

ANIMAL CARETAKER

Animal Caretakers/Operations Managers are responsible for the care of animal production facilities for food consumption.

WHAT RESPONSIBILITIES WILL I HAVE?

- Responsible for learning and overseeing all aspects of an animal operation, which may include a processing plant, feed mill, and live production
- Plan, organize, staff, direct, and control activities to achieve cost effective production
- Animal husbandry duties such as, bedding, feeding, watering, medicating, lighting, vaccinating, natural breeding, artificial insemination, and pregnancy-check.
- Maintain farm records, such as mortality, individual flock/herd records, maintenance schedules, estimated operating costs, and monitoring of animal health/feeding requirements
- Manage personnel in order to produce a quality product in an efficient manner
- Responsible for the coordination of information and communication between all personnel/manager of the individual functions of the operation
- Identify and improve all areas of operation efficiencies
- Work closely with contract growers to ensure that procedures and processes are consistent with the overall goals of the organization
- Direct relations with all governmental regulatory agencies and management and resolution of issues
- Also work with all support departments such as Quality Assurance/Quality Control, maintenance, human resources, accounting
- Develop and adhere to operational budgets – provide feedback to management regarding cost of inputs and suggestions for selling price points
- Administrative duties – include team time cards, scheduling, training and safety responsibilities
- Work with human resources regarding all areas of employee relations
- Assistance with on-farm duties as needed, such as filling in for a supervisor/farm manager



WHAT EDUCATION & TRAINING IS REQUIRED?

An associate's or bachelor's degree in animal science or a related major

THE FOLLOWING HIGH SCHOOL COURSES ARE RECOMMENDED...

Agricultural education, animal science, anatomy, biology, mathematics

TYPICAL EMPLOYERS

Food production companies, contract growers with integrated production facilities, animal pharmaceutical companies, and university research farms; may also be self-employed

FUTURE JOB MARKET/OUTLOOK



SUGGESTED PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS & ASSOCIATIONS

- National Cattlemen's Beef Association
- Dairy Farmers of America
- American Society of Animal Science

AVERAGE ANNUAL FULL-TIME SALARY

\$36,000