



## Advising

### EXTENSION OFFICER

#### ALSO CALLED

- Farm advisor
- Agricultural consultant
- District officer
- Livestock officer
- District agronomist



#### WHAT'S THE JOB ABOUT?

- **Improving the productivity, sustainability and profitability of enterprises**  
Promoting industry best practice, problem solving, assessing individual properties and making technical recommendations, assisting farmers with business analysis and benchmarking, providing options and enabling farmers to determine risk levels
- **Providing a link between researchers, agribusiness and farmers**  
Collaborating with primary producers in industry development and research trials, identifying and interpreting current research for regional and enterprise needs, suggesting regional priorities for research
- **Working with the target audience and clients**  
Primary producers, service industries, research organisations, industry and government funding bodies, government regulators
- **Organising producer-based activities**  
Organising and running field days, speaking at grower's groups, writing fact sheets, presenting courses





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### WORK CONDITIONS

- Extension officers usually work in rural or regional areas, often for government departments.
- Farm advisors may work as private consultants in their area of expertise or act for a range of manufacturers, distributors and producer organisations.
- The job requires the practical application of scientific research to a range of situations.
- There is usually a mix of office and field work with visits to individual farms and participation in grower's meetings.
- Work hours are usually structured with some flexibility for field days and conferences.
- Agricultural scientists may work on their own, as part of a team or monitor the work of others.
- Opportunities exist to travel both within Australia and overseas to work and attend conferences.
- Small business management skills are essential for the successful operation of a private consultancy.

### EXPERIENCE AND RELATED TRAINING

- To be employed as an extension officer you must have a degree in agriculture or equivalent qualification.
- Extension officers are required to develop expertise in a particular technical area and participate in post graduate training and study.
- To progress to management levels you must be technically competent and have good leadership skills.
- Check whether there are training or licensing requirements in your state to do some tasks such as using chemicals or chainsaws, operating a front-end loader or driving a vehicle.



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Career path	Training Requirements
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Extension officer</li> </ul> <p>You undertake a range of the above tasks gaining technical expertise in a field of agriculture.</p>	<p>TERTIARY EDUCATION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Degree in Agriculture (or equivalent)</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Manager / Program Leader</li> </ul> <p>You supervise the work of extension officers in a program area.</p>	<p>TERTIARY EDUCATION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Masters in Agriculture (or equivalent)</li> <li>• Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in a field related to agriculture</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Director</li> </ul> <p>You are responsible for the department's work in a particular program area.</p>	<p>TERTIARY EDUCATION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in a field related to agriculture</li> </ul>

## Related Jobs

- [Agricultural engineer](#)
- [Agricultural scientist](#)
- [Agriculture teacher](#)
- [Company representative](#)
- [Farm manager](#)
- [Farmer](#)
- [Rural business manager/owner](#)
- [Technical officer](#)

-1.0	5.7	19.5	2.8	-1.0	-1.0
-1.0	4.8	18.8	-1.0	16.9	-1.0
-1.0	-1.0	-1.0	-1.0	-1.0	-1.0
-1.0	3.4	18.6	-1.0	17.1	-1.0
-1.0	-1.0	-1.0	-1.0	-1.0	-1.0
-1.0	4.7	19.8	3.8	14.8	-1.0
-1.0	4.2	18.4	-1.0	18.4	-1.0
-1.0	4.1	16.4	-1.0	27.2	-1.0
-1.0	-1.0	-1.0	-1.0	-1.0	-1.0
-1.0	3.6	18.2	2.4	20.4	-1.0
-1.0	3.7	19.6	2.9	24.5	-1.0
-1.0	4.9	20.0	2.8	23.4	-1.0
-1.0	-1.0	-1.0	-1.0	-1.0	-1.0

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