

Dairy Farmer Job Description (example)

Job purpose

To manage the dairy farm and business, including all aspects of land and livestock management, production and/or purchase crops and feed for livestock consumption, milk production and marketing, and financial management of the business.

This job description is intended to assist you in identifying skills and traits to look for when selecting an Apprentice to hire. Start by thinking about what you do, and decide which skills or aptitudes you can teach someone versus which ones you want them to already have.

Duties and responsibilities

- Manage the dairy herd including ration preparation and feeding, pasture management, milking, herd health management, raising of replacements.
- Crop and pasture management including selection of varieties, purchasing of seed, planting and management of crops, pasture rotation, also management of soil health and fertility.
- Office work and record keeping including maintaining required dairy license records, herd health records, monthly inventory of feed, ordering supplies, parts, and feed, payroll, bills and financial records.
- Equipment maintenance, including maintenance of milk house, milking equipment, feeding equipment, maintenance of fencing and watering equipment, also maintenance of field equipment (tractors, haybines, balers, planting and tillage equipment)

Qualifications

- Know your goals
- Observational skills in nature
- Good stockmanship skills
- Love and compassion for cattle
- Basic veterinary care
- Understanding of and proficiency in animal care: milking, raising youngstock, feed and shelter requirements
- Basic ruminant nutrition knowledge
- Understanding of and proficiency in pasture management
- Basic knowledge of living soils
- Basic agronomic knowledge
- Basic mechanical knowledge
- Understanding basic financial management: budgeting, cash flow, cost of production, net worth
- Knowledge of potential safety hazards: milkhouse chemicals, equipment, machinery, silos, manure pits
- Basic social skills

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Working conditions

Milking daily, seven days a week, 365 days a year, with some exceptions. Hard physical labor under all weather conditions. On-call 24 hours a day. Long days required during haymaking, crop planting and harvest, and calving seasons. Schedule highly variable. Breaks taken when possible/as needed.

Physical requirements

Hard physical labor is often required. Ability to lift 50 or more pounds. Stamina to work long hours at certain times of the year and be available to work at all hours on little sleep.

Direct reports

List any employees you currently have.

Ideally, a job description should be reviewed annually and updated as often as necessary.