



Interviewing a Farm Manager

When interviewing farm managers, use this checklist to help you decide what skills and responsibilities they should possess and to make sure you get the information you need.

Hiring a farm manager as a member of your hobby farm requires forethought, planning and care. By assessing her farm needs, Michelle Dietzler of Dietzler Farms outlined the responsibilities and required skills of the farm manager she wanted to hire. Use her list below to jump-start a list of your own.

Farm Manager Responsibilities
Delegating responsibilities to the workers, supervising hands and recruiting employees
Creating and working within budgets
Planning and scheduling crop planting and harvesting

Farm Manager Requirements
Extensive knowledge of raising cattle, cattle reproduction and animal science
Knowledge of non-GMO feeding techniques
Knowledge and experience with farm equipment and machinery
Graduate of competitive university agriculture program
Prior leadership experience
Motivated about the industry and the future of all-natural beef production
Computer proficient and able to utilize technology for record keeping
Excellent organizational skills
5-plus years in the farm industry

Interviewing the Farm Manager

Once you know what you're looking for in a farm manager, make sure your candidates meet your preset qualifications. Here are some sample questions you can ask during the interview to ensure you get all the information you need. Background, including education, hands-on experience, specialty training
Crop- and livestock-specific education, including hands-on and specialty training
Management experience, including size of staff; knowledge of human resources
Marketing background, including modern marketing techniques and social media marketing
Business methodology background
Computer experience and knowledge; ability to learn new programs and hardware; new media and new technology abilities
Regional and area knowledge; sales, product, marketing and market of your region, state
Level of organizational skills for both farm and business needs
Budgeting and money handling experience and skills
Basic farming knowledge as it pertains to farm equipment, farm tools, maintenance and upkeep

About the Author: Rori Paul proudly comes from an Illinois farm family. She is a writer currently based in Florida, and can be found on Twitter @RoriTravel.