

Alberta Milk Industry Job Definitions

Title:	Milker
NOC Number:	8431 – Low skill livestock worker
Education:	none – English or compatible language with dairy farm owner.
Experience:	Minimum of 1 years working with animals
Average Hourly Wage:	See Wage Grid

Duties

Milkers perform tasks such as the following on dairy farms:

- Milk cows
- Maintain milking equipment
- Recognize and report health problems
- Handle, feed and care for dairy herd
- May transport feed and supplies
- May operate and maintain farm equipment

- 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.

Working Conditions

Milkers work long hours that may be in 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. Milkers 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.

Educational Requirements

The education and training requirements for Milkers 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, Milkers will require farm experience and may require related education such as level two (production supervisor) of the Alberta Green Certificate Training Program.

Personal Characteristics

Milkers 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 little supervision
- A genuine interest in agriculture and willingness to learn
- A responsible, caring attitude when handling equipment and animals