



Almond Valley Heritage Trust

## Farm Assistant Demonstrator

Reporting to: Farm Manager

Contract: Permanent

Hours: Equivalent of 40 hrs. per week

Salary: £12.00 per hour (Real Living Wage)

Location: Livingston (West Lothian)

Almond Valley Heritage Trust operates a unique visitor attraction and rare breeds farm set within the historic Livingston Mill. The farm is home to a wide variety of animals, including rare breeds such as Clydesdale horses, Tamworth pigs, North Ronaldsay sheep, and Bagot goats. Accredited by the Rare Breeds Survival Trust (RBST), the farm plays a vital role in conserving and protecting these important species while promoting sustainable farming practices.

Almond Valley welcomes over 160,000 visitors annually, offering a hands-on, family-friendly experience that connects people of all ages to the wonders of the natural world. As a central feature of the Almond Valley Heritage Centre, the farm provides opportunities for visitors to learn about rare breeds, animal care, and the importance of biodiversity in an engaging and interactive environment.

This is an exciting time for Almond Valley Farm, as we expand our education and conservation programmes. We aim to deepen public engagement, deliver innovative learning experiences, and inspire action in areas such as environmental stewardship and sustainable living. By fostering a spirit of discovery and collaboration, we celebrate the importance of our agricultural heritage while championing forward-facing narratives that address contemporary challenges, including climate change.

Through the farm's work, we hope to inspire the next generation of animal stewards and conservationists, building a shared appreciation for the value of heritage and the natural world.

### **Role of the Farm Assistant Demonstrator**

As a Farm Assistant Demonstrator, you will play a pivotal role in the daily operations of the farm while serving as an ambassador for animal welfare and visitor engagement. Supporting the Farm Manager, you will provide care for a wide range of animals, ensure compliance with welfare standards, deliver public demonstrations, and foster a welcoming environment for visitors. Strong teamwork, leadership, and a passion for educating the public are essential to this role.

## **The key responsibilities of the Farm Assistant Demonstrator will include:**

### **Animal Care and Welfare**

- Provide daily care, feeding, and husbandry for a variety of farm livestock and smaller animals, ensuring their well-being.
- Monitor animal health, report any concerns to the Farm Manager, and maintain comprehensive records to meet regulatory and accreditation requirements (e.g., NFAN Code of Practice).
- Maintain animal enclosures to ensure they are clean, safe, and compliant with welfare standards.

### **Visitor Engagement and Demonstrations**

- Deliver interactive animal encounters, demonstrations, and public talks, ensuring visitors have an engaging and educational experience.
- Foster a welcoming and positive environment for visitors, responding to inquiries and encouraging a connection with the farm's mission.

### **Farm Operations and Maintenance**

- Assist in the day-to-day running of the farm, including feeding, mucking-out, cleaning, and other routine tasks.
- Perform basic site maintenance to ensure the farm remains a safe and enjoyable space for both animals and visitors.
- Identify opportunities to improve current practices and contribute ideas for enhancing farm operations.

### **Team Support and Leadership**

- Coordinate and motivate colleagues to maintain high standards of care and customer service.
- Collaborate with peers, working together to tackle tasks and solve problems in an efficient and effective manner.

### **General Duties**

- Follow all Health & Safety protocols and adhere to company policies.
- Actively participate in personal development opportunities to improve skills and knowledge.
- Perform other reasonable duties as required by the Farm Manager.

## Key Skills and Requirements

- Proven experience in animal husbandry, including working with livestock, hoof-stock, smaller domestic animals, and exotics.
- Strong communication skills with the confidence to deliver public demonstrations and engage with visitors of all ages.
- Familiarity with implementing welfare protocols and maintaining accurate records.
- Physical fitness and resilience to perform manual tasks in all weather conditions.
- Experience operating farm machinery (desirable but not essential; training provided).
- Eye for detail and a commitment to exceptional visitor experiences.

The working pattern for this role is work 5 over 7 days on a rolling rota. The post will be based at Almond Valley Heritage Centre.

Holiday allocation:

- 32 days per annum including bank holidays

Pension:

- Automatically enrol team members into our workplace pension operated by Royal London

Workforce Benefits:

- Free on-site car parking
- Staff Pass provides access to the site for free.
- ASVA Card Access, Team members have access to The Association of Scottish Visitor Attractions card which allows free entry to a huge range of visitor attractions throughout Scotland.
- Discount in the tearoom and gift shop

Closing Date: Midnight 5<sup>th</sup> February 2025

Interviews will be held the week commencing: 17<sup>th</sup> February 2025

TO APPLY – please email us at [jobs@almondvalley.co.uk](mailto:jobs@almondvalley.co.uk) with a full CV, and a covering letter demonstrating your suitability for the role.

If you have any queries or would like to discuss an application in an alternative format, please email [jobs@almondvalley.co.uk](mailto:jobs@almondvalley.co.uk)

If you have any questions or wish to discuss the role further in advance of submitting an application, please email [director@almondvalley.co.uk](mailto:director@almondvalley.co.uk)

## Equality and Diversity Commitment

Almond Valley is an equal opportunities employer. We are committed to offering equal opportunity for all and to providing employees with a work environment free of discrimination and harassment and are working hard to create a space in which people from all walks of life see themselves.

We are committed to increasing the diversity of our team and encourage applications from people currently under-represented groups, targeting in particular people of the Global Majority and d/Deaf or disabled applicants.