Dairy Milker

Dairy farming

Job title	Dairy Milker
Department	Dairy farming
Reports to	Milking Supervisor
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

Milks the herd to a clean, consistent routine that protects udder health, cow welfare and milk quality. Works in the parlour as a regular or relief milker, keeping equipment clean and records accurate.

Key responsibilities

Milking routine

- Bring cows in calmly and keep cow flow steady through the parlour
- Follow the farm's milking routine of pre-dip, fore-strip, wipe, attach and post-dip
- Attach and adjust clusters carefully and avoid over-milking
- Start and finish each milking on time
- Hand over clearly to the next milker or the supervisor

Udder health and mastitis

- Check fore-milk for clots or changes and watch for swollen or hot quarters
- Carry out cow-side mastitis tests when asked
- Identify treated cows and keep their milk out of the bulk tank
- Report mastitis cases, teat damage and other health concerns promptly

Parlour hygiene and equipment

- Wear clean gloves and keep hands and clothing clean throughout milking
- Clean the parlour, collecting yard and equipment after every milking
- Check that the plant wash runs correctly and the bulk tank cools milk properly
- Check liners, hoses and clusters and report faults
- Keep teat dips, gloves, filters and cleaning products in stock

Cow welfare and records

- Handle cows quietly and patiently, with no shouting or rough treatment
- Watch for lameness, heat, illness or injury and report what you see
- Mark treated cows clearly using the farm's system

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- Record treatments, mastitis cases, yields and any problems accurately

Health, safety and biosecurity

- Use cleaning chemicals and teat dips safely and as instructed
- Wear the correct PPE and keep parlour floors and steps safe
- Follow biosecurity rules and report accidents and near misses straight away

Qualifications and experience

Essential

- Experience milking cows on a commercial dairy, or completion of milking training
- Understanding of mastitis, milk hygiene and withdrawal periods for treated cows
- Basic reading, writing and number skills for milking records
- Willingness to follow hygiene, safety and biosecurity rules
- Willingness to work early mornings, evenings, weekends and public holidays on a rota

Desirable

- Experience with herringbone, rotary, parallel or robotic milking systems
- Formal training in milking technique or mastitis control
- Relief milking experience on several farms
- Driving licence valid in the country of work, for relief work across farms

Skills and attributes

- Calm, patient cow handling
- High standards of hygiene
- Attention to detail
- Good observation of udder and cow health
- Accurate record keeping
- Reliability and punctuality
- Teamwork and clear handovers

Measures of success

- Bulk milk cell count and bacteria within buyer limits
- No antibiotic residue failures
- Mastitis cases spotted and reported early
- Milkings started and finished on time
- Parlour and equipment cleaned to standard after every milking
- Accurate and complete milking records

Working conditions and safety

Split shifts with early mornings and evenings, including weekends and public holidays on a rota; relief milkers may travel between farms. Parlour work involves long periods of standing and repeated arm movements in wet conditions, and waterproof clothing, gloves and boots 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

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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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