

Food Production Assistant

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 Food Production Assistant will work directly within the farm team and will be primarily responsible for the supporting the efficient operation of the farm food production activities and the presentation of the food production as part of our education program. The Food Production 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 food production, education programs 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 Estate is a dynamic and busy operation and we are looking for a self-starter who is 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.

The key role for the Food Production Assistant will be the bi-weekly pasteurization and milk bottling on site. 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 Food Production Assistant will be responsible for adherence to all Food Hygiene & Food Safety Standards and stock controls.

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

Airfield Estate is an equal opportunities employer.

Desirable Skills:

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

General Role & Responsibilities

- Overall assistance in management of the farm food production experience.
- The person will have responsibility for enhancing the farm food production 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)
- Proper management of records
- Assist in production of forage from the farm, topping of pastures, manure spreading, weed control and hedge maintenance.
- Assist with cattle testing and all Department of Ag compliances are adhered to.
- Deliver educational and visitor programs to the public
- 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 Hazard Analysis & Critical Control Point (HACCP) 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 story.
- Have basic IT skills
- Display interest in learning new skills and taking part in training where required.
- Passionate about farming, food production 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.

The Food Production Assistant will report to the Farm Manager.

The standard working week will comprise of a 3 day week up to 24 hours subject to demands of the job.

Please submit your CV in confidence to john.otoole@airfield.ie and include **Food Production Assistant Application** in the subject box.