

# Alberta Milk Industry Job Definitions

**Title:** General Farm Worker  
**NOC Number:** 8431 – Low skill livestock worker  
**Education:** none – English or language compatible with dairy farm owner.

**Experience:** None  
**Average Hourly Wage:** See Wage Grid

## ***Duties***

General Farm Workers performs tasks such as the following on dairy farms:

- Handle, feed and care for dairy herd
- Drive trucks
- Operate and maintain equipment

- Interact with coworkers in a pleasant and civil manner
- Flexibility and adaptability

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

## ***Working Conditions***

General Farm Workers 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. General Farm Workers 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***

General Farm Workers need the following characteristics:

- Good health and stamina (physically fit, not allergic to grains, feeds, animals or dust)
- Good coordination and manual dexterity
- The ability to follow instructions and work with some supervision
- A genuine interest in agriculture and willingness to learn
- A responsible, caring attitude when handling equipment and animals

## ***Educational Requirements***

The education and training requirements for General Farm Workers is the ability to fluently communicate with the dairy farm owner and a willingness to learn.

## ***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***

To advance, General Farm Workers will require farm experience and may require related education such as level one of the Alberta Green Certificate Training Program.