

Assistant Farm Manager

Reporting directly to the Farm Manager you will work as part of the growing and harvest management team at our site in Herefordshire. **Salary: £35,000-£40,000.**

- You will need to: Grow the vegetable crops including asparagus, beans, rhubarb and any other new crops.
- Walk the fields, identifying weed and disease issues and developing your knowledge of production of these crops.
- Identify areas of concern and walk crops with the agronomist.
- Agree and action plans made with the agronomist, Farm Manager and partners.
- Work with the Farm Manager to ensure completion of the field operations including topping, ridging, planting, spraying, fertiliser application, irrigation and polythene work.
- As part of the team support the Harvest Manager to ensure the harvest and other labour-intensive jobs are completed efficiently and in a timely manner.
- Work with the team to plan crop production of vegetable crops and ensure harvesting is completed on time and cost effectively.
- Assist the team in planning and organisation of other field-based operations.
- As a team support each other to cover responsibilities for leave and weekends.

Duties to include:

- To develop and continually extend your knowledge of vegetable crops with a focus on asparagus.
- Work with the team to manage the planting and growth of the crops including:
 - Walking fields regularly to identify issues of concern and work with the Specialist Agronomists to ensure these issues are dealt with in an efficient and cost-effective way.
 - You should be taking particular care to identify issues of weed and disease control.
 - Putting plans into action, including crop protection, nutrition and irrigation and keep accurate records of this.
 - Ensure the harvest team are aware of disease control products to ensure withdrawal periods before harvest are adhered too and crops are available to harvest as required.
 - Organise the growth of the vegetable crops from planting to the end of the crop life.
 - Work with the other Managers on polythene cloches, tunnel erection, ventilation, irrigation and harvesting.
- Work with the agronomists and manager to agree jobs which need completing to ensure a high-quality crop and ensure this is undertaken in a timely and cost-efficient manner.
- Keep accurate records of operations and applications.
- Ensure all tasks and documents meet the requires of the Assured Produce Scheme and work with the Management Team to ensure compliance with all audits undertaken.
- Work with the Harvest Manager to ensure work is completed efficiently and accurately.
- Work with the management team to develop new ideas and cropping systems.
- Manage the onsite field trials and capture the data to provide informed and accurate results to further crop and management decisions.

- Working with the Harvest Manager forecast harvest dates and quantities to ensure workers are available to complete the tasks and product is available for grading and packing as required.
- Take responsibility for health and safety for jobs undertaken by yourself and workers in your team, including risk assessments, safe working procedures and machinery maintenance.
- Be responsible for the management and Health and Safety of yourself and anyone working with you.
 - Implement procedures to safeguard the health, safety and wellbeing of employees, visitors and contractors.
 - Make sure machinery is properly guarded and maintained and records kept
 - Report and review any accidents to the HR department.
- Undertake any training that the organisation considers necessary to complete your job, this may include BASIS and FACTS at a future date.
- To undertake any other tasks which might be required to support and help develop the business.

Person Specification:

1. Have excellent written and spoken English.
2. Good computer skills including EXCEL.
3. Full clean driving licence.
4. Previous experience of vegetable crop growth and management is desirable.
5. Have some practical experience in modern farming.
6. Good inter-personal skills with the ability to work alone or in a team.
7. Flexibility on working hours – work will be required at weekends in conjunction with the management team to ensure cover
8. Be an advocate of vegetable growing in the business looking to consider new ideas and innovations to improve crop growth and margins.
9. Have a can-do attitude with the ability to be a self-starter.
10. Have strong communication and analytical skills.

If you are interested in applying to this position, please complete our application form [HERE](#).