



# Dairy Herdsman

**Kyle McLeod**

---

## PROFILE

**Employer:**  
Terbeek Farms, Gouda  
Cheese Lady

**Location:**  
North Winsloe, PEI

**Education/Training:**  
Grade 12  
Farm Technician  
Program

**Years Working in Agriculture:**  
20 + years. Started at his  
family's hog farm and moved  
into Dairy for the last ten  
years.

**Nature of Work:**  
Full Time

**Salary Range:**  
\$10-\$18

**Job History:**  
10 years hog farm, 10 years  
dairy.

**What I like best about the  
career:**  
"Varied work. It's never the  
same thing every day."

## WHAT IS A DAIRY HERDSMAN?

A Dairy Herdsman is responsible for milking and feeding the cows, farm management, maintenance, and growing and harvesting forage.

## WHAT SKILLS ARE REQUIRED?

The following skills are required to be a Dairy Herdsman:

- Operate milking machines and follow milking procedures
- Maintain a clean barn/working area
- Check cow health and spot health problems as they arise.
- Understanding how to deal with cows and calves
- Chores; handling cattle, machine operation and maintenance
- Open mind to learn new things
- To solve and see problems as they arise

## HOW DID YOU BECOME A DAIRY HERDSMAN

"When I was younger I was bored one day and was looking for work. I went and asked my neighbors if they had any odd jobs I could do and they did. It also helps to be born into a family who works in agriculture."

## WHAT DO YOU NOT LIKE ABOUT YOUR JOB?

The hours can be different every week, you can't leave the job until everything is done. If a problem comes up you have to stick around until it is fixed. It is also a split shift, but this is not bad because it lets me get other things done during the day.

## SUMMER OPTIONS FOR STUDENTS

During the summer months there are various options for students including:

- Look at the job bank online at [www.peiagsc.ca](http://www.peiagsc.ca)
- Look into working/volunteering at a farm, milkers are always wanted.

## THE FUTURE (JOB OUTLOOK)

The average herd size has been increasing from 40-60 head so there are more big farms taking over the role of smaller farms. They are usually looking to hire, but the job doesn't vary. Most family farms looking to hire are looking for someone half time.

## RELATED CAREERS

Beef farm  
Potato farm  
Tractor Driving

