Dairy Veterinarian

Dairy farming

Job title	Dairy Veterinarian
Department	Dairy farming
Reports to	Farm Manager or General Manager
Direct reports	Junior vets and animal health technicians (para-vets)
Location	*[To be confirmed by the employer]*
Contract type	*[Permanent / fixed-term / other]*
Salary and benefits	*[To be confirmed by the employer]*

Job purpose

The Dairy Veterinarian leads all animal health work on a large commercial dairy farm, from preventive herd health planning to emergency surgery. The role drives fertility, controls disease and biosecurity risks, keeps the farm within veterinary and welfare law, and builds the skills of the animal health team.

Key responsibilities

Herd health planning

- Write, implement and review the herd health plan with farm management
- Set protocols for disease prevention, diagnosis and treatment
- Track mastitis, lameness, metabolic disease and fertility data and correct problems
- Manage vaccination, parasite control and responsible use of antibiotics
- Oversee the storage, recording and withdrawal periods of all veterinary medicines

Fertility and breeding

- Run the fertility programme, including synchronisation, AI support and pregnancy diagnosis by ultrasound or palpation
- Investigate and treat infertility and reproductive disorders
- Analyse conception rate, calving interval and other fertility indicators and act on the results
- Work with breeding advisers on sire selection and genetic improvement

Clinical and emergency care

- Diagnose and treat sick animals and carry out surgery such as caesareans and displaced abomasum correction
- Set up and lead an out-of-hours emergency cover rota
- Manage critical cases and carry out humane euthanasia when needed
- Carry out post-mortem examinations and arrange laboratory tests

Biosecurity, welfare and compliance

- Plan and enforce biosecurity controls for animals, people and vehicles

© 2026 Dairy Jobs (Specialist Recruiters Ltd). Free to adapt for your own vacancies. Not for resale.

- Control zoonotic disease risks and protect staff health, following a One Health approach
- Report notifiable diseases to the authorities and keep all legally required records
- Ensure the farm meets national veterinary, welfare and assurance standards

Calves and youngstock

- Set neonatal care, colostrum and disease surveillance protocols for calves
- Check that vaccination, feeding and disbudding schedules are followed
- Investigate calf losses and advise on rearing improvements

Training and data

- Train and supervise vets, para-vets, herd staff and milkers
- Run regular workshops and keep SOPs up to date
- Analyse health and treatment records in herd management software
- Prepare reports for management decisions and for audits

Qualifications and experience

Essential

- Veterinary degree (such as DVM, BVSc or BVetMed) recognised in the country of work
- Registration with the national veterinary regulator, such as the RCVS in the UK
- Several years' experience in dairy or farm animal practice, ideally with large commercial herds
- Proven fertility skills, including ultrasound pregnancy diagnosis
- Competence in farm animal surgery and emergency care
- Good spoken and written English for reports and staff training

Desirable

- Postgraduate certificate in cattle or dairy herd health
- Experience leading herd health programmes on high-performing herds
- Experience training para-vets or farm staff
- Ability in a second language spoken by the farm team
- Experience with herd management software and data analysis

Skills and attributes

- Accurate clinical diagnosis and treatment
- Fertility and reproductive management
- Confident farm animal surgery
- Herd health and preventive medicine planning
- Biosecurity and disease control
- Interpreting herd data
- Calm decision-making in emergencies
- Teaching and mentoring staff

Measures of success

- Clinical mastitis and lameness rates
- Conception rate and calving interval
- Cow and calf mortality and involuntary culling rates
- Antibiotic use per cow and no residue failures
- Audit and legal reporting compliance

© 2026 Dairy Jobs (Specialist Recruiters Ltd). Free to adapt for your own vacancies. Not for resale.

- Herd health plan reviewed on schedule

Working conditions and safety

Based on the farm, with work in housing, handling facilities and the parlour in all weathers. The role includes a share of out-of-hours emergency cover and requires full PPE for clinical, surgical and zoonotic risk work.

- 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.

Recruiting for this role? Advertise it on Dairy Jobs and reach a combined network of over 250,000 dairy professionals worldwide: dairyjobsearch.com/advertise-dairy-jobs

© 2026 Dairy Jobs (Specialist Recruiters Ltd). Free to adapt for your own vacancies. Not for resale.