

## Family dairy farm in Methven - New Zealand

We live near the ski village of Methven. It is just half an hour to the slopes of Mt Hutt Skifield. We are half an hour from Ashburton (a rural town population of 30,000) and 1 hour from Christchurch (city of 500,000).

We have 4 children, aged from 23 to 11. We also have a dog called Patch, 3 cats and 5 horses. Greta and Annah are both away at university, Greta studying Musical Theatre and Annah studying law and international relations. Gus loves sport and Bella acting and horse riding. Jeremy loves rugby and cricket, watching more than he plays these days. I love riding horses, the outdoors, and supporting our children in their passions.

Our second in charge has been working with us for the past 8 years. His wife and three children live on the farm also. Roel is a keen hunter and always keen to take trainees hunting for possums and rabbits. We also have other friends that are keen hunters going further afield hunting for deer and pigs that we could put you in touch with.

Our flat-land farm has been a dairy farm for the past 5 years before then it was a cropping farm. We milk 1250 cows on 380ha through two 54 bale rotary cowsheds. Our cowsheds are both automated with cup removers.



We employ 6 fulltime staff on a 6 days on - 2 days off roster to help us milk and feed the cows and calves.

Our trainees live in a new 3 bedroom staff house where they share the bathroom, kitchen and living areas.

Expect to work 50-52 hours a week during the milking season. We operate a 6 days on 2 days off roster throughout the year. For every month that you work for us you earn 1.75 days paid holiday plus if you work a statutory holiday you earn another paid holiday. Hence if you work 6 months and 2 statutory holidays you will have at least 12.5 days paid leave which you can take while working with us. We try our very best to give everyone the days off they request. August and September are busy months on the farm so no annual leave is given over that period.

The annual salary for a trainee is \$38000 plus accommodation. Each trainee is accommodated in a room valued at \$70 per week or \$3640 per year. The trainee doesn't pay rent but does need to pay tax on the value of the rent. Tax in NZ is normally around 20%.

We want our trainees to seize all the opportunities presented to them when they are here both on the farm and off, we are flexible with time off and encourage them to experience all that our beautiful country offers.

We look forward to meeting you.