



AICCC

Association of
Independent
Crop Consultants

*the only professional body
representing the interests of
the truly independent crop
consultant and maintaining the
accepted position of influence and
market share in the industry*

Why become... an Independent Agronomist?

What is Agronomy?

It is the science and technology of producing and using plants for food, fuel, feed, fibre and reclamation. Agronomy encompasses work in the areas of plant genetics, plant physiology, meteorology and soil science. Agronomy is the application of a combination of sciences like biology, chemistry, economics, ecology, earth science and genetics. Agronomists today are involved with many issues including producing food, creating healthier food, managing environmental impact of agriculture and creating energy from plants. Agronomists often specialize in areas such as crop rotation, irrigation and drainage, plant breeding, plant physiology, soil classification, soil fertility, weed control, insect and pest control.

What is an Agronomist?

A practitioner with a scientific background who specializes in agronomy – best described as a “Crop Doctor”. They deal with interactions between plants, soils and the environment. They use various research tools and techniques to develop new crop hybrids and varieties that grow more efficiently and are more beneficial to society. Soils specialists conduct research in everything from the very basic to applied issues of soil and water management and land use. Agronomists research ways to produce crops and turf, and ways to manage soils in the most environmentally friendly way. Advising agronomists will have a client base of growers which they visit on a regular basis and usually

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**Apply to experience a day with a working
independent agronomist – anywhere in the UK!**

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AICCC
*bringing together
the independent
specialists*

charge per hectare of ground advised on, although some offer strategic advice remotely. They will also advise growers on all aspects of environmental schemes and other issues surrounding arable farming. Agronomists can also be found teaching, conducting business, and doing research in food production and environmentally oriented industries around the world.

What is the difference between an Independent Agronomist and a non-Independent Agronomist?

AICC member agronomists have no vested interest or take any commission from products recommended and are governed by the AICC Code of Conduct. They are not influenced by any sales-driven product scheme and advise growers on the merits of all crop inputs in an unbiased way. They distance themselves from purchasing product altogether.

AICC has an estimated 43% of the UK arable advice market.

What are the benefits of being an independent agronomist?

In a survey of established independent agronomists the top 5 reasons why they chose to become an independent agronomist were:

1. To be free to recommend product on merit and not linked to sales targets.
2. To enjoy the privilege of a position of trust with clients.
3. To be free to organise their own business and day to day management of their time with all the benefit that brings.

4. To make their own judgement on product success criteria and interpret data in their own way.
5. To be able to offer clients unbiased truly independent advice and a balanced view.

What qualifications do I need?

To become an agronomist you should have an interest in science and environmental issues. A Bachelor's Degree (or equivalent) is preferable. However, some agronomists come into the industry from various different routes (farm management for example). You should enjoy working with people and should have a keen interest in applying science to practical food production issues. You will need to become BASIS and FACTS qualified – see www.basis-reg.com – this is sometimes offered as part of an employment package.

What are the job opportunities like?

In the UK there are plenty of opportunities for a career in Agronomy. The AICC is the only professional body representing the needs of the truly independent crop consultant – most of which run their own businesses and often within an umbrella organisation collaborating together. There are opportunities to work together with agronomists and possibly take on their business as they retire.

AICC has launched an academy (AICCA) to facilitate new entrants. Register your interest.

For more information contact
www.aicc.org.uk

