

Alberta Milk Industry Job Definitions

Title:	Yardsman
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

Yardsmen performs tasks such as the following on dairy farms:

- Handle, feed and care for replacement dairy stock
- General outdoor farm labour
- Drive trucks
- Move grain from storage to feed bins
- Operate roller mill
- Fix fences
- Move cattle from barns to pastures, cull pens or other barns
- Provide bedding for animals
- Clean yards and pens
- Help sort and separate young stock
- Feed grain and hay to young stock
- Observe, note and report any obvious signs of illness
- Help trucks unload minerals, feeds and grains
- General outdoor farm labour.
- Operate and maintain equipment

Working Conditions

Yardsmen work regular hours. Most duties are 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. Yardsmen 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

Yardsmen 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
- 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 Yardsmen 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, Yardsmen will require farm experience and may require related education such as level two (production supervisor) of the Alberta Green Certificate Training Program.