

Livestock farm worker

Average salary: \$49,000

Career trend: growing strongly

Job description

Livestock farm workers support the farm manager by raising livestock for meat, breeding, dairy, wool or egg production.

What livestock farm workers do

Livestock farm workers use their practical, technical and theoretical knowledge of farming and the animals they look after to support the operations of the farm.

They specialise in beef or dairy cattle, sheep, pigs or poultry. They work outdoors in a variety of locations all year round and are prepared for all weather conditions including rain, wind and searing sun.

Livestock farm workers wear many hats as their role varies greatly. They conduct daily tasks to help the farm run smoothly. These include keeping equipment in good shape, cleaning and repairing machinery, tending and feeding livestock, milking cows, and cleaning animal stables or pens.

They also perform maintenance on the land, clearing out brush, cutting fuel wood, keeping drainage ditches open, mending roads, controlling weeds and pests, repairing fences, and performing other odd jobs.

You'll like this job if...

You enjoy practical outdoor work in all kinds of weather. You're sensitive and cooperative. You like working alone. You're organised. You have good physical fitness. You're adaptable, responsible and reliable. You focus on the facts and details. You apply common sense to come up with practical solutions to problems.



Will I get a job?

- Slight growth in this occupation is predicted, with 800 new jobs in Australia over the next four years, bringing the total to 33,700.

What will I earn?

- Up to \$950 median full-time weekly salary (before tax, excluding super).

Roles to look for

- Beef farm worker
- Dairy farm worker
- Mixed livestock farm worker
- Poultry farm worker
- Sheep farm worker
- Stable hand
- Wool handler
- Shearing shed hand
- Shearer
- Livestock farm worker
- Deer farm worker
- Emu farm worker
- Goat herder
- Ostrich farm worker
- Piggery worker

A day in the life...

Work as a livestock farm worker may involve these tasks:

- patrol, inspect and report on the condition of livestock
- provide livestock with feed and water
- wash and clean cows' udders, and attach milking machines
- collect eggs and place in incubators
- herd sheep for shearing and keep mobs separate during shearing
- exercise horses by walking, riding, leading and swimming
- clean stables and hatcheries
- perform minor repairs on fixtures, buildings and fences
- assemble, prepare and store horse gear.

VET qualifications

The following government-subsidised qualifications are available in NSW:

Certificate II in Agriculture (AHC20116)

- Up to 1 year full-time
- Available as a traineeship
- Graduates employed or in further study: 78.6%*

Certificate II in Rural Operations (AHC21216)

For more information, visit



www.vet.nsw.gov.au

Certificate III in Poultry Production (AHC30516)

- Up to 2 years full-time
- Available as a traineeship
- Graduates employed or in further study: 91.6%*

Main employing industries

- Agriculture, forestry and fishing

Other jobs you may like...

- Aquaculture worker
- Forestry and logging worker
- Garden and nursery labourer
- Mixed crop and livestock farm worker
- Crop farm worker

Information sources Income: Australian Government Department of Employment, Australian Jobs Report 2017, Occupation Matrix. ANZSCO ID: 2211. Earnings can vary greatly depending on the skills and experience of the worker, and the demands of the role. Job prospects: Australian Government Department of Employment 2017 employment projections to May 2022. Graduate outcomes: National Centre for Vocational Education Research. *Approximately 6 months after they completed VET.

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