

CROP ADVISER/CONSULTANT (CERTIFIED CROP ADVISER)

Be the person farmers and other advisers can contact when everything's on the line.

WHAT IT IS

Imagine using science and data to solve real farming challenges. Crop Advisers do just that—they are the trusted experts farmers turn to when millions of dollars are on the line. As a Crop Adviser/Consultant, you are part scientist, part strategist, and part problem-solver—analyzing soil, spotting diseases, recommending fertilizers, managing pests, and helping farmers grow the best crops while protecting the environment. This is data-driven farming in action, making a real difference in people's lives. You don't just give advice—you become essential.



A DAY IN THE LIFE

As a Crop Adviser/Consultant, your work may take you from the office to the field, and your day may include:

- Walking fields scouting for pests and nutrient deficiencies
- Pulling soil samples
- Analyzing yield data and satellite imagery
- Meeting farm decision makers to discuss findings and recommend plans
- Calculating fertilizer rates
- Troubleshooting crop problems
- Staying current on new technologies
- Developing critical components for animal grazing plans
- Working on nutrient management solutions, both applications and storage
- Recommending conservation practice solutions

DIG IN. DO GOOD.

READY FOR SUCCESS

Your success in this field starts with a curiosity about how crops grow and thrive. Take every opportunity to broaden your skill sets in plant science, soil science, conservation solutions, and communication. Build strong problem-solving skills, and practice explaining complex ideas clearly and quickly—farmers rely on your advice to make high-stakes decisions. Spend time outdoors, learn the business side of consulting, and focus on building trust—farmers literally put their livelihoods in your hands.

EDUCATION REQUIRED

This career is rooted in nutrient management, soil & water management, pest management, and crop management, covering essential knowledge for overall crop lifecycle planning from seed to harvest, including ethics and local knowledge. Many crop advisers earn the Certified Crop Adviser (CCA) credential—the top industry certification that shows you know your stuff. **Crop advisers often earn a bachelor's degree in:**

- **Agronomy**
- **Crop Science**
- **Soil Science**

The CCA certification requires passing exams on nutrient management, soil and water management, crop management, and pest management, plus continuing education to stay sharp.

That said, some advisers start with a two-year associate degree in agronomy, agriculture, or a related area. With hands-on experience and CCA certification, they can build successful careers in this field without a four-year degree at first.

GETTING STARTED

Excel in science courses, especially biology, chemistry, and math. Seek out opportunities to meet with and work for internships at ag retailers, seed companies, or consulting firms. Join FFA or agriculture clubs. Research agronomy programs at universities, community colleges, and local vocational programs and your local high schools. During college, seek internships or work part-time for ag businesses. Plan to pursue CCA certification early in your career.



GROW BY
6%
UNTIL 2034

JOB OUTLOOK

Employment for agricultural and food scientists is projected to grow 6 percent through 2034, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics.



EARN UP TO
\$66K

AVERAGE SALARY

Certified Crop Advisers (CCAs) in the United States earn an average salary of approximately \$66,432 per year, with most salaries ranging from \$61,500 to \$71,500.