

Agricultural Service Contractors, Farm Supervisors and Specialized Livestock Workers

Description

Agricultural service contractors, who own and operate their own businesses, provide agricultural services such as livestock and poultry breeding, soil preparation, crop planting, crop spraying, cultivating or harvesting. Farm supervisors supervise the work of general farm workers and harvesting labourers. Specialized livestock workers carry out feeding, health and breeding programs on dairy, beef, sheep, poultry, swine and other livestock farms.

Duties:

- Agricultural service contractors:
 - Provide agricultural livestock services such as artificial insemination, spraying or shearing of livestock or disinfecting pens, barns or poultry houses
 - Provide agricultural crop services such as plowing, irrigating, cultivating, spraying or harvesting
 - Assist in the development and implementation of farm safety and bio-security procedures
 - Hire and train workers
 - Negotiate the terms of services to be provided
 - Maintain financial and operational records
 - May participate in the provision of services or in the operation of machinery and equipment.
- Farm supervisors:
 - Co-ordinate, assign and supervise the work of general farm workers and harvesting labourers
 - Supervise and oversee breeding and other livestock-related programs
 - Supervise, monitor and enforce procedures to maintain animal and crop health and welfare
 - Supervise and oversee growing and other crop-related operations
 - Supervise maintenance of infrastructure, equipment, and supplies
 - Develop work schedules and establish procedures
 - Ensure farm safety, food safety and security and bio-security procedures are followed
 - Maintain quality control and production records
 - May perform general farm duties.
 - Farm supervisors may specialize in areas such as dairy, poultry, swine, beef, sheep, equine, fruit, vegetable, mixed or other specialty farming.
- Specialized livestock workers:
 - Formulate feeding programs
 - Implement pasture or pen breeding programs
 - Follow safety and bio-security procedures
 - Recognize and treat certain livestock health problems
 - Maintain livestock performance records
 - Select livestock for sale
 - Train horses
 - Perform general farm duties
 - May supervise general farm workers.

Other titles:

- Artificial Inseminator
- Crop Harvesting Service Contractor
- Pork Production Technician
- Swine Herdsperson
- Vegetable Farm Foreman/Woman
- Poultry Farm Foreman/Woman
- Livestock Breeding Service Contractor
- Ranch Foreman/Woman
- Dairy Herdsperson
- Farm Supervisor
- Horse Trainer
- Crop Dusting Contractor

(Government of Canada National Occupation Classification)

Skills

Science	Monitoring	Critical Thinking	Reading	Operation and Control
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Education/Training Requirements

Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD)

- Most university/college programs require an OSSD or Mature Student Status

Post-secondary diploma/degree

- Agricultural service contractors usually require a university degree, college diploma or industry courses in agricultural studies and several years of experience related to the service offered

Certification

- Contractors providing certain services, such as artificial insemination and pesticide application, may require training certificates and provincial licensing
- Farm supervisors and specialized livestock workers may require a college certificate or other specialized training in agriculture or livestock husbandry
- A course or certificate in first aid may be required.

Potential Earnings in Durham Region

The average and median wages and salaries for individuals employed as agricultural service contractors, farm supervisors and specialized livestock workers are as follows. Place of Residence (POR) is defined as

individuals who reside within the Durham Region. Place of Work (POW) is defined as individuals who are employed within the Durham Region.

Median Wages and Salaries (POR)	Average Wages and Salaries (POR)	Median Wages and Salaries (POW)	Average Wages and Salaries (POW)
\$28,728	\$27,338	\$28,763	\$28,901

Employment Prospects

Industry (NAICS)	Jobs in Durham Region (POW)	Durham Region Residents Employed (POR)
111-112 Farms	45	55
1110 Farms (except aquaculture)	45	55

(Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Development 2016 data in Durham Workforce Authority's 2017 Sector Report)