

## **Jas Sahota**

*Agricultural Equipment Technician*

### **Career Description**

An Agricultural Equipment Technician is certified to service and repair farm equipment such as tractors, tillage, seeding and harvesting equipment.

### **Profile**

Jas Sahota arrives at work each morning to the smell of diesel and oil – and he would not have it any other way. “I’ve always liked working with my hands,” says the agricultural equipment technician. “I just couldn’t imagine myself doing anything else.”

After high school, Jas completed an 8-month pre-apprenticeship program for heavy duty mechanics, which gave him an overview of topics such as diesel engines, hydraulics and electronics. He was immediately accepted into an apprenticeship program with a major farm machinery dealership in Abbotsford.

“It’s a four-year work-based training course,” explains Jas. “You do some technical training too, but most of it is hands-on experience.”

Now a certified ‘journeyman’ technician, Jas handles everything from regular maintenance to major repairs on all types of farm equipment. “Every day is different,” he states. “One day I might fix a lawnmower or do a simple oil change and the next day I might overhaul the engine on a tractor or blueberry harvester.”

For the most part Jas works in the shop at the dealership. However, every now and then—especially during the busy months around planting and harvest—he gets called to fix a problem on site. “Farmers depend on their machinery,” he reminds. “So you’ve got to get the job done. You’ve got to keep moving.”

It is also critical to keep up-to-date on all the latest technology, Jas adds, noting the dealership often sends him on training courses to learn about new tractors and equipment.

For Jas it all adds up to a promising future: “Things are always going to break down,” he says, “and somebody has to fix it.”

### **Key Quote**

“When I started there was very little computerized farm equipment. Now some tractors have more than 20 on-board computers and you need a laptop to help diagnose and fix problems.”

### **Ask Jas: How do I know this is for me?**

“I’d highly recommend taking a pre-apprenticeship course. It gives you a good overview of the whole mechanics industry. If you don’t like it after that, you can always change direction. If you do, just start looking for an apprenticeship – there’s a lot out there.”

**Primary Location**

- All regions

**Interests/Skills**

- Mechanical aptitude
- Eye-hand coordination
- Physically fit
- Troubleshooting
- Understanding technical manuals

**Suggested Qualifications**

- Agricultural Equipment Technician Apprenticeship

**Related High School Subjects**

- Technology Education
- Mathematics
- English

**Related Careers**

- Service Manager
- Equipment Sales Representative
- Parts Counter Person

**Did you know?**

- There are more than 40,000 tractors on British Columbia farms. (Source: Statistics Canada, 2001)