



# Agriculture Profile

## Employment Nelson-Tasman

### Introduction

Farming is a high tech industry that is always looking for good workers and farming careers are there for anyone who wishes to take advantage of the excellent support and opportunities that are available.

Agriculture in the Nelson region is made up mainly of dairy, sheep and beef farming. Dairy production is also on the increase.

### Employment in the Industry

Approximately 2500 people were employed in agriculture in this region during the year 2000.

- ◆ Dairy manufacturing offers great careers and is one of New Zealand's largest international businesses including management, marketing, technology and dairy factory operation.
- ◆ The outlook for farming is very good with a recent increase in the profitability of dairy farming.
- ◆ The Nelson region has 14 town supply dairy farms that milk all year round, and 220 factory supply farms that milk over the summer months.
- ◆ Meat processing offers excellent career prospects either locally, nationally, or internationally.
- ◆ Opportunities for employment in sheep and cattle farming vary depending on previous experience though work is generally available for those who seek it.

### What Employers Are Looking For

- ◆ The farmers say if you have the attitude, then they can teach you the skills.
- ◆ Employers look for people who are adaptable, reliable, and able to work as part of a team. It is important that farm workers enjoy working with animals, have a genuine interest in the industry, plus enthusiasm for the job.

### Current Skill Shortages

- ◆ There is a shortage of workers in the agricultural industry nationwide. Farmers have trouble finding good workers with experience, especially for the dairy sector.
- ◆ Dairy manufacturing needs people qualified in food technology, automation, information technology and transport.
- ◆ Independent farmers – dairy, cattle and beef.

### AGRICULTURE Employment Categories

Job Title	No's Employ	Job Description	Training
<b>Dairy Farm Owner</b> , Equity Partner, Lease Farm – self employed and wages vary greatly	510 total dairy farming	Complete management of property and stock	Extensive experience and management training. Qualifications can be gained at University level
<b>Share Milker, Dairy Farm Managers</b> -wages vary greatly		Farm maintenance, feed management, animal health and breeding. Financial management	National Diploma in Agribusiness Management
<b>Herd Manager</b> Wages vary greatly		Animal husbandry and management of a dairy herd	Certificate of Dairy Manufacturing -level 1-3, Diploma Dairy Tech – Certificate in Farm Skills
<b>Farm Cadet</b> \$21,000-\$37,000	270	Farm labourer	On the job training Modern Apprenticeship Scheme National Certificate in Agriculture
<b>Sheep Farmer Shepherd</b> \$21,000-\$37,000	280	Lambing, wool production, shearing, feed & livestock management	Cert in Agriculture Cadetship or Apprenticeship, and on the job training
<b>Beef Farmer</b> \$21,000-\$37,000	230	Livestock health and breeding. General farm work	Cert in Agriculture Cadetship or Apprenticeship
<b>Dairy Manufacturing</b>	170	Dairy factory operations, management and human	Management and human resource training. Industry

Management and supervisory staff \$50,000-\$80,000		resources	experience
<b>Dairy Manufacturing</b> Laboratory /Dairy Food Technology \$20,000-\$50,000		Testing dairy products for quality and safety	Certificate or Diploma in Dairy Manufacturing. University Diploma or Degree in Food Technology
<b>Dairy Tanker Driver</b> \$19,000-\$35,000		Collection and delivery of milk	Nat Cert Commercial Road Transport. Heavy trade licence and driving experience
<b>Agriculture Services and Contractors</b> Contract rates apply	620	Consultants, contract cultivation, spraying, hay making, irrigation, etc	Agricultural training or skills. Experience in the industry is an advantage
<b>Veterinary Services</b> \$37,000-\$75,000	45	Animal care, nutrition, pharmaceutical or vet nursing	Vet Nursing level 5
<b>Meat Processing</b> \$20,000-40,000	295	Stock work, butchering, packing and grading	On the job training, or previous experience
<b>Engineering, Auto &amp; Electrical Technicians</b> \$35,000-\$50,000		Factory maintenance and service. Installation of technology systems	Engineering, Automotive or Electrical Trade Certificate or relative qualifications

### Training Pathways to Employment

- ◆ Most of the skills and training needed to work in agriculture can be learned on the job. Experience is highly valued and can lead to fulfilling careers in the industry.
- ◆ There are a number of training providers who teach farming skills at all levels.
- ◆ Modern apprenticeships are available in the agriculture industry. For further information talk to your careers adviser.
- ◆ Cross credits can be gained from other industries, such as horticulture and fishing including skills like first aid, or Employment Skills through schools or youth training facilities.

### Some Training Providers

- ◆ **NMIT - Certificate in Farm Skills** – 20-week pre employment course offering general farming knowledge. Three years secondary education is preferred in maths, biology and english.
- ◆ **Lincoln University - Certificate in Agriculture.** Pre entry – twelve weeks farm experience then one year study.
- ◆ **Golden Bay Work Centre Trust - Introduction to Farming Skills** – TOPs criteria apply, see your careers advisor for information.
- ◆ **Agriculture NZ - National Certificate in Agriculture/Horticulture** – TOPs criteria apply, see your career advisor for information. Agriculture New Zealand, 9 Cambridge Street, Richmond.
- ◆ Agricultural Industry Training Organisation (ITO), PO Box 10-383, Wellington Phone (04) 801 9616 [www.agricultureito.ac.nz](http://www.agricultureito.ac.nz).
- ◆ **West Coast Farm Training Scheme (Inc) - Work based Farm Training** – farm cadet scheme providing experience for farm work. phone 03 789 6516.
- ◆ **STAR Courses** – These are a series of short courses offered in schools.
- ◆ **Agriculture ITO Modern Apprenticeship Scheme** – offers on the job training. Ph 0800 691 111  
Modern Apprenticeships are available in the following areas:  
Contracting - agricultural contracting and spraying  
Agriculture - pastoral, apiculture, fencing, shearing, stock and station  
Dairy manufacturing

### Some Major Employers

- ◆ Alliance Group Limited Nelson
- ◆ Kiwi Dairy Products Limited
- ◆ Agriculture Services and Contractors
- ◆ CRT Rural Farm Centre