

Job Description  
Birthing Barn Manager  
Farm Wisconsin Discovery Center

## **The Company**

The Farm Wisconsin Discovery Center (FWDC) is a 501c3 not-for-profit education organization. Today, most people are several generations removed from farming. With less than 2% of the population producing food for the other 98%, many Americans do not know where their food actually comes from or how it is produced. The enormous role of the agriculture industry is a mystery to many Americans. The FWDC's goal is de-mystify and cultivate an appreciation for agriculture and Wisconsin's role in feeding the world.

**Mission Statement:** To educate visitors of all ages about how and where their food is produced and why agriculture is so important to them. Interactive exhibits and historical stories of the area will preserve, promote and honor agriculture practices and products of the past, present and future.

The FWDC is a \$13 million project expected to be completed in July 2018 and will host approximately 100,000 visitors per year. The FWDC is a 29,000 square foot facility including 10,000 square feet of educational exhibit space, a Birthing Barn, conference center, café, ice cream counter, and gift shop. Located on I-43 at the County Road C exit in Manitowoc County, the Center is on a major thoroughfare for vacation travelers driving between Milwaukee/Chicago north to Green Bay, the Northwoods and Door County.

## **The Position**

### **Overview**

**Job Purpose:** To manage the Farm Wisconsin Birthing Barn experience by providing excellent cow and calf care and interacting with Birthing Barn visitors. Includes transportation of cows and calves to and from the Birthing Barn and partner farm, monitoring all aspects of the calving process, and caring for cows and calves.

This is a 30-hour per week position, 9:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Some weekend hours and holidays may be required.

### **Required skills**

Calving and cow/calf care

- Strong experience monitoring and providing care to freshening cows and newborn calves
- Safe and careful transportation of cows and calves. Must have a valid Wisconsin Driver's License and an acceptable driving record. Criteria that may indicate an unacceptable record include, but are not limited to:
  - o Two or more moving violations in a year
  - o Two or more chargeable accidents within a year. Chargeable means that the driver is determined to be the primary cause of the accident through speeding, inattention, etc.

Contributing factors, such as weather or mechanical problems, will be taken into consideration.

- Violation charged with under the influence of drugs or alcohol.
- Any combination of accidents and/or moving violations.

#### **Birthing Barn Management**

- Maintain all areas of the Birthing Barn as clean and sanitary
- Properly clean and maintain all equipment in working condition
  - Truck, trailer, and skidsteer
  - Milking and pasteurizing equipment

#### **Customer Service Skills**

- Welcoming, attentive, and responsive to visitors and staff
- Knowledgeable and able to answer visitor questions about cows, calves, the calving process, and other general dairy questions
- Will be expected to become familiar with and handle guest questions according to the FWDC issues handbook

#### **Responsibilities**

1. Transport cows to the Birthing Barn and return cows and calves to our partner farm. Includes coordinating transportation of cows and calves with other qualified employees.
2. Provide care to fresh cows and newborn calves
3. Monitor all aspects of the calving process and assist when necessary
4. Milk fresh cows, operate pasturizer, and follow partner farm's calf feeding plan
5. Maintain the Birthing Barn as clean and sanitary
6. Maintain open communication with partner farm and Farm Wisconsin staff. Includes keeping records per the partner farm's requirements
7. Ensure a proper supply of bedding, feed and all necessary supplies
8. Other duties as assigned by the Director of Operations or Executive Director of FWDC

#### **Credentials**

1. High School Diploma/GED required. Two year Dairy Management, Animal Science or similar degree or equivalent work experience.
2. Cow, calf, and calving experience
3. Knowledge of herd health and nutrition

#### **Work Experience**

1. On-farm experience with various aspects of cow and calf care, and calving
2. Transportation of cows and calves including loading animals in and out of a trailer
3. Experience working or volunteering for a non-profit organization is preferred

**Salary:** \$16 - \$18/hour, depending on experience, credentials.

Interested parties should submit by email a current resume with a cover letter, along with 3 references and current salary and/or salary expectation to:

Kim Kowieski, Operations Director  
[kim@farmwisconsin.org](mailto:kim@farmwisconsin.org)