

# Alberta Milk Industry Job Definitions

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| <b>Title:</b>               | <b>Dairy Manager</b>                             |
| <b>NOC Number:</b>          | <b>8251 – Skilled livestock worker (manager)</b> |
| <b>Education:</b>           | Post-secondary, Ag. Education preferred          |
| <b>Experience:</b>          | Minimum of 3 years working with dairy cows       |
| <b>Average Hourly Wage:</b> | See Wage Grid                                    |

## Duties

Dairy Manager performs tasks such as the following on dairy farms:

- Independent decision making
- Monitor the health and well being of the dairy herd
- Recognize and treat health problems
- Ensure that water is available and the cows are fed the correct amount and type of feed
- Manage production in relation to quota available
- Coordination of milking
- Animal husbandry and selective breeding
- Carry out breeding and artificial insemination
- Assist in births
- Vaccinate
- Maintain equipment and buildings
- Shipping cows/culling
- Organizing silage
- Herd improvement
- Keep paper and electronic records
- Milk cows
- Drive trucks
- Operate and maintain equipment
- Manage up to 5 other people
- Perform general farm duties

## Working Conditions

Dairy Managers have the opportunity to interact closely with dairy cows. They may work split shifts to coincide with the milking times. Milking is done inside; however, other duties are often outside in all kinds of weather. Although automation and mechanization have helped to make the work less tedious and physically demanding, repetitive manual labour is often required. They must follow safety precautions to avoid injury when working with machinery and tools, wear protective clothing and follow good animal hygiene practices to prevent or control the spread of diseases. Modern barns are well ventilated and manure is flushed out regularly. Dairy Managers may routinely lift items weighing up to 20 kilograms or more.

Farm workers are not covered by labour standards, occupational health and safety, or Workers Compensation legislation in Alberta.

## Personal Characteristics

Dairy Manager need the following characteristics:

- Good health and stamina (physically fit, not allergic to grains, feeds, animals or dust)

- Good coordination and manual dexterity
- Able to work independently and with others
- A genuine interest in agriculture and willingness to learn
- A responsible, caring attitude when handling equipment and animals
- Interact with coworkers in a pleasant and civil manner
- Flexibility and adaptability

All farm workers should enjoy having clear rules and organized methods for their work, operating and maintaining equipment and monitoring the health of livestock.

## Educational Requirements

The education and training requirements for Dairy Manager is post-secondary, Ag education is preferred. There are no educational requirements but to work independently, Dairy Manager needs knowledge and experience related to:

- Cow husbandry (Artificial insemination and calving skills)
- Animal behaviour (to distinguish between health behaviours and signs of illness)
- Animal Health Certificate
- Low stress livestock handling techniques
- Safety procedures
- Keeping barns clean and sanitary
- Maintaining equipment
- Keeping paper and electronic records

## Relevant Skills

The following skills are beneficial, but not required

- Truck/Tractor/Equipment basic operation and maintenance
- Handyman skills
- Cow clipping and preparation
- First aid

## Employment and Advancement

Most dairy farms are family owned operations; about half have one or two employees. However, dairy operations are getting bigger and more specialized. To advance, Dairy Manager will require farm experience and may require related education such as Level 3 (farm business management) of the [Alberta Green Certificate Training Program](#), Olds College agriculture courses or Lakeland College Dairy Program or other management courses.