**Job Title:** Dairy Herdsman

**Location:** 1145 Wills Ridge NW, Floyd, VA 24091

**Compensation:** Variable depending on Skill Set, to be discussed at Interview.

**Benefits:** One week paid Vacation after 1st year. 2 weeks paid Vacation after 3 years. On farm hunting and fishing.

**Dairy Description:** Huckleberry Dairy is a progressive 300-cow dairy that has been shipping Grade A milk since 1958. The Dairy is led by 3rd generation brothers Curtis and Mark Sowers. A 250-beef cow/calf herd is also part of this operation. The dairy herd is milked in a Double six herringbone parlor with Afi-Milk meters and automatic take offs. Afi-Milk, PCDart, Pocket Dairy and Microsoft office are used for all of the animal records. The Milking herd is grouped into 3 groups. A Special needs and Fresh cow group which is housed in a free stall barn, 1st lactation in one side of a pack barn and 2nd and later lactations are in the other side of the pack barn. New calves are housed in hutches then moved to group pens and Counter Slope housing until breeding age. Breeding Age heifers are placed on pasture and fed a partial TMR till bred then moved to other pastures after becoming pregnant. Bred heifers return to the main farm and join the Far off Dry Cow group at 60 days till due date. Close up group of both Dry cows and Heifers is housed in a new pack barn with separate pens for calving when needed at 21 days till due. Dairy steers are also raised on farm until leaving the farm at a weight of 850 -950 lb. weight. All cattle are Breed A.I. All forage is raised, harvested, and stored on the farm with commodities, grains and supplements being purchased. Current herd production is 28,179 lbs. RHA, 1047 lbs. RHFat, and 854 lbs. RHProtein, with 2X milking. Herd health is overseen by the Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine (VMCVM) Large Animal Production Department with John F. Currin DVM, DABVP being the lead doctor.

**Dairy Herdsman Job Description:**

A Full-time dairy Herdsman’s task includes overseeing milking personnel in a professional and efficient manner. A Herdsman must understand and adhere to the proper protocols for milking and health of the herd as set by Huckleberry Dairy. Primary responsibilities include, but are not limited to, the following: Protect and promote each animal's well-being under your care. Ensure proper sanitation and waste management is maintained in the pens. Keep animals dry and clean of manure and provide them comfortable, healthy surroundings. Keep the milking herd separated from the treated herd and recognize the difference between them. Ensure the proper cows arrive at the milking parlor at the appointed time and depart just as fast. Note cows that may have mastitis or other problems. Ensure the overall fitness and wellness of each animal in your care. Heat detection, A.I. Breeding and record keeping. Work with VMCVM and managers to obtain reproduction, production and health goals for the farm. Additional Herdsman related activities: Help to get cattle in the barn, if necessary. Maintain animal treatment records and identify treated cows with appropriate markers, such as leg bands, etc. Assist in ordering supplies by making a list and bringing to the manager's attention any items in short supply. Clip and singe udders and perform other procedures that promote accurate identification and animal well-being.

Additional employee responsibilities may include, but are not limited to, the following responsibilities: Relief milking (Vacation/Sickness of milkers), care of springers and cows at calving, feeding and healthcare of calves and youngstock, cleaning and care of milking herd, maintenance of free-stalls and bedding pack, cleaning and maintenance of office building maintenance of grounds, pasture, fences plus maintenance of vacuum pump and other milking equipment.

If unable to be present at scheduled working hours, the manager must be given sufficient notice to arrange for a substitute Herdsman. In case of an emergency, an employee may be called to work on a vacation or regularly scheduled day off. Alternating weekend work schedule is required. Teamwork and the ability to easily adjust to daily farm duties is a must.