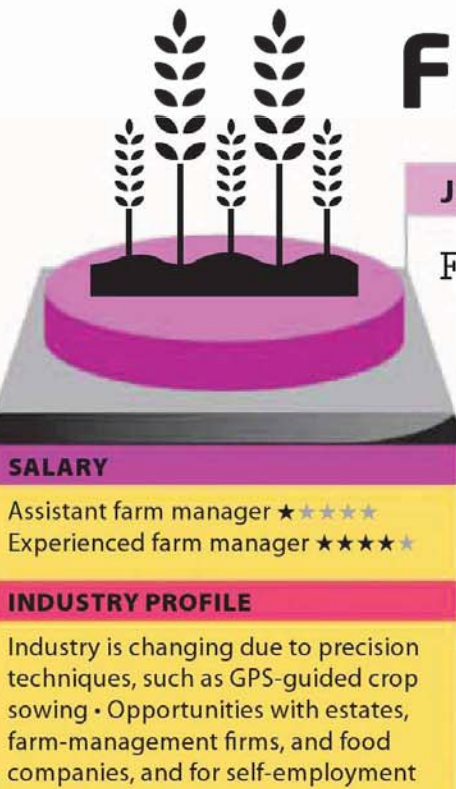


FARM MANAGER

JOB DESCRIPTION

Farm managers are responsible for ensuring that livestock, dairy, crops, or mixed farms are run smoothly and at a profit. From using machinery and moving animals, to planning crop rotations and managing the business, the job involves a range of duties that varies according to the local climate, soil conditions, the public's demand for produce, and contracts with supermarkets, food companies, and other customers.



AT A GLANCE



YOUR INTERESTS Agriculture • Animal welfare • The natural world • Environmental science • Biology • Technology



ENTRY QUALIFICATIONS Although it is possible to secure work as a farm manager based on experience alone, a degree in a related subject is preferred.



LIFESTYLE Work patterns are seasonal and farm managers are expected to put in very long hours at harvest or lambing times, for example.



LOCATION Managers carry out practical work on a farm and administrative tasks in an office. Travel to other sites or to agricultural shows is common.



THE REALITIES The work can be relentless at busy times of year. Profitability may be affected by external factors, such as poor weather.

CAREER PATHS

Farming is a diverse industry that offers good career prospects. Farm managers may be employed by landowners or work their own land. Many farms specialize in a single type of farming, so it may be necessary to move to broaden your experience.

FARM APPRENTICE You may be able to find work as a farm apprentice right after high school, gaining the necessary experience to apply for management training.

TRAINEE MANAGER You must have some prior experience of agricultural work to join a management-training program.

GRADUATE With a bachelor's degree in agriculture or farm management and experience of a farm apprenticeship, you can apply to join a graduate management-training program.



▼ RELATED CAREERS

- ▶ **FISH FARMER** Breeds and rears fish and shellfish for profit, for the food industry, for recreational angling, or as stock for ornamental pools. Fish farmers rear fish from eggs or buy them as young fish and then raise them before selling them on.
- ▶ **FOREST OFFICER** Supervises activities that develop and protect forest environments. Forest officers also oversee the ecological conservation and recreational use of forests, as well as managing commercial aspects of forestry.
- ▶ **PARKS OFFICER** Manages parks and open and green spaces for the benefit of local residents and visitors. Park officers supervise and allocate work to teams of park rangers, gardeners, and landscaping staff.

SKILLS GUIDE

-  High levels of stamina and resilience to meet the physical demands of the job.
-  Good organizational skills for arranging the operation and business management of the farm.
-  Strong computer skills for monitoring supply levels and keeping accurate records.
-  The ability to form a strong team of farm workers, and to oversee the activities of apprentices.
-  Business expertise to manage finances, plan budgets, and ensure that production targets are met.



ESTATE MANAGER Supervises and manages the maintenance of grounds and outbuildings, as well as overseeing the financial and legal affairs of farms and country estates.



AGRONOMIST Carries out field research into the breeding, physiology, production, yield, and management of crops and agricultural plants.



AGRICULTURAL CONSULTANT Solves agricultural problems and provides technical advice and support to farmers, growers, and government agencies.

FARM MANAGER Alongside your farm-management activities, you can take part-time courses, seminars, and workshops to ensure your skills remain up to date. There are a number of specializations to choose from.



AGRICULTURAL SALES EXECUTIVE Sells, promotes, and sometimes trains farmers in the use of agricultural products, such as machinery or fertilizer. Practical experience of farming is useful.