

HELP FEED TEXAS:

# Join the Texas Dairy Industry

Meaningful Work - Competitive Wages

Texas has a vibrant and expanding dairy industry with increased opportunities for workers to help feed our state's growing population. Cows, as always, remain the center of any dairy operation. But today's modern dairy farm increasingly relies on technology and science-based practices.

Dairy farms employ men and women in numerous positions, from the barn to the business office. There's a job to fit almost every interest, skill set and education level. Training for most positions is available. Other jobs may not be based on a farm, but work directly with multiple dairy farmers.

**Want to learn more about a career in the Texas dairy industry?  
Consider visiting a local dairy farm or talking with a dairy farmer.**



## Jobs on the Farm

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### Animal Handlers

#### **Milk Harvesting Technician (milker)**

Harvest the highest quality of milk through consistent procedures while caring for the health and safety of the cows.

#### **Animal Care Technician**

Make decisions and care for cows' health and well-being, administer vaccines and move cows between groups when necessary.

#### **Maternity Technician**

Assist with calves' birth and their first days of life.

#### **Young Stock Development Technician**

Feed, water and care for calves during their first two years of life.

#### **Artificial Insemination Technician (breeder)**

Identify cows to be bred and breed them.

#### **Hoof Health Technician**

Trim cows' hooves.

### Rolling Equipment Operators

#### **General Equipment Operator**

Operate tractors, loaders and skid steers in various jobs that include scraping, moving feed and cleaning pens.

#### **Feeder**

Mix and provide consistent feed to livestock.

#### **Vacuum Operator**

Vacuum manure in cow pens to ensure a clean and healthy environment.

## Maintenance & Repair Team

### Equipment Maintenance Technician

Keep all equipment maintained and operational so that cows can be milked and the farm can function without interruption.

### Facilities Maintenance Technician

Fix and maintain structural components of the farm.

### Crop Management Technician

Maintain irrigation and crop facilities.

## Management

### Dairy Manager

Supervise and coordinate day-to-day operations of employees for the best care of the herd.

### Assistant Manager

Help the manager in day-to-day operations and employee supervision.

### Parlor Manager

Maintain all parlor facilities, teach new milking technicians, and ensure the highest quality of milk is harvested from the cows.

### Crop/Feed Manager

Manage crops and farm land to grow and harvest the highest quality feed in the most sustainable and efficient manner.

### Bookkeeper/Accountant

Maintain the farm's financial books and statements, providing information to allow the dairy owner to make business decisions.

### Office/Bookkeeping Assistant

Assist in various office tasks.



## Jobs off the Farm

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- Marketing/communications/promotions
  - Sales (machinery, pharmaceuticals, feed, etc.)
  - Nutritionist
  - Veterinarian (large animal)
  - Researcher
  - Ag or dairy economist
  - Ag banker
  - Educator/teacher
  - Extension agent
  - Milk hauler/processor



## Resources

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U.S. Dairy Training and Education Consortium: <https://usdetc.tamu.edu>  
Southwest Regional Dairy Center: <https://www.tarleton.edu/dairycenter/index.html>  
Texas Association of Dairywomen: [www.milk4texas.org](http://www.milk4texas.org)  
Center for Dairy Excellence: Careers in Dairy: [www.centerfordairyexcellence.org](http://www.centerfordairyexcellence.org)  
Dairy Max: [www.dairymax.org](http://www.dairymax.org)  
Dairy Management Inc.: [www.dairy.org](http://www.dairy.org)  
Texas A&M AgriLife Extension: <https://texasdairymatters.tamu.edu>  
Dairy Farmers of America: [www.dfamilk.com](http://www.dfamilk.com)  
Select Milk Producers: [www.selectmilk.com](http://www.selectmilk.com)  
Southwest Dairy Farmers: [www.southwestdairyfarmers.com](http://www.southwestdairyfarmers.com)