

## **Farm Assistant with Food Production experience**

### **Background**

Airfield Estate is a 38-acre working educational farm and gardens located in Dundrum, Dublin 14. We provide a wide range of programmes and activities that aim to promote an understanding of agriculture, horticulture and the link between farming and food production. Our working farm is open to the public 7 days a week. As well as offering our visitors the opportunity to reconnect with nature and observe primary food production in action, we run a number of experiential education programmes concentrating on farming, gardening and the natural world.

### **Job Description**

The Farm Assistant will work directly within the farm team and will be primarily responsible for supporting the efficient operation of the farming activities, the welfare of our livestock, the safety of our public and visitors and the presentation of the farm as part of our education programme. The Farm Assistant will be both comfortable and enthusiastic in working with audiences of all ages.

We require the successful candidate to have an agricultural and or food related background or qualification. They should demonstrate an ability to manage their day to day activities against stated objectives as well as play a proactive role in contributing to the ongoing improvement of the farm, education programmes and the general visitor experience within Airfield Estate. We require this person to actively engage in our public communication programs. A passionate commitment to working sustainably and knowledge of best practice systems will be beneficial.

Airfield is a dynamic and busy operation and we are looking for a self starter that has experience of managing a variety of enterprises including; a small dairy herd, cattle, sheep, pigs, and poultry. Knowledge of grassland, crop hedgerow management would be beneficial.

The person should relish working as part of a team, be highly organised with good time keeping and communication skills. Due to the nature of our wide range of activities the person should be flexible to facilitate peaks of activity at busy times of the farming and visitor year as well as lend a hand to colleagues in other activities as required across the site.

A key role for the Farm Assistant will be the once-a-day milking and bi-weekly pasteurization and bottling. This involves set up and clean down of the pasteurisation room, completion of all production records and coordination management of samples to external laboratory for microbiological testing. The Farm Assistant will be responsible for adherence to all Food Hygiene & Food Safety Standards.

We require a full clean driving license and the person must be willing to undergo Garda vetting as part of Airfield's Child Protection Policy.

**Desirable Skills:**

- Knowledge of free range /organic or best practice systems an advantage
- Experience working in agriculture
- Previous experience of working in food production
- Experience in operating machinery and equipment in a manufacturing environment
- Good understanding of Food Hygiene and Food Safety Standards
- Good communication skills & initiative
- Basic knowledge of Microsoft Word & Excel

**General Role & Responsibilities**

Overall assistance in management of the farm and the farm experience.

The person will have responsibility for enhancing the farm as a visitor experience, communicating the importance of farming in food production and be a key part of the education & visitor programme.

- Daily Tasks (based on season)
- Daily milking of the Dairy herd
- Herding/feeding and movement of all stock
- Proper management of stock records
- Assist in production of forage from the farm, topping of pastures, manure spreading, weed control and hedge maintenance
- Regular cleaning of all animal housing and appropriate disinfections
- Regular checking of stock throughout the day ensuring animals have adequate feed and water at all times
- Ensuring that there is a pest control plan in place but that this is sensitive to flora and fauna on the farm
- Assist with cattle testing and all Department of Ag compliances are adhered to
- Deliver educational and visitor programs to the public
- Ensure the safety and welfare of all livestock
- Explain and enforce safety regulations and policies to colleagues and visitors alike
- Explain and demonstrate farming and food production to colleagues

## The Person

- Min qualification NCEA /Green Cert in agriculture or UK equivalent together with a number of years verifiable farm experience
- Enthusiastic, flexible, energetic and reliable
- Must be a team player
- Able to carry out basic machinery maintenance and repairs.
- Be comfortable with visitors to the farm and be able to communicate the Airfield Farm story
- Have basic IT skills
- Have good stockmanship skills
- Display interest in learning new skills and taking part in training where required
- Passionate about farming and sustainability
- Be flexible as is required with peaks and troughs of activity in the calendar year and demands in the overall Visitor Experience which is Airfield Estate

The Farm Assistant will report to the Farm Manager.

The standard working week will comprise 40 hours which will be will be rostered over a 7 day working week.

Please submit your CV in confidence to [john.otoole@airfield.ie](mailto:john.otoole@airfield.ie) and include **Farm Assistant Application** in the subject box.

Airfield Estate is an equal opportunities employer.