

## Herd Manager

### Position Description

A herd manager is tasked with all aspects of maintaining the health and husbandry of the cattle kept at their facility while maximizing production. Their duties generally include milking, vaccinations, deworming, tagging or branding, feeding, calving, performing artificial inseminations, trimming hooves, keeping detailed health and production records and working closely with the veterinarian. They need to create herd benchmarks and strive to reach them. The herd manager may also be involved with supervising other farm employees and staff members, ensuring that all tasks are completed properly.

### Education Requirements

- A high school diploma is typically a baseline requirement.
- A college education is an asset to the job but is not mandatory.
- A bachelor's degree in animal science, dairy science or related field is helpful.
- A two-year program in dairy production might be the perfect fit and is found in many colleges.

### Helpful Skill Set

- Physical and technical skills.
- Interacts with veterinarian, nutritionist, employees, etc.
- Detail-oriented and able to multitask.
- Good verbal communication skills.
- Calm demeanor.
- Computer skills to track herd performance statistics.
- Speaking a second language is desirable if managing employees.

### Network Development

- Join college dairy science club or other animal science related organizations.
- Attend dairy organization meetings on the local, state or national levels.
- Demonstrate that they can work hard, be humble and learn from their mistakes.

### Work Experience

- Seek internships on various farms to get exposed to as many different operations as they can.
- Look for additional work experience on breaks and holidays.

### Keywords

dairy, dedication, herd health, reproduction, nutrition, breeding, production, husbandry

