Dairy Farm Worker

Dairy farming

Job title	Dairy Farm Worker
Department	Dairy farming
Reports to	Farm Manager
Direct reports	None
Location	*[To be confirmed by the employer]*
Contract type	*[Permanent / fixed-term / other]*
Salary and benefits	*[To be confirmed by the employer]*

Job purpose

Carries out the daily work that keeps a dairy farm running, from feeding and bedding to helping with milking and calf care. Looks after animal welfare, keeps the farm clean and safe, and supports the farm team with general tasks.

Key responsibilities

Feeding and housing

- Feed cows, heifers and calves to the daily feeding plan
- Push up feed and keep water troughs clean and working
- Scrape passages and yards and keep housing clean
- Bed cubicles, pens and calf areas with fresh bedding
- Move cows and youngstock calmly between groups, sheds and fields

Milking and calf care

- Help in the parlour by bringing in cows, preparing teats and cleaning after milking
- Feed calves milk or milk replacer and keep feeding equipment clean
- Check calves every day and report any that seem unwell
- Help with calving and newborn calf care under supervision

Animal health and welfare

- Watch for signs of illness, lameness, heat or calving and report them promptly
- Handle animals quietly and patiently at all times
- Help with routine health tasks such as foot bathing and vaccinations under direction
- Record treatments, births and other events accurately

Machinery and general farm work

- Operate tractors, loaders and other basic machinery safely after training
- Carry out daily checks on machinery and report faults
- Help with fencing, slurry handling, field work and general repairs

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- Keep the yard, buildings and stores tidy and organised

Health, safety and biosecurity

- Follow farm safety rules around animals, machinery and slurry
- Wear the correct PPE and use chemicals safely
- Follow biosecurity rules for visitors, footwear and sick animals
- Report accidents, near misses and hazards straight away

Qualifications and experience

Essential

- Some farm or animal-handling experience, or a genuine interest in learning dairy farm work
- Basic reading, writing and number skills for simple records
- Understanding of why animal welfare and hygiene matter
- Willingness to follow safety and biosecurity rules
- Willingness to work early mornings, weekends and public holidays on a rota

Desirable

- Experience on a dairy farm, including milking or calf rearing
- Experience driving tractors, loaders or other farm machinery
- Driving licence valid in the country of work
- Short course or certificate in agriculture, animal care or machinery safety

Skills and attributes

- Calm, confident animal handling
- Good observation of animal behaviour and health
- Reliability and punctuality
- Teamwork
- Following instructions and routines
- Basic mechanical sense
- Willingness to learn

Measures of success

- Animals fed, bedded and watered on time every day
- Clean, safe housing and yards
- Health problems spotted and reported early
- Accurate and complete records
- No accidents or machinery damage
- Daily task list completed to standard

Working conditions and safety

Early mornings, weekends and public holidays on a rota. Indoor and outdoor farm work in all weather, with regular walking, lifting and handling of livestock; protective clothing and footwear are worn.

- Follow health and safety rules and safe systems of work, and wear the correct PPE
- Follow animal welfare, biosecurity and medicine-use procedures at all times
- Report hazards, accidents, near misses and concerns promptly

This job description outlines the main duties of the role. It is not a complete list, and the employer may update it as the business changes, in consultation with the jobholder.

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