

Herdsman

Description

A herdsman typically manages the day-to-day farm operations for the farm/ranch owner. Many times, a herdsman will live on the property to be close to the animals at all times of the day. Their duties include caring for sick animals themselves or calling the veterinarian, managing breeding programs, maintaining fences, transporting animals and keeping thorough records to better inform the farm/ranch owner.

Education/Training Requirements

- Associate's or Bachelor's degree in Animal Science or a Livestock related field (expected)
- Experience working with livestock (needed)

Recommended High School Coursework

- Agriculture Education
- Anatomy
- Animal Science
- Biology
- Chemistry
- Mathematics

Common Responsibilities

- Identify and care for sick animals
- Manage a breeding program
- Conduct artificial insemination
- Build and repair new and existing fences
- Work independently and as a team
- Operate heavy equipment and semi tractor-trailers
- Assist with birthing
- Maintain wells, pipelines, property and equipment
- Transport animals to market
- Keep thorough records
- Communicate with the farm/ranch owner on a regular basis

Typical Employers

Herdsmen are needed on large-scale ranches and farms. Some may be with independent producers, and others may work for corporate animal production companies.

Additional Resources

[American Dairy Association](#)

[American Sheep Industry Association](#)

[National Cattlemen's Beef Association](#)