



Job Description

We have a stock person position available on our Free-Range pork farm 20 minutes south of Timaru. We are the only true free range operation of this type and scale in New Zealand.

Highgrounds Texels was established in 2007. Along with the Texel stud, a commercial flock is run on the farm. Total sheep numbers are approximately 2,000.

Highgrounds Free range pork is a farrow to finish pig farming operation. The pigs are run on a continuous rotation around our 340Ha property using a 3 week batch farrow system and finishing all progeny as free range. Currently we are supplying a discerning market with free range pigs weekly.

Animal welfare, environment and sustainability are our 3 major drivers.

You will be joining a family run business along with two existing full-time staff members.

We are currently looking for a person to assist with the free-range pig operation, other farm activities such as fencing, tractor driving and general farm duties.

You will be required to:

- Be honest and truthful
- Display an extremely high level of animal welfare and good stock sense
- Top up feeders and check animals daily
- Water blasting huts
- The ability to work independently at times
- Have basic tractor driving skills
- You will also require a good level of written and numeric skills to enable accuracy in the recording of farm data
- Previous farm experience is an advantage but not essential, however previously working with animals is paramount
- This is a full-time permanent position commencing immediately including working rostered weekends and public holidays

Purpose of position

The position of General Farm Hand is designed to assist senior staff in the day-to-day running of all farm operations. This includes the pig operation which is run in a 3 weekly cycle so operations can be learnt quickly through repetition.

Responsibilities include;

Sow and litter management – Breeding section (*working with the pig breeding manager*)

- Observe sows during farrowing, be available to assist sows during farrowing if required
- Even out litter sizes between all farrowed sows



- Remove and attend to ‘fall behind piglets’
- Keep straw bedding clean, and dry for sow comfort and piglet warmth.
- Feed farrowed sows according to litter age and sow condition

Accurate record keeping

Record individual performance of each sow; Mating dates, farrowing dates, Piglets born, Piglets lost Piglets weaned, Vaccines administered, medication used etc. Recording, weighing and tagging stud and commercial sheep and lambs at critical times of the year for example during lambing.

Mating

- Identifying sows or gilts on heat
- Exposing new breeding gilts to a boar for heat detection
- Administrating AI
- Handling boars

A high level of animal husbandry

- Separating sick or bullied animals
- Ensuring adult and young animals are well fed
- Identifying any problems and reporting back to senior staff
- Vaccinating

Tractor Driving

- Using a tractor to feed cattle and sheep, move pigs, shift huts and bed pig huts with straw
- General agricultural work at various times of the year
- Use of a JCB

General Duties

- Setting up electric fences
- Shifting fence breaks
- Water blasting
- Checking existing water supply to animals and setting up new water drinkers
- Fencing
- Sheep work
- Cattle work
- Season agricultural work
- Motor bike operation
- Chemical treatment of weeds and pastures
- Assisting when lambing activities occur during the spring period

Reporting lines: The position reports directly to the farm owner and may at times work alongside the pig breeding manager.



Hours of work: Generally, 7:30am until 5pm. A roster system will be put in place to suit successful applicant. Occasional weekend work is required.

Special requirements: Applicants for this position should have NZ residency or a valid NZ work visa.

Above healthy homes NZ living standards on-farm accommodation is available upon request.