**Position: Dairy Farm Worker**

**Location:** Lindenright Holsteins, Antigonish, Nova Scotia, Canada

**Farm description:**

Lindenright Holsteins, is a two-time Master Breeder herd in Brierly Brook, just outside the town of Antigonish in north-eastern Nova Scotia. The farm is located about five minutes from the town of Antigonish which is home to Saint Francis Xavier University.

The herd of 135 (115 milking) cows are pure-bred registered Holsteins. We have about 80 young stock. The milking herd is housed in a free-stall barn with a double-ten parallel parlour. There is a robotic feed pusher in the milk cow barn.

Calves are in a loose housing barn with a robotic calf feeder. Heifers move into bedding pack pens and then bred heifers move to a free-stall barn until calving.

We farm approximately 100 hectares, of which half is in corn production and the remainder in grass/alfalfa. We operate on a four-cut system with the majority being chopped silage stored in bunker silos. Most field work is done by farm employees with very little custom work done at the farm.

We do a lot of our own animal care including artificial insemination, embryo implants, pregnancy checking with our own ultrasound and hoof-trimming. We have a Cowmanager activity system which we use to help with heat detection and early identification of health issues.

**General job description:**

We are looking to hire a full-time, experienced, versatile farm worker who is willing to be involved in most aspects of the operation. This includes milking, feeding, bedding, cleaning, cropping, animal care and some general maintenance. The duration of employment is flexible but ideally, we are looking for someone to commit to two years of employment.

**General skills:**

* animal handling
* problem solving
* adaptability
* reliable
* use and maintenance of equipment and tools
* ability to work independently
* ability to work with others

**Specific duties:**

Milking

* twice daily in a double-ten parallel parlour

Feeding

* Prepare a total mixed ration daily for milking and dry cows.
* Use a skid steer to deliver feed to heifers.
* Operate, maintain and clean robotic calf feeder.

Cleaning

* Use a skid steer with scraper in free-stall barns.
* The cow barn has automatic alley scrapers.
* Bedding – operate a sawdust slinger and straw chopper on skid steer.

Cropping

* A skilled tractor driver is a requirement.
* Experience with different implements would be an asset. Examples of tractor work include manure spreading, mowing, raking, baling, chopping silage and hauling wagons.

Animal care

* Help to identify and report health issues.
* Follow established heath protocols for treatment of animals.
* Help with herd health tasks such as vaccinations, hoof trimming, pregnancy checks.
* Use of Cowmanager, Uniform Agri, Lactanet, and barn cameras

**Qualifications**

* Completion of a dairy or agricultural technology program or a degree in agriculture or experience working on a dairy farm.
* Dairy farming experience
	+ Milking cows
	+ Operation of tractor with equipment
* A valid drivers’ licence
* Willing to work every second weekend (in the non-cropping season this would not be a full day).
* Communication in English (reading, writing, speaking)

**Compensation:**

* Hourly wage (dependant on experience and skill-level but in the range of $20-25 per hour).
* Wage will align with experience; we may explore other benefits for the ideal candidate.
* Salary will be adjusted annually for cost of living but will also provide the opportunity for wage increases for additional responsibilities or independent work.
* Medical and dental coverage
* Potential for on-farm housing (a bachelor basement apartment)
* Paid educational opportunities (attending local workshops, webinars etc.)

Please submit resume, including contact information for two references who can comment on your experience working on a dairy operation, via e-mail to Jason Van der Linden jason.lindenright@gmail.com. If you would like to learn more about this opportunity, please feel free to e-mail Jason.