

A **Practice Area (PA)** is defined as an area of expertise that requires specialized knowledge, skills and experience. PAs identify functional areas of practice within the profession of agronomy as uniquely as possible.

NOTE: Members must have a minimum of 3 years' direct experience for each practice area declared to be able to practice independently in that practice area.

Detailed practice standards describe the knowledge, experience, skill sets and performance standards for professional practice within a practice area. Four detailed practice standards exist for the practice areas listed in the table below.

| Practice Area | Practice Standard |
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| Assessment, Remediation and Management of Contaminated Land | This Practice Area has a new Practice Standard, click here for the standard. |
| Crop Production | This Practice Area has a new Practice Standard, click here for the standard. |
| Greenhouse Gas Assessment and Management | This Practice Area has a new Practice Standard, click here for the standard. |
| Land Reclamation | This Practice Area has a new Practice Standard, click here for the standard. |
| Rangeland and Pasture Management | This Practice Area has a new Practice Standard, click here for the standard. |
| Wetland and Riparian Areas | This Practice Area has a new Practice Standard, click here for the standard. |

As the institute develops practice standards for the remaining 14 practice areas they will be added to the table above. Until a practice area has an existing practice standard, the core knowledge table will continue to provide guidance to members on knowledge requirements for each practice area.

| Practice Area | Core Knowledge Areas | | | | | |
|---|--|---|---|---|--|---|
| Agricultural and Natural Resource Economics | Intermediate Economics OR Agricultural/Real Estate Economics OR Natural Resource/ Environmental Economics | Accounting OR Financial Management OR Risk Management | Management Information Systems OR Business Governance systems OR Resources Management | Managerial and Organizational Behavior OR Consumer Studies OR Marketing and Trading | Rural Sociology OR Adult Education and Extension OR Communications | Production Systems OR Production Systems Management |

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|---|--|--|--|--|---|---|
| Animal Production | Animal Physiology OR Animal Behaviour | Animal Nutrition OR Animal Metabolism | Genetics OR Molecular Genetics and Heredity | Animal Production OR Grassland and Rangeland Management | Animal Welfare OR Animal Health OR Animal Diseases | Animal Reproduction OR Animal Breeding |
| Biophysical Classification and Evaluation | Land Evaluation OR Soil Conservation and Management OR Soil Genesis and Classification | Geomorphology OR Surficial Geology OR Soil Chemistry | Ecology OR Plant Taxonomy | Vegetation Assessment and Management OR Plant Physiology OR Plant Taxonomy | Remote Sensing OR Air Photo Interpretation OR Geospatial Systems | Water-Landform Relationships OR Hydrology OR Soil Physics |
| Biosystems, Biosolids, Compost and Manure Management | Compost Development and Management OR Digestion Systems OR Energy and Biogas Production | Residuals (Waste) Management OR Materials Handling and Processing OR Odour Control | Land Application OR Livestock System OR Cropping System | Biochemistry OR Organic Chemistry OR Inorganic Chemistry | Soil Chemistry OR Soil Fertility OR Soil Physics | Microbiology OR Plant/Soil Relations OR Contaminant Fate and Behaviour |
| Environmental Impact Assessment and Mitigation Planning | Environmental Impact Assessment Methodology OR Environmental Management Systems OR Mitigation Planning | Soil Conservation/ Reclamation OR Soil Classification OR Soil Chemistry | Hydrology OR Water Quality OR Erosion Control | Environmental Regulations OR Project Management OR Environmental Planning | Ecology OR Biophysical Inventory | Socio- Economic Planning OR Environmental Economics OR Stakeholder Engagement |
| Environmental Monitoring | Air Sciences OR Soil Sciences OR Vegetation Sciences | Water Sciences OR Hydrogeology OR Hydrology | Site Assessment OR Ecology | Environmental Law OR Environmental Regulations | Sampling Design and Techniques | Risk Assessment OR Toxicology |
| Food Development and Processing | Food Processing Technologies OR Food Product Development | Food Policy OR Food Legislation | Food Nutrition OR Food Biochemistry | Food Microbiology | Quality Assurance OR Food Safety Systems | Food Chemistry |
| Land Conservation and Management | Soil Genesis and Classification OR Soil Physics | Land Evaluation OR Soil Conservation and Management OR Land Use Planning | Remote Sensing OR Air Photo Interpretation OR Geospatial Information | Hydrology | Soil Fertility OR Soil Chemistry | Plant Ecology OR Plant Taxonomy |
| Management – see below | Strategic Planning Training and/or Experience | Human Resource Management Training and/or Experience | Management OR Executive Management Formal Training | Project Management Training and/or Experience | Finance OR Budget Training and/or Experience | Formal Education in Business Management, HR Management, Project Management |
| Regulatory Support and Consultation | Agricultural, Environmental and Food Legislation OR Policy | Stakeholder Communications OR Stakeholder Consultation and Mediation | Resource Management OR Environmental Protection OR Impact Assessment | Crop Production OR Animal Production OR Wildlife Management OR Food Production | Conservation Planning OR Reclamation Planning OR Systems Planning | Regulatory Compliance Reporting |

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|---|---|---|--|--|---|---|
| Rural Development and Support | Extension and Adult Learning OR Communications OR Community Development | Intermediate Economics OR Applied Economics OR Regulation and Policy Analysis | Business and Information Systems OR Institutional Leadership and Governance OR Aid Policy Analysis | Environmental Sociology OR Rural Sociology OR Cultural History | Rural Landscapes Design OR Information Systems | Production systems OR Risk Management |
| Water Resources Planning and Management | Soil Science OR Earth Sciences OR Physical Geography | Ecology OR Agronomy | Watershed Modeling OR Environmental Policy | Water Quality OR Hydrology | Municipal/Provincial/ Federal Legislation OR Social Responsibility | Natural Resource Management OR Environmental Planning OR Watershed Management |

Management Description

Management entails designing, overseeing and managing the work processes in the agricultural or environmental services sectors. The Competence Committee will review each file on a case by case basis with the following items to be considered for effective competence in this PA: The Competence Committee will review each file on a case by case basis with the following items to be considered for effective competence in this PA:

- A minimum of 5 years' technical experience in any given PA.
- Continuing professional development (CCP) that demonstrates management competence
- Supervision of other professionals on an ongoing basis (does not apply to basic supervision of field technicians doing routine work).