Association certification.

Animal Health Technologists play a vital role in the veterinary industry. They work under the supervision of veterinary practitioners to support the veterinarian in all aspects of practice.

As part of this program, students will participate in on- or off-campus labs where they will be handling animals species such as horses, cattle, swine, chickens, ferrets, rats, mice, dogs and cats.

Currently, only Manitoba residents are being accepted.

Greenspace Horticulture Diploma develops the knowledge and skills required to construct and manage landscaped areas such as parks, golf courses, athletic fields, botanical gardens and cemeteries.

The two year program integrates two six-month paid terms of employment with six terms of academic theory. Students visit greenspace sites and businesses, enhancing educational experience and future employment opportunities.

While in this program, learners will attend the Manitoba Golf Superintendents Association and the Landscape Manitoba annual conferences, and participate in numerous other field trips.

The lower mainland of British Columbia is well-known for its modern dairy and poultry farms, berry farms, ornamental nurseries and greenhouses and for its use of integrated pest management techniques.

UFV programs combine theory and principles with practical training in horticulture, integrated pest management and livestock production.

The Agriculture department offers a comprehensive one-year Livestock Production certificate and two-year Agriculture Technology diploma with an option in Livestock Production.

The BBA Agriculture Management offers students another level of study once they have completed their diploma options. It also keeps Fraser Valley farmers on their land while they further their education.

UFV is able to place students in a wide variety of work experience opportunities to gain even more practical skills.
**FLEMING COLLEGE**

Campus location: Lindsay, Ont.
Tuition: $5,256
Application deadlines: June 26 for fall session.
Website: www.flemingcollege.ca

**STANDOUT PROGRAMS**

Through a collaboration between Trent and Fleming, Trent University students enrolled in the Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems program (B.Sc. or BA Honours), can take Fleming College’s Sustainable Agriculture Co-op program and earn credit towards their degree while also earning their Ontario College Graduate Certificate. Students admitted to the program register as full-time Fleming students beginning in January, following the fall term of the last year of their Trent program.

The Sustainable Agriculture program is designed for new and beginner farmers seeking an intensive, applied learning experience in sustainable, ecological or natural farming methods. The 21-week, on-farm, co-op experience over the summer creates opportunities for specialization. Previous co-ops have included national and international farm locations as well as work with urban food advocacy groups and farmers. Throughout the Sustainable Agriculture program students will:

- Learn from experienced farmers and practitioners in class, on farm field days, and during panel discussions.
- Develop a business case and farm plan.
- Focus on the principles and practices of sustainable agriculture and small farm operations and viability.
- Enjoy small class size and a highly interactive learning environment.

Farming practices in the program are based on the principles of environmental stewardship, farmer profitability, social responsibility and community health.

**ALGONQUIN COLLEGE**

Campus location: Ottawa, Ont.
Tuition: $2,688
Minimum grades: 70% for degree programs; variable for college courses
Application deadline: June 30, 2015
Website: www.algonquincollege.com

**STANDOUT PROGRAMS**

Horticulture Industries diploma program delivered in a compressed format over 16 months incorporates key aspects of the evolving horticultural industries including sustainable urban agriculture, green roof and living wall technology, nursery production and management and urban and rural landscape design, installation and maintenance.

The Biotechnology – Advanced program provides students with a strong background in biotechnology in preparation for jobs in health care, pharmaceutical, agriculture, industrial and environmental sectors. This three-year Ontario College Advanced Diploma program provides learners with a strong background in the science that drives this expanding industry. Learners prepare themselves for this rapidly exploding field on the cutting edge of technology and science and explore breakthroughs in health care, pharmaceuticals, agriculture, industrial and environmental processes.

The Horticultural Industries two year program is designed for individuals who are interested in landscape design from conception to implementation. Students learn key aspects of the evolving horticultural industries including sustainable urban agriculture, green roof and living wall technology, nursery production and management and urban and rural landscape design, installation and maintenance.

This program prepares students to challenge sections or an entire Landscape Industry Certification Designation at the technician level as provided by the Landscape Ontario – Ottawa Chapter, depending on students’ interests and competencies.
The food industry is Ontario’s largest employer, with more than 150,000 employees. Many communities look for new solutions to feed their population. Whether students are interested in developing a new product for food companies; owning a farm or greenhouse; or operating a garden centre, they will gain career skills. The Food and Farming two-year program offers an opportunity to become familiar with food production.

Students focus on plant propagation; soil and plant nutrition; fruit and vegetable production under field, greenhouse, garden and container conditions; product development; food processing; food and agriculture regulations; disease and pest management; and business practices including product branding, entrepreneurship and marketing.

The course is offered at the Whitby campus, home of the college’s Centre for Food. Students will use the laboratories at the college’s Oshawa campus and participate in field trips through the year.

Field-to-fork is a concept based on the harvesting, storage, processing, packaging, sale and consumption of food – in particular the production of local food for local consumers. Durham College has adopted this concept and applied it to a diverse range of programs that crossover traditional academic schools with the curriculum, faculty expertise and equipment required to implement field to fork built into several of the college’s programs.

Select courses may be offered at any of Durham’s campuses and the new Centre for Food, the heart of the college’s field-to-fork vision. Development on the CFF, which opened in September 2013, is continually underway including extensive landscaping planning for the grounds surrounding the building. This includes plans for a future on-campus orchard, pollinator garden, greenhouse, demonstrator gardens, green roof, agricultural planting zone and arboretum.

Sustainable agriculture is about farms that can produce food sustainably, as well as humane working conditions, ethical treatment of animals, living wages, fair prices, profitable business models, conservation of biodiversity, resource stewardship, and healthy diets.

At Trent, students grow their own understanding of sustainable agriculture and food. Our Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems Program examines each of the links between farm and table, and their implications for people, the economy, and the planet. Students learn about the challenges and benefits of producing and distributing healthy, affordable food in sustainable ways, while preparing for a career in which they can really effect change.

The Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems Program offers two degree options: an Honours B.Sc. in Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems Science, and an Honours BA in Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems Studies.

The Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems Program, in collaboration with Fleming College, now offers a specialization in Applied Agriculture. This specialization is available to students in the B.Sc. or (Honours) program in Sustainable Agriculture & Food Systems (SAFS). Students admitted to the program register as full-time Fleming students in the Graduate Certificate in Sustainable Agriculture, beginning in January following the fall term of the last year of their SAFS program. Students who complete the three-semester graduate certificate with a minimum average of 70 percent will receive three SAFS elective credits towards their Trent Honours degree.
Horticulture technicians acquire specialized training in turf grass establishment and cultivation practices including monitoring turfgrass quality, plant health care, and Integrated Pest Management (IPM) techniques used in landscape construction (Scape Installation), and grounds and golf course maintenance operations, according to respective federal, provincial, and municipal legal requirements. Students will also:

- Learn water quality, plant water requirements and local conservation standards, water stewardship principles, basic irrigation systems.
- Learn basic scheduled, preventative and ongoing maintenance procedures for powered horticultural equipment.
- Acquire training in safe workplace practices including dealing with on-site conditions, emergencies and hazards. Students must register as apprentices in the horticulture technician trade program in Ontario.
UNIVERSITY OF GUELPH

Campus location: Guelph, Ont.
Minimum entering grade: Dependent on program
Tuition: $3,011 - $5,466 (undergraduate programs)
Application deadline: Jan. 14, 2015
Website: www.uoguelph.ca/oac

The University of Guelph is one of the country’s most research-intensive universities and has been ranked as one of Canada’s top comprehensive research institutions.

It offers diplomas in agriculture, horticulture, environment, turf grass and veterinary technology. Bachelor degrees in animal biology, animal science, equine management, organic agriculture, crop/horticulture, turfgrass sciences, plant science, food science, food and agricultural business, food/agriculture/resource economics, environmental management, environmental biology, and environmental economics and policy. It also offers certificate, graduate diploma, master’s degree and doctoral degree programs.

Favourite courses include: the crop science field trip, challenges and opportunities in animal production, agricultural communications, soil and weed science, beef and dairy nutrition, poverty, food and hunger, independent study courses, and equine anatomy, physiology and health.

The University of Guelph has access to 17 research stations across Ontario. Innovative research is continuously underway in a range of areas, including agroforestry, turfgrass, aquaculture, engineering, pest management, horticulture and animal, crop and veterinary science. As an example of its leadership in research and industry partnership, the Livestock Research and Innovation Centre - Dairy Facility in Elora, Ont., is a state-of-the-art world-class dairy research facility built to address the research, education and training needs and priorities of the Ontario and Canadian dairy sectors.

Student amenities

The Central Student Association represents all undergraduate students. At Guelph, students living in residence are represented on a variety of campus committees by Interhall Council. Interhall organizes social, cultural and educational events in residence.

At Guelph students enjoy a huge range of out of class opportunities. With more than 100 student-run clubs on campus, including those in the performing arts, media and service groups, you’ll be able to make a difference, learn something new and connect with others who share your passions. See www.uoguelph.ca/organizations.shtml#campus.

Notable achievements

In 2012, the University of Guelph was ranked by The Impact Group as Canada’s most inventive university, both in the number of inventions per faculty and in the number of inventions in proportion to research funding. It is consistently ranked as one of the top comprehensive universities in Canada by Maclean’s magazine, and the University Report

STANDOUT PROGRAMS

» Under a partnership agreement with the provincial agriculture department, U of G delivers research, education and laboratory services to further the long-term global competitiveness and sustainability of Ontario’s agriculture and food system through excellence in research and education. Between 2008 and 2013, 65 full time equivalent faculty positions were supported by the partnership, with 320 people working on projects.

» In keeping with the value that the University of Guelph places on highly qualified graduate students, the research initiatives supported by the OMAFRA-U of G Partnership offer the unique and innovative Highly Qualified Personnel scholarship program to help prepare students for increasingly complex and dynamic careers in agriculture and agrifood.
Pull ahead with Canada’s #1 agricultural university*

The Ontario Agricultural College of the University of Guelph offers certificates, diplomas, undergraduate degrees and graduate degrees in the areas of agriculture, animals, agribusiness, horticulture and food. Apply today!

www.uoguelph.ca/oac

*The University of Guelph is ranked the top Canadian university in the QS World University Rankings 2013/14 in the subject of Agriculture & Forestry.

Card by the Globe and Mail has ranked U Guelph No. 1 in Canada for campus food for the last seven years.

In the 2013 University Report Card, students also cited the quality of education, close interaction with faculty, the friendly, caring community and the beautiful campus as main reasons for attending this learner-centered institution. The University is known for its small class sizes, engaged instructors and professors, and its focus on experiential learning. It is a friendly, open and caring community that takes pride in the fact that its personal approach to learning benefits students in every academic discipline.

QUICK FACTS:

- Undergraduates: 1,728 students in degree programs, 661 students in diploma programs.
- Faculty to student ratio: 1:23
- Co-op programs available: Yes
- Housing options: On campus housing available for singles or couples/families. See www.housing.uoguelph.ca.

Off-campus housing listings are available at www.uoguelph.ca/och

- Financial support: Scholarships from $250 to $32,000 based on merit and need. For more information: www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/studentfinance/.

FAMOUS GRADS:

- Roberta Bondar (B.Sc. (Agr.) 1968) – First Canadian female astronaut and first neurologist in space. Following more than a decade as NASA’s head of space medicine, Bondar became a consultant and speaker.
- Grant McEwan (Diploma in 1923, BSA 1926) - Professor, University of Saskatchewan, Dean of Agriculture, University of Manitoba, 28th Mayor of Calgary, MLA and ninth Lt. Governor of Alberta.

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McGILL UNIVERSITY

Campus location: Ste. Anne de Bellevue, Que.
Minimum entering grade: 75%, but it is competitive.
Tuition: $1,647 – $8,071
Application deadline: Feb. 1, 2015 outside Quebec.
March 1 within Quebec
Website: www.mcgill.ca

The Macdonald Campus, which occupies 1,600 acres in a waterfront setting on the western tip of the island of Montreal, is home to the Faculty of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences and the School of Dietetics and Human Nutrition, as well as numerous research centres.

The campus is spread over 1,600 acres with research facilities, bike paths, an arboretum with walking and ski trails, a working farm, greenhouses and more.

A free intercampus shuttle and good public transit links means Montreal is just a 40-minute ride away.

Students can earn internationally recognized degrees at the undergraduate and graduate level in the fields of natural sciences, environment, agriculture, food, applied economics and engineering. A low student-to-teacher ratio means smaller classes and a collaborative atmosphere.

Hands-on learning is what its programs all are about. Many of the courses have field work — the Desert Ecology course occurs entirely in the field and has internships and field semesters in places like Africa, Barbados and Panama.

The dietetics program includes professional placements in hospitals, schools or places such as Health Canada in Ottawa; and if agriculture is where interests lie, students can do an internship on a working farm here, or abroad.

Departments / centres:

- **Agricultural Economics**: teaching and research in the application of economic theory and methods to problems in the global food system and the environment.
- **Animal Science**: teaching and research in modern animal agriculture and biology.
- **Bioresource Engineering**: teaching and research on engineering in the biological and environmental spheres, as well as agriculture.
- **Food Science and Agricultural Chemistry**: teaching and research is on chemistry, biochemistry, analysis, safety, and processing of food products.
- **Natural Resource Sciences**: teaching and research in natural and managed ecosystems for the purpose of conservation and optimal resource management.
- **Plant Science**: teaching and research in molecular and cellular plant biology, management of plant communities, and agricultural applications.
- **The School of Dietetics and Human Nutrition**: teaching and research on the improvement of human health during the entire life span by training future leaders in the role of macro- and micro nutrients in health and disease.
- **Research at the Institute of Parasitology** is centered around the main themes of pathogenesis/host defense mechanisms and the molecular basis of drug resistance/drug target discovery.

- The McGill School of Environment combines perspectives from the Faculties of Arts, Science, and Agricultural and Environmental Sciences. It bridges disciplines from the sciences and the arts to prepare its students as environmental professionals who think beyond traditional boundaries.
CABEF offers **six $2,500 scholarships** to Canadian students enrolling in agricultural or agri-business related programs.

**Deadline for applications: March 1, 2015**

*Apply at cabef.org*  
* @CABEFoundation

CABEF is a registered charity (#828593731RR0001). For more information on all registered charities in Canada under the Income Tax Act, please visit: Canada Revenue Agency, www.cra-arc.gc.ca/charities.
Located just outside Truro in Bible Hill, Nova Scotia, the Faculty of Agriculture is built on a proud history of industry-leading education and research. It is one hour from Halifax by car and only 40 minutes from the Halifax International Airport.

Dalhousie University and the Nova Scotia Agricultural College merged in 2012. The two schools have had a close academic relationship for many years. NSAC degrees were jointly awarded by Dalhousie and NSAC was represented on the Dalhousie Senate. As Dalhousie’s new Faculty of Agriculture, these and many ongoing research collaborations between faculty at both institutions will be built upon to benefit both communities.

**Academic programs**

At the Faculty of Agriculture, students can broaden their skill sets and ranges of thought to take their studies beyond a single academic concentration. They learn how business, economics and cultural studies intersect with applied science, agriculture and technology. Agriculture in today’s world is an interesting and challenging industry. Programs combine the core disciplines of agricultural sciences with business management and innovative technology.

Classes include lively discussions around current issues as well as hands-on learning in the classroom, the lab and the field, giving you practical experience and a competitive advantage heading into careers on a local, national and global scale.

Founded in 1905, Dalhousie’s Agricultural Campus has come of age and stands at the threshold of a new era in agricultural education, training and research. The campus is home to the Faculty of Agriculture, which provides agricultural based Technical, Technology, Bachelor and Masters level programs.

Students can choose a variety of specialties within the faculty including graduate work.

Recent improvements to the farm complex and research facilities now make it one of the most modern, best equipped university campuses in the Atlantic region.

Dalhousie’s Faculty of Agriculture conducts more than $10 million in research annually and partners with more than 100 companies, governments and organizations around the world, including Ethiopia, Saint Kitts, China, and India.

In addition to the modern and extensive laboratories, the Faculty of Agriculture has a number of research facilities unique to the Atlantic region, including a 250-hectare farm, extensive pasture, field and turf grass facilities, greenhouses, an experimental orchard, and a number of outly-
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ing research facilities and labs. As well, the Faculty of Agriculture library houses the largest repository of agricultural resource material in Atlantic Canada.

QUICK FACTS:

- Undergraduates: 900
- Graduate students: 65
- International students: 186

Undergraduate programs:

- Animal Science
- Agricultural Business
- Agricultural Economics
- Aquaculture
- Environmental Landscape Horticulture
- Environmental Sciences
- Integrated Environmental Management
- International Food Business
- Landscape Architecture
- Plant Science
- Pre-Veterinary Medicine

Diploma / technical programs:

- Business Management
- Engineering
- Managed Landscapes
- Plant Science
- Veterinary Technology
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>INSTITUTION NAME</th>
<th>AG PROGRAM, FACULTY OR COLLEGE</th>
<th>PRIMARY CAMPUS LOCATION</th>
<th>SEE PAGE</th>
<th>PROGRAM TYPE</th>
<th>ON-CAMPUS HOUSING?</th>
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<tr>
<td>University of British Columbia</td>
<td>Faculty of Land &amp; Food Systems</td>
<td>Vancouver, B.C.</td>
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<td>University of the Fraser Valley</td>
<td>Agriculture Centre of Excellence</td>
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<td>Ag Equipment Technician, Agribusiness</td>
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<td>diploma, apprenticeship certificate</td>
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<td>certificate</td>
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<td>School of Advanced Technology</td>
<td>Ottawa, Pembroke, Perth, Ont.</td>
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**PLEASE NOTE:** All institutions profiled in this publication were sent questionnaires and invited to send full detailed statistics, but some had not submitted any information by press time. In those cases, information has been obtained from the institution’s websites and is believed to be accurate but has not been verified. Please check with the faculty advisor to confirm program details. Tuition costs are for Canadian residents.
<table>
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<tr>
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SASKATCHEWAN POLYTECHNIC

Campus locations: Saskatoon, Moose Jaw, Regina, Prince Albert, Sask.
Minimum entering grades: Dependent on program, competitive ranking
Tuition: $9,000
Application deadline: Feb. 15, 2015

Saskatchewan Polytechnic serves 26,000 distinct students through applied learning opportunities at campuses in Moose Jaw, Prince Albert, Regina and Saskatoon, and through extensive distance education opportunities.

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Saskatchewan Polytechnic engages in applied research, drawing on faculty expertise to support innovation by employers, and providing students the opportunity to develop critical thinking skills.

STANDOUT PROGRAMS

» Agricultural Machinery Technicians diagnose, repair, modify, overhaul, service and maintain some of today’s most technologically advanced machines — tractors, combines, cultivators, seeders and sprayers. And skills are transferable to mining and construction equipment.

» Geographic Information Science for Resource Management is a one-year certificate program offered full time at Saskatchewan Polytechnic Prince Albert campus. Some courses are available through distance and/or continuing education.

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Now that you’ve chosen your program and know where you want to go, how do you make sure your application shines? How do you pay for school and a place to live? Read on to find out!
How can you increase your odds of getting the nod? Admissions experts give their best tips.

BY M. CAROLYN BLACK

Studying agriculture at a post-secondary school is no longer a sure thing. Students who want to study agriculture after high school are advised to apply early and get high marks in grades 11 and 12.

Crystal Jorgenson, a communications specialist with the University of Manitoba’s faculty of agriculture and food sciences, said the college used to be able to admit 100 percent of applicants.

However, interest in the program has increased.

“We currently accept a maximum of 85 students into the diploma program from all applications submitted, and have caps on some of our introductory degree courses due to classroom size restrictions,” she said.

“When there are more candidates than spaces available, the deciding factor is high school marks or (grade point average).”

Universities in other provinces, such as Ontario and Quebec, rely solely on a student’s grade point average when deciding admission.

Christopher Buddle, associate dean of McGill University’s faculty of agriculture and environmental sciences in Quebec, said involvement in a variety of activities is certainly important, but it all boils down to getting high marks.
Extracurricular activities are important for all sorts of reasons, don’t get me wrong, but in terms of applying to the program you have to have the (high school) qualifications necessary and you have to have the grades.

—CHRISTOPHER BUDDLE | MCGILL UNIVERSITY

“Extracurricular activities are important for all sorts of reasons, don’t get me wrong, but in terms of applying to the program you have to have the (high school) qualifications necessary and you have to have the grades.”

Universities and colleges advise high school students to make an appointment with their school’s guidance counsellor early in the year to make sure they are taking the courses they need for their chosen post-secondary program.

For example, diploma students in Manitoba should graduate with a minimum of five Grade 12 credits at the S, G or U level, which includes English 40S, mathematics (40S or 45S) and a science 40S. The minimum average for those three designated subjects is 60 percent.

The equivalent level of studies from other Canadian provinces or other countries will be accepted.

Manitoba students who apply directly from high school into a degree program must have five credits at the S, G or U level, with a minimum 85 percent combined average in English, Pre-Calculus Math 40S or Applied Mathematics 40S and one of Biology 40S, Chemistry 40S, Physics 40S or Computer Science 40S. Grades can’t be less than 60 percent in each area.

The U of M accepts a low number of out-of-province students — about five percent — and the University of Guelph’s Ontario Agricultural College has less than 100 out-of-province students among the nearly 2,400 who attend.

On the other hand, nearly 40 percent of McGill’s agricultural students are from outside Quebec. Almost 20 percent are from other provinces and the rest from the United States or overseas.

“We have a high number of students from all around Canada and (the ability to speak French is) not an issue,” Buddle said about the English-speaking university.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 45 »
Student loans are often part of the application process, shoring up income shortfalls and ensuring the university or college experience is accessible to all.

However, what if a student’s parents make too much money to qualify, at least on paper? Scholarships, bursaries and paid co-op programs at the post-secondary level can help defray mounting tuition, textbook and residence costs.

Scholarships are merit-based awards given to students with high grade-point averages or some other outstanding achievement, such as community involvement or proven leadership skills.

Information about the types of scholarships that are available can be found at high school guidance offices, but universities recommend going online to get information directly from their websites.

Some scholarships are granted automatically to students with a high grade-point average and can range from $500 to $5,000, depending on the GPA and the type of program selected. Students don’t need to apply for these entrance scholarships. They are granted in the fall once final grades have been reported from the previous school year.

Scholarships are also available specifically for agriculture students based on merit, although some combine academic scores with financial need as a secondary consideration. For example, if two equally performing students are eligible for a scholarship, it will go to the one with demonstrated financial need.

“The University of Guelph has an extremely generous scholarship program that recognizes academic achievements and supports students in their continuation of study,” said Stephanie Craig, communications manager at the University of Guelph’s Ontario Agricultural College.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE >>
Different types of awards are available at different times of year, so it is important to be constantly monitoring university awards pages. Entrance scholarships have the earliest deadlines, usually, so that is something for new students to keep in mind.

CRYSTAL JORGENSON | UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA

“Here in OAC, we are also very lucky to have the generous support of loyal alumni, donors and industry partners resulting in more than 350 OAC specific awards given out annually to OAC diploma, undergraduate and graduate students. These awards are only available to OAC students and total more than $650,000.”

The U of G also has generous bursary programs. In 2013-2014, Guelph's need-based aid totalled more than $8.5 million with 4,400 bursaries distributed last year.

Quebec’s McGill University also offers entrance and need-based awards, and many of them are agricultural based.

“Many of those are general across McGill, but within our faculty we have many, many scholarships for ag course students that might be specific to where they’re from: rural Quebec or some other place in Canada,” said Christopher Buddle, associate dean of McGill’s faculty of agriculture and environmental sciences.

“They can get a credit for that work as well as the opportunity to get work experience related to their field,” Buddle said.

“If no government loan has been applied for, students can also declare their financial need in an application to the University of Manitoba’s financial aid and awards department. The key thing to remember is that some awards are actually need-based, rather than strictly achievement-based, so it is always a good idea for prospective students to do their research and to apply for anything and everything they might be eligible for.”

Students who need to work during the school year to generate income might take a paid summer internship or opt to take a slightly reduced course load during the year but make it up with a short summer course or stay for an extra semester at the end of their program.

“The U of G has very generous work experience programs. In 2013-2014, Guelph had over 350 OAC specific awards given out annually to OAC diploma, undergraduate and graduate students. These awards are only available to OAC students and total more than $650,000.”

Jorgenson said students who have applied for provincial student loans have already had their financial needs verified by the government, and that need is taken into account when bursaries are handed out.

“The University of Manitoba offers a co-operative education program available to diploma and degree students. Students perform paid work for employers and receive credit hours for those work terms. Some government positions are funded only as co-operative positions (Federal Student Work Experience Program).

“Ironically, Jorgenson said the university’s co-operative education program is under-subscribed because agricultural students are in such high demand by employers for summer and permanent positions.

McGill doesn’t have an official co-op program, but it does have internships that are often done over the summer so that students can find work through the campus office that relates to their academic program.

“Their program is different from a co-op that is a formal part of an academic program; it’s more of a value-added component. The internships are credited and show up on a student’s transcript and most of them are paid internships as well.”

Co-op programs are available at the OAC in the Bachelor of Commerce-Food and Agricultural Business, Bachelor of Science - Food Science and Bachelor of Science in Environmental Science programs.

For more information on scholarships, bursaries, co-ops and internships, visit the website of the university or college you’re interested in. A FAQ section is usually available and an email address is provided to reach someone who can answer other questions.
Kate Creutzinger didn’t always know the University of Saskatchewan existed, but now she is living in Saskatoon as she earns her masters of science degree at the Western College of Veterinary Medicine.

Creutzinger decided to move to Canada from Ohio to work with Joe Stookey, a professor in animal behaviour at the U of S.

“I had already known about my adviser (Stookey) from his research and so when I found out I would be working with him, I was immediately excited,” said Creutzinger.

She is working on using hair cortisol in beef cattle as a way to measure chronic stress.

“I had really been looking at Canadian universities because Canada leads the U.S. in behaviour. The U.S. really isn’t that interested in it,” she said.

“So I figured if this is what I want to do and Canada is leading in it then I should come here.”

Creutzinger said moving away from home for grad school wasn’t a foreign concept for her family.

Her older sister moved to South America to teach English five years ago and ended up staying there.

“So when I told my family I was going to Canada for grad school, their immediate response was, ‘that’s fine, but you have to come back at the end of two years,’ ” said Creutzinger.

She said she has enjoyed her time at the U of S. The city gives her a lot of opportunities to get out and explore, she added.

Mary Buhr, dean and professor at the agriculture college, said Creutzinger is one of the few international students from the United States.

“The university doesn’t have a lot of international undergraduate students, but 50 percent of the graduate students are from other countries.”

Buhr said there are three reasons why the agriculture college is making efforts to bring in more international students:

• The industry need graduates and bringing in international students can help fill the need.
• It is beneficial for Canadian students to interact with international students and receive a broader picture of the world.
• Students who return to their home countries are useful commercial and academic connections for the university.

Buhr said the university is working closely with several universities in China to bring in students.

India and Mongolia are also on the top of the list in getting more students.

She said the college is particularly looking for students in its food and bio-product area for two reasons.

“One being that it is a program that is under-subscribed by Canadian students and the other reason is it’s a very popular area in international circles.”
THE HUNT FOR [AFFORDABLE] STUDENT HOUSING

Almost all post-secondary students will have to deal with housing at some point in their schooling. It can be stressful, costly and sometimes a nightmare. It can also play a significant role in where students end up going to school. Here’s how four major Canadian agricultural schools handle the issue. | BY TARYN RIMER

UNIVERSITY OF GUELPH

The Ontario university can house slightly less than 5,000 students.
Prices for both semesters range from $6,600 to $7,800.
The more traditional dorm style single room is less expensive and townhouses will cost more.
Students can also have the option of living off campus. They find this information on the university website in the Off Campus Living section.
A meal plan is mandatory for students who live in the dorm-style residence without a kitchen. They offer a range of options to accommodate a person who eats light and students such as athletes who need to eat a lot.
Guelph has a significant agriculture tradition, which admissions officer Chris Boyadjian said is a big draw for students.
“If they come from an agricultural background, the chances are, in this area, anyway, that somebody in their family went to the University of Guelph, granddad or dad. That’s one of the main motivators,” said Boyadjian.
Guelph also offers academic clusters, which means students who choose to be in the agriculture cluster can live in the part of residence where other agriculture students also live.
A programming counsellor, who is an upper year student, would provide extra curricular programming that is related to their major.

OLDS COLLEGE

This college in Olds, Alta., also has a strong agriculture background.
Olds can house 560 students, but that will expand to 610 next year when Centennial Village is completed.
The college has two options for students looking to stay on campus: Frank Grisdale Hall or townhouses.
Prices range from $2,524.50 for an eight month term in a double room in Frank Grisdale Hall to $4,862 for eight months in a town house.
Students looking for off-campus options can look at the listings found on the college’s website.
Students living in Frank Grisdale Hall must be on a meal plan, either a five day a week or a seven day a week option.
Kerry Moynihan, director of guest experience, said the college’s new Elements Dining Fusion cafeteria caters to students from rural backgrounds.
An impulse dining system allows student to eat as much as they want, whenever they want.
Jay Rimke, a second year agriculture management student at Olds, said he appreciates how the cafeteria caters to students who may want to cook for themselves.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 46 >>
Feeling like a fish out of water is normal, and many first year students struggle with anxiety. Your new university understands this well.

Christopher Buddle, associate dean of the faculty of agriculture and environmental sciences at McGill University in Quebec, says it’s common across universities to understand that new students may feel overwhelmed and isolated at first.

“It’s a big issue. It takes some time to get to know the place and get to know your community,” he said.

McGill is a large university, but its agricultural campus — Macdonald — is small, with about 1,400 undergraduates and 550 graduate students, comparable to a large high school.

Buddle said this creates an opportunity to get to know your peers and instructors.

“It’s a very friendly place and there are a lot of student-led clubs and activities that students who might be feeling isolated or homesick have opportunities to get involved in.”

In addition, built-in support systems are available.

“We are very sensitive to making sure that our students have good physical and mental health, it’s essential, plus all of our freshman students are guaranteed spots in our residence,” Buddle said.

These dorms have on-site services to help students deal with anxiety or isolation. As well, the Macdonald campus has a walk-in office clinic.
All your hard work has paid off and you’ve been accepted to your school of choice. Once you’ve arranged tuition, textbooks and time tables, you might start to think that your new university life is a bit overwhelming. Don’t worry: there’s support for that.  

BY M. CAROLYN BLACK

staffed with a health nurse or counsellor at certain times of the week. Counsellors help students with everything from the anxiety associated with prioritizing time tables and time management to mental health. These services are already included as part of regular university fees.

Crystal Jorgenson, communications specialist in the University of Manitoba’s faculty of agriculture and food sciences, said the university offers programs and support services, including personal counselling, group counselling and workshops, career guidance, financial aid, and physical and mental health services.

“The faculty also offers on-site advising to students, working closely with them to ensure at-risk students succeed. In addition, we have one of the few faculty-based career counselling and job posting services.”

The support network at the University of Guelph is comprehensive and includes Peer Helper programs at both the main campus and the agricultural based Ridgetown Campus.

“At Ridgetown Campus, peer helpers are a group of students and staff that are available to help students with many things such as academic help, tips on adjusting to campus life, study skills sessions, math help and more,” said Stephanie Craig, communications manager at the U of G’s Ontario Agriculture College.

She said the primary function of counselling services is “to help students realize, develop and reach their personal potential in order to maximally benefit from their educational environment. This mandate is developmental, educational, remedial and preventive.”

It’s well understood that students, especially those living far from home for the first time, may need extra support, so take full advantage of the programs your university or college offers that you’re probably already paying for.

Information on these and other services is available on the school website and during orientation.

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Agrologists ensure our food is produced responsibly and is healthy and safe.

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Agrologists ensure our natural resources are protected and used sustainably.
GO TO COLLEGE, SEE THE WORLD

Interested in a Canadian agriculture degree but yearning to travel abroad before you graduate? Many Canadian universities partner with American and international schools to provide a broader agriculture education and hands-on experience that includes school credit — and sometimes, a paycheque too. | BY M. CAROLYN BLACK

McGill University in Quebec offers a global food security program that has a hands-on component and the opportunity to travel abroad. The school also makes internships available.

“The internships are around the world so students go everywhere from Africa to Europe to Saskatchewan to Ontario as well as local farms, so internships are very global,” said Christopher Buddle, associate dean of McGill’s faculty of agriculture and environmental sciences.

“We have information sessions for incoming students to give them exposure to the internship office, and many of them will get an internship after their first year. We have different levels of internships: a 200 level followed by a 300 level the next year, so they’re given multiple opportunities.”

The University of Manitoba has had a formal exchange agreement in place for about 20 years with the University of Agricultural Sciences (Sveriges Lantbruksuniversitet or SLU) in Sweden. Three to six senior undergraduate or graduate students may take a semester or two of study at either the main campus in Uppsala or one of the satellite campuses elsewhere in Sweden.

“SLU has been, by tradition, a university for the agricultural, forestry and veterinary sectors, and now also takes an active role in various environmental monitoring programs,” said communications specialist Crystal Jorgenson.

“Study areas include agricultural and horticultural sciences, landscape architecture and planning, forest science, natural resources and animal science.”

She said scholarships are available to help defray travel costs associated with the exchange.

The University of Guelph has exchange agreements with more than 100 partner institutions in more than 30 countries, and its Ontario Agriculture College offers several popular courses that include travel.

One is a crop science field trip course that features a tour through the U.S. Midwest. Students tour cash crop and livestock farms from Indiana to Colorado to learn about everything from irrigation to stockyard markets.

“Another popular course is a field course in international agriculture,” said communications manager Stephanie Craig.

“Students travel to Costa Rica for 10 days and experience a wide range of crop and livestock production and natural ecosystems, including rainforest, in the wet and seasonally dry tropics and higher altitude zones.”

The U of G also offers the option of studying for a semester abroad, and its website features a story about five agricultural students who lived in the Netherlands for four months, staying at an international student residence at Wageningen University.

The main focus of the group was to study agriculture in the Netherlands, especially the famous Dutch dairy industry, but the students took full advantage of weekends off to explore European countries such as Germany and Italy.

Honours agriculture degree student Alan Nanne enjoyed his trip abroad before starting his summer job at the U of G’s Elora Beef Research Centre.

He said in the website story that although the trip confirmed he was on the right path to working with Holstein cattle, “I really did miss the dairy industry at home. Going on exchange made me realize how much I appreciate everything about Canada.”
“We’re an opportunity for a student (that) if they want to come and work on their French, they’re in a bilingual milieu, even though the classroom environment is English. We get a number of students who maybe did French immersion in a different province and they see coming to Quebec as a neat opportunity to study in English but work, live and socialize in a bilingual environment....”

“We offer a number of interesting programs related to agriculture, like global food security, which is a very international program that looks at food systems around the world and some of the implications of the larger issues we face with food and how it’s moved around and its safety and security.

“I think the interesting thing about our agricultural programs is the breadth of the program. They’re not traditional programs with a focus on just Canadian agriculture or on production of crops X, Y or Z. They’re really very broad and reach out into issues around sustainability and food security.”

The deadline to apply to most universities is mid-January, but students to apply as early as possible to ensure that their application will be seriously considered. They can’t apply until they receive access codes and education numbers from their high schools, but most schools make this information available in November. Guidance offices can give the exact date. Manitoba students need a Manitoba Education Number before they can apply, while an Application Access Code Letter is required in Ontario. Students should check with their high school to see what they need to start the application process.

Manitoba students can self-report their grades, and their official transcript will be sent to the university at the end of the school year. In Ontario, students’ access codes automatically provide universities with their marks.

University and college websites include information about admissions, acceptance rates, cut-off grade ranges for competitive programs, the cost to apply and the types of courses available.

Graduates from Agricultural Colleges become part of the regulated profession of Agrology. In Saskatchewan, we are the SIA.

Guardians of the Food System
Agrologists ensure our food is produced responsibly and is healthy and safe.

Stewards of the Environment
Agrologists ensure our natural resources are protected and used sustainably.
STUDENT HOUSING

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“If I have the time and want to cook my own food, they have the “My Pantry” section in the caf where you can cook your own meals and what not, so that’s very useful,” said Rimke. The college will continue to tailor to agriculture students with the new residence, which will include a boot room with lockers for students. “A lot of our students are in the field and they’re out on the farm or doing equine or doing animal health technology,” Moynihan said. “They’re not in fancy high-heel shoes, they’re in work boots.”

University of Saskatchewan

The main agriculture option in Saskatchewan is the U of S in Saskatoon. It has a capacity of 2,279 students for residence. There is dorm style residence and condo type residence for undergrads and a residence specific to grad students called Grad House.

Prices start at $750 per month in the older residence and go to $850 in the newer College Quarter.

A housing registry through the student union helps students look for off-campus options.

University of Alberta

The U of A can accommodate 5,000 students between its Augustana and main campuses. It has 12 options for students looking to stay on campus, ranging from dorm style to studios.

Prices also vary greatly. A four-bedroom studio costs $438 per month per person, plus fees and telephone and internet. A dorm-style single room with a private washroom costs $9,909 (meal plan included) plus fees for eight months. A meal plan is mandatory in some residences.

The university doesn’t offer a registry for off-campus options.

Brock Richardson, assistant dean of students for residence life, said agriculture students feel at home at the university. “When they’re here in residence, they’re surrounded by a whole bunch of other students going through something very similar,” he said. “They’re going to be on a floor with a whole bunch of other small town kids and people from farms, so they’re going to find people that they identify with right away.”

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