

Computer Science

Computer science professionals are recruited from within the ranks of most any curriculum as long as the basic requirements and the desires of the potential employee are agreeable. A degree in computer science is not required but is highly desirable.

As with any large company, computer capabilities of the entire staff is necessary. Our professional computer science staff are the backbone for designing and maintaining a state-of-the-art processing system.

Career fields include:

- Software development & maintenance
- Systems support
(TSO,CICS,NOVELL,etc)
- Technology research
- Technical support
- Database administration
- Management positions

Minimum requirements: B.S. degree with 30 semester credits in computer science and mathematics (including calculus I & II). Agricultural interest desirable.

National Agricultural Statistics Service

The National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) is the statistical and data collection arm of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. More than 300 official reports issued by NASS help maintain an orderly association among the output, supply and marketing sectors of agriculture. A combination of rapidly changing agriculture, new statistical methods, state-of-the-art computer technology, and the responsibility to conduct the Census of Agriculture makes this an exciting and challenging era for NASS professionals.

Positions may be filled in any of the 45 State Statistical Offices and in Washington, DC. Most positions require an agreement to periodically relocate to other NASS offices.

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National Agricultural Statistics Service

USDA/NASS

Agricultural Careers in *STATISTICS*

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Director**

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Careers in USDA/NASS

There are three distinct career track opportunities within the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS). Agricultural Statistician, Mathematical Statistician, or Computer Science fields of interest are all integrated into the NASS career paths.

General opportunities exist throughout this Federal Agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture:

- **Salary:** Government grade levels and starting salaries depend on experience, education, and grade point average.
- **Benefits:** Flexible work schedule, geographic flexibility in duty station, small statistical agency, and opportunity to serve agriculture.
- **People:** Work beside highly motivated people that desire to achieve the most accurate survey results of any statistical organization worldwide.
- **Training Opportunity:** College courses, cross training programs, ongoing professional seminars, and one-year graduate program at full salary ALL funded by the agency.
- **Travel:** Domestic and international travel opportunities depending on personal qualifications.

Agricultural Statisticians

Agricultural statisticians are recruited from the ranks of agricultural oriented people and make up the largest portion of this statistical agency. These are people that desire to maintain an association with the grass roots America by providing statistical information to the producer and the public relative to the food supply. Many agricultural statisticians have strong backgrounds in agriculture, whether they have grown up on the farm or have other strong ties to the land.

Career fields include:

- commodity or survey statistics
- remote sensing
- census of agriculture
- management positions.

The typical day for an entry level agricultural statistician includes designing survey materials, managing a data collection staff, training interviewers, developing procedures for interpreting survey results, analyzing data for statistical trends and accuracy, or working with many computer application from SAS to Lotus to FoxPro to WordPerfect to applications developed by the agency's own experts.

Minimum requirements: B.S. degree with at least 15 semester hours of math and statistics, of which 6 **must** be in statistics, plus 9 additional semester credits in other physical or social sciences. Agricultural background highly desirable.

Mathematical Statisticians

Mathematical statisticians are usually recruited from among mathematics, statistics, or general arts and science majors that have a strong desire for statistical or survey methodological research. They often times have less agricultural background but the grass roots knowledge of agriculture is highly desirable. Many mathematical statisticians will begin careers in a field office but transfer into headquarters positions sooner than the agricultural statisticians. Most research activities are located at headquarters units in Washington, DC.

Career fields may include:

- sample survey design
- estimation theory
- statistical computing
- remote sensing
- nonsampling error management
- management positions

Programming experience in statistical packages such as SAS or SPSS and a general understanding of computer applications are highly desirable.

Minimum requirements: B.S. degree with at least 24 semester hours of math and statistics, of which 12 **must** be in statistics. An M.S. degree in either mathematics or statistics is highly desirable.