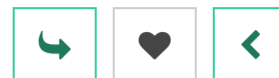


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Farmer



Also called: farm labourer, farm worker, farm manager

Farmers do agricultural work with livestock and crops, sometimes using machinery.



What you'll do

Your day-to-day tasks will vary depending on the type of farm and the time of year, but may include:

- working with animals (transporting, milking, feeding, mucking out, and caring for sick or newborn livestock)
- ploughing fields, sowing seeds, spreading fertiliser, crop spraying, and harvesting
- operating farm machinery
- maintaining and cleaning farm buildings and machinery
- laying and trimming hedges
- digging and maintaining ditches
- erecting and mending fences

You'll be supervised by the farm owner or manager, and you may supervise casual staff.

Record relevant activities you've already done on the [Activities tool](#) >

Working hours and environment

Farming work changes with the seasons, but you'll usually work at least 39 hours a week and be expected to work paid overtime if necessary. You could be working up to 16 hours a day at busier times of year, like during lambing or harvest seasons. Early morning, evening, and weekend work are all common.

This is a physically active role, so you'll need a reasonable level of fitness. You may be working with tools like saws and lifting equipment, or machinery like tractors and mowers, so could be exposed to noisy or dangerous environments.

Farm work usually takes place outside, and can be dirty and dusty. It may not suit you if you suffer from allergies like hay fever.

Career path and progression

With qualifications and experience, you could progress to supervisor or unit manager on a large farm. You may have to move between farms to gain experience and promotion.

With enough experience, you could also progress to become a farm manager. You'll need practical farming experience, gained by working as a supervisor, dairy or arable unit manager, or assistant manager. Most farm managers also have a qualification in agriculture, like a foundation degree, HND or degree in a subject like agriculture or farm business management.

You could also become an agricultural contractor, supplying services to several farms, servicing machinery, or working in agricultural equipment and supplies.

Skills required

You'll need:

- practical skills, to manage machinery or tools
- to be adaptable to working flexibly
- to be willing to be accountable for important results, like the yield of a crop
- physical abilities, so you have the energy to move around throughout the day
- resilience, to stay motivated to work long hours and remain positive when you don't get the results you want

Got evidence of these skills? Record your examples on the [Skills tool](#) >

Entry requirements

There are no set requirements, but the following may help you get into this career:

- experience and knowledge of farm work, for example through growing up on a farm or volunteering on a farm
- training or experience in handling a herd and operating milking machinery (to work on a dairy farm) – or you could learn on the job
- a degree in agriculture, agribusiness, or a relevant subject like sustainability or a science
- another agricultural qualification. The CAEP (Communicating for Agriculture Exchange Programs) offers training programs to young people in countries like the US, Canada, and Australia. If you're in the UK, you could apply for an apprenticeship like Level 2 Poultry Worker or Level 3 Crop Technician

You'll also usually need a driving licence.

Related university subject profiles

These university subjects are related to this career; check out their profiles on the Subjects library:

- [Agriculture](#) >
- [Animal science](#) >
- [Horticulture and Botany](#) >
- [Environmental and Earth sciences](#) >

Related career profiles

You may also be interested in:

- [Fish farmer](#) >
- [Animal welfare inspector](#) >
- [Gamekeeper](#) >
- [Countryside ranger](#) >
- [Animal breeder](#) >
- [Agronomist](#) >

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Want to see what relevant education and training opportunities are available right now? Search here:

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- [Australasia >](#)
- [Middle East and Africa >](#)
- [Ireland >](#)

Animal science at uni:

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- [UK >](#)
- [Canada >](#)
- [Europe >](#)
- [Asia >](#)
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Environmental and Earth sciences at uni:

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- [Ireland >](#)

Apprenticeships:

- [UK >](#)

College / Sixth Form:

- [UK >](#)

Labour Market Information (LMI)

Current and predicted figures relating to the Farmer profession. Median averages are shown, each with the specific career, or group of careers, that they apply to.

- UK
- USA

Jobs

Agricultural and related trades

297,337

563 in your local area of Liverpool

Top 5 local areas

1	Devon	12,214
2	Hampshire	9,308
3	Kent	8,835
4	Surrey	7,704
5	Cornwall	7,668

Salaries

Farmers

£29,816

Agricultural and related trades

£24,579

📍 £24,564 in your region of North West

Top 3 regions

1	East of England	£26,058
2	Scotland	£25,765
3	South East	£25,432

Growth

2020-2035

Skilled agricultural and related trades

+7.8%

↑ 29,404 jobs

📍 +6.9% in your region of North West, an increase of 2,429 jobs

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You haven't favourited any Careers library profiles yet

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Zookeeper

Zookeepers work in zoos, safari parks, or aquariums to feed, clean out, and look after animals.

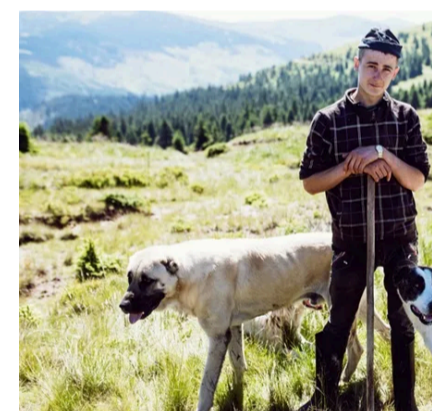
[Read the profile >](#)



Horse groom

Horse grooms look after horses' everyday needs, and make sure they're healthy and in good condition.

[Read the profile >](#)



Dog trainer

Dog trainers and instructors train dogs to improve their behaviour.

[Read the profile >](#)