

General Farm Workers

Description

General farm workers plant, cultivate and harvest crops, raise livestock and poultry and maintain and repair farm equipment and buildings. This group includes operators of farm machinery. General farm workers are employed on crop, livestock, fruit, vegetable and specialty farms.

Duties:

- Plant, fertilize, cultivate, spray, irrigate and harvest crops
- Feed and tend livestock and poultry
- Milk cows
- Perform or assist in performing breeding activities of farm animals
- Operate and maintain farm machinery and equipment
- Follow food safety and security and animal bio-security procedures
- Detect disease and health problems in crops, livestock and poultry
- Examine produce for quality and prepare for market
- Set and monitor water lines, air flow and temperature in barns, pens and chicken coops
- Maintain or assist in the maintenance of facilities and farm infrastructure including cleaning stables, barns, barnyards and pens.

Other titles:

- Farm Machinery Operator
- Cattle Ranch Laborer
- Dairy Farm Worker
- Hatchery Worker
- Vegetable Farm Worker

(Government of Canada National Occupation Classification)

Skills

Operation and Control	Coordination	Time Management	Repairing	Active Learning	Equipment Maintenance
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Education/Training Requirements

- There are no specific education or training requirements. However, a college certificate or specialized courses related to farming, such as farm equipment mechanics, agricultural welding, tree pruning and pesticide application, are available.
- Basic farm knowledge, usually obtained from working on a family farm, may be required for employment.

Certification

- 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 general farm 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)
\$6,258	\$14,487	\$8,244	\$15,128

Employment Prospects

Industry (NAICS)	Jobs in Durham Region (POW)	Durham Region Residents Employed (POR)
111-112 Farms	515	540
115 – Support Activities for Agriculture and Forestry	15	20

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