



Job Description

Herdsperson, Organic Dairy Farm

Location	Reports to	Salary
Bore Place, Chiddingstone, Kent, TN8 7AR	Farm Manager	Competitive, dependent on experience

Background information

Bore Place is home to Commonwork Organic Farms Ltd, a 218 ha organic dairy farm owned by the Commonwork Trust, an educational charity employing a team of 35 staff. The farm is at the heart of the organisation and comprises a 240 cow dairy herd with 110 youngstock. We have plans in place to develop the farm and are looking for a Herdsperson to join our team to enable us to achieve this.

Job Purpose

To support the day to day running of the farm, including overseeing the dairy herd, undertaking milking and maintaining the parlour and cow housing whilst achieving high standards of hygiene, fertility, footcare and general husbandry in line with organic farming principles.

Responsibilities and tasks

- Managing the herd on a day to day basis, informing the Manager of any major activities/problems.
- Milking the herd, foot trimming, performing AI and assisting with calving and calf rearing.
- Proactive grassland management including grass allocation and regular measuring and recording.
- Undertaking various tractor and machinery tasks including, but not limited to, feeding, topping, spreading slurry and FYM, cultivation.
- Overseeing and directing relief staff, students and volunteers.
- Day to day decision making, vet visits and record keeping.
- Keeping accurate and detailed records – experience of using Interherd would be an advantage.
- Maintaining health and safety and hygiene standards.

Job Description

Person specification

The ideal candidate will have:

- Practical and proven dairy experience with ideally 3+ years' experience in milking
- Track record of interest in grassland management, maximising farm and herd performance
- Experience of operating and maintaining modern machinery
- Excellent husbandry and herd management skills
- Proven ability to work well as part of a small team as well as overseeing other staff
- Proactive and up to date approach to H&S legislation
- Experience or interest in organic farming systems and a commitment to conservation, sustainability and organic principles
- Good attention to detail
- Motivation, a positive attitude and be a self-starter
- A full UK driving licence.

NB: We do not expect applicants to have experience in all these fields. Training can be provided.

What we offer

For a self-motivated individual with the right attitude and approach, we offer:

- A competitive salary based on experience and pension scheme
- A house in a beautiful part of West Kent renowned for excellent primary and secondary schools and local facilities, with excellent local transport links to London
- An excellent working environment with modern facilities and machinery
- A commitment to personal and professional development
- A role which is part of a diverse and interesting organisation