

## Farm Worker or Stockperson

Farm workers or stockpersons carry out manual and practical work on farms. They work farms that are livestock (animals), arable (crops) or mixed (animals and crops).

### The Work

**On a livestock farm**, you could be:

- looking after animals like cattle, sheep, pigs, hens
- feeding animals, keeping them clean and looking after them when breeding
- using a milking machine to milk cows
- checking animals for disease and helping prevent infection
- driving a tractor to transport animal feed or livestock
- mending fences, digging ditches and cutting hedges
- keeping records of animals.

**On an arable farm**, you could be:

- helping grow crops like vegetables, wheat or other grains
- sowing seeds, spraying weedkillers or fertilisers and harvesting crops
- preparing and packing crops for sale
- driving a combine harvester or a tractor with machinery such as a plough
- mending fences, digging ditches and cutting hedges
- keeping records of crops.

**On a mixed farm**, you could be doing any of these things.

### Pay

The figures below are only a guide. Actual pay rates may vary, depending on:

- where you work
- the size of company or organisation you work for
- the demand for the job.

Pay rates for farm worker or stockperson are set by the Scottish Agricultural Wages Board. From 1 April 2025 this is:

- a minimum of £12.21 an hour – for all full and part time workers, students and casual workers – no matter what type of work is being carried out
- £7.65 an hour for the first 12 months for apprentices who undertake a Modern Apprenticeship with SVQ at SCQF Level 4 or 5 in Agriculture/Horticulture or equivalent, thereafter rising to £12.21 after the first year.

Workers who hold a relevant SVQ at SCQF Level 6 or an apprenticeship certificate approved by Lantra are entitled to an additional £1.83 an hour.

There is also a Dog Allowance for those using their own working dogs. This is £9.98 a week for each dog (up to a maximum of four dogs).

The minimum hourly overtime rate of time and a half is payable for all workers.

You may also be provided with accommodation rent-free or at a reduced rate. Employers may deduct up to £10.66 a day for accommodation other than a house.

## Conditions

- Most of your work would be outdoors, in all weathers.
- The conditions can be dirty, muddy and smelly.
- Working with farm animals and machinery can be dangerous.
- You would need to wear boots and protective clothing.
- Your working hours could be long and irregular, starting early and including evenings and weekends.
- You would be busier at certain times of the year than others, for example when harvesting or during lambing season.
- You may have to live on the farm as part of the job.

## Getting In

- A good general education is useful.
- If you enter a job straight from school, some previous work experience on a farm is useful, such as weekend or holiday work.
- You may be able to train through a Modern Apprenticeship. This combines on the job and off the job training leading to relevant SVQs at SCQF Levels 5-7.
- You could do a college course before starting work, for example an NC/NQ in Agriculture (SCQF Level 5 or 6).
- The entry requirements for these courses vary from no formal qualifications to 2 or 3 subjects at National 4 or 5 including English, Maths and a science subject. You may also need some agricultural experience.
- You need to be fit enough to do strenuous work.
- For some jobs a driving or tractor licence is and may be necessary, but you might work towards this during an apprenticeship or while in employment.

## What Does It Take

You need to be:

- practical, reliable and hard working
- responsible and safety conscious
- able to work on your own and also as part of a team
- able to follow instructions carefully
- confident about handling large animals

- careful, when working with machinery
- physically fit with good stamina
- interested in working in agriculture.

## Training

- You would train on the job under the supervision of experienced workers.
- While working, you may be able to study part time at college for an NC, NQ or SVQ in an agricultural subject.
- If you already have an NC, NQ or SVQ, there may be the opportunity to study part time for an HNC (SCQF Level 7).
- You may do extra training in the use of specialist machinery or driving a fork lift truck.

## Getting On

- With suitable experience, and depending on the size of farm, you may be able to get promotion to a supervisory job.
- With further qualifications and extensive experience, you may be able to move up to become an assistant farm manager then farm manager.

## Contacts

### Lantra Scotland

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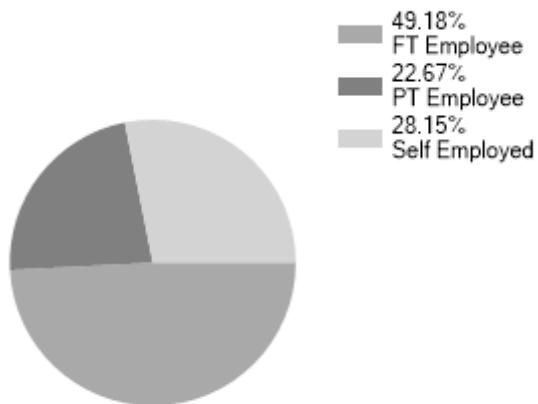
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## Statistics

Employment Status UK %

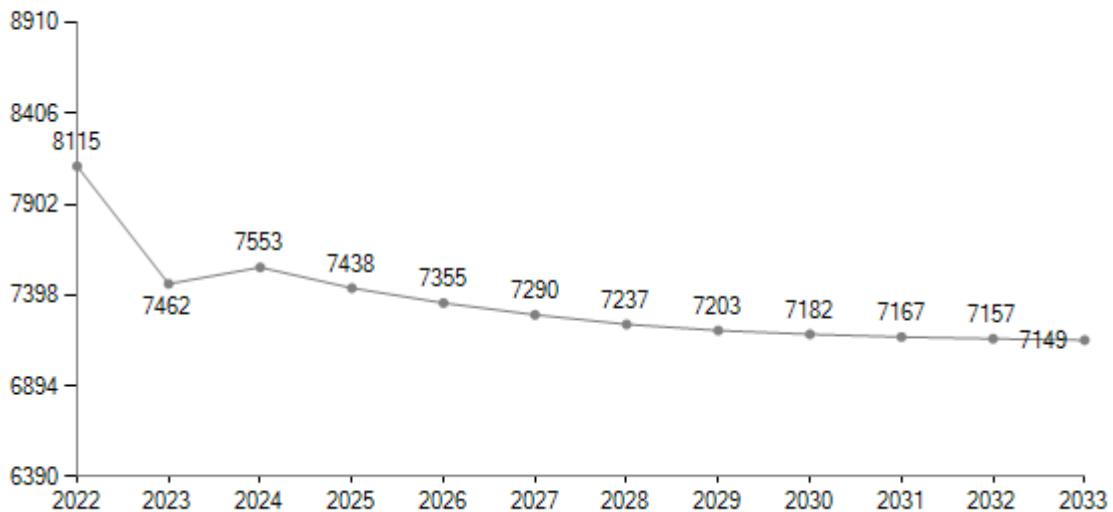


### Past Unemployment - Scotland

No Claimant statistics available for Scotland.

LMI data powered by [LMI for All](#)

Predicted Employment in Scotland



LMI data powered by [Lightcast](#)