

Black Hollow Dairy, LLC is a certified organic, grazing dairy located in the mountains of SW Virginia. We believe in managing our farm and our livestock holistically and preserving the wildlife and nature while doing so. Our farm consists of 700 acres of mountainous pastures and forests. Our main enterprise is dairy cattle, but we also raise grassfed lamb, Mangelitze pigs and laying hens. We hope to expand our farm to include organic vegetable production as well.

We are searching for someone who shares our passion for caring for animals and the earth. This position would be physically demanding, yet incredibly satisfying for the right person. You must be able to lift at least 75 pounds and work outside in all weather conditions.

Job description: Assist with all aspects of livestock management including feeding and checking cattle and sheep on a regular basis , routine vaccinations and treatments as well as calving management. Prior experience is not necessary, just a love of animals, an enthusiastic attitude and a willingness to learn. Milking twice a day with another employee in our swing 20 milking parlor (2 hours each milking).

You will learn visual monitoring of pastures to assess when to move livestock, how to manage weeds and hay production. This also involves setting up and taking down temporary electric fence and moving water troughs as necessary. You will also be assisting with repairing fence and other routine maintenance.

Because our dairy operation is seasonal, spring is an intense time of the year. March through May is calving 300+ cows and training new ones to the milking parlor. During this time we also manage the newborn calves and lamb 25 ewes. This will be tiring but very rewarding. Most employees finish spring calving with a new confidence and are very proficient at managing calving cattle and newborns.

Summer is labor intensive as well, but allows for a more routine schedule and allows us to hire additional part time help. Fall is a slower time of the year, with more time for visiting family and other activities. Because the cows are dried off for the winter, the workload shifts into maintaining and updating equipment and farm infrastructure as the weather permits, along with feeding the animals. Most employees are able to take

extended vacations in winter. There are also opportunities for employees to attend paid workshops during this time.

Successful candidates demonstrate a high level of personal and ethical standards and are able to work both independently and as part of a team.

Full time pay is determined by experience and opportunities for pay increases are given as employees become more proficient. Housing and utilities are provided, as well as sharing in farm produced meat and milk. Garden space is available and encouraged. Other benefits are discussed during the interview process. Employees can chose from one day off a week or every other weekend.

Interested candidates can email a letter of interest and resume' to blackhollowdairy@yahoo.com. We will be hiring 2 full time employees with an expected starting date of March 1, 2019.