

**Dunecht Home Farms
Farm Manager
Job Description and Further Information**

1. General

Dunecht Estates is a diverse rural property business extending over six different Estates in Aberdeenshire running to approximately 50,000 acres. The business has interests in farming (70 tenanted farms), forestry, field sports, residential and commercial property, minerals, tourism and property development. The Estates, owned by The Hon Charles Pearson and his son, George are managed by an in-house management team based in the Estates Office in Dunecht village.

Dunecht Home Farms is the Pearson family's own farming business and is independently managed. It consists of approximately 1,200 lowland hectares on Dunecht Estate and an additional 5,250 hectares of hill ground situated approximately 35 miles to the west at Edinglassie Estate, Strathdon.

Dunecht Home Farms is a partnership with the Hon Charles Pearson and his wife. The land at Dunecht and the farms on Edinglassie are occupied by the Partnership under tenancy arrangements.

2. Job Description

Dunecht Home Farms seek a Farm Manager for their range of agricultural enterprises at Dunecht and Edinglassie. This is a varied role which would provide an excellent opportunity to a variety of candidates to develop or consolidate their careers in the agricultural industry. The ultimate objective is to guide and advance this successful business through potentially turbulent policy and market conditions and ensure it continues to meet the objectives set out by the partners.

3. Person Specification

This role might suit candidates with a variety of experience of farm management. Key attributes of the successful applicant will be:

- they are organised and administratively proficient
- can operate the enterprises present with technical efficiency
- demonstrate leadership to a small but effective team
- have enthusiasm to develop the business
- have an aptitude for problem solving
- have a willingness to engage with the local agricultural community and be a wider representative of Dunecht Estates

4. Key Responsibilities

The Farm Manager's responsibilities fall broadly into the following categories:

4.1 Low Ground Management

1,200 lowland hectares around the villages of Dunecht, Echt and Kirkton of Skene

- 400 hectares of combinable crops
- 2,600 lowland ewes
- 100 suckler cows
- management of seasonally let cropping, grassland and sub-let steadings

4.2 Hill Farm Management

5,250 hectares of largely heather moorland managed for grouse shooting split into three separate units at Strathdon.

- 650 hill ewes managed in hand
- 1,850 ewes on two separate contract farming agreements managed in conjunction with Andersons.

The principal role of the hill flocks is to act as a "tick mop" to assist with grouse moor management

4.3 Administration and Record Keeping

In conjunction with a dedicated part time farm secretary the Farm Manager is responsible for:

- Single Application Form completion to include claiming LFASS and AECS payments
- GAEC and cross compliance
- Managing the existing AECS schemes and keeping all necessary records
- Crop records
- Livestock records, movements and support payment claims
- Health and safety policy

4.4 Strategic Decision Making, Reporting and Financial Management

Supported by Andersons and the Estates' Financial Manager and Assistant Accountant the Farm Manager is responsible for

- Developing and advancing the farm business
- Annual budgeting
- Providing cashflow variance reports
- Assisting with the preparation of annual management accounts, annual financial accounts and other financial record keeping as necessary

5. Labour and Machinery

The business employs the following full-time staff:

- Low ground stockman
- Low ground tractor man
- Hill shepherd at Edinglassie

In addition, extensive use of self-employed, casual and contract labour is made.

The business has a fleet of machinery and fixed equipment which allows efficient management of the current system.

Contractors have been used very effectively for combinable crop establishment and forage making. The business has its own self-propelled sprayer, fertiliser spreader and combine as well as the required tractors, materials handlers and general equipment.

The business has grain drying and storage facilities for all crops produced.

6. Remuneration etc.

A traditionally built 4-bedroom farmhouse with oil fired central heating and part double glazing at Knockquharn Farm, which is the hub of arable operations, will be made available to the Farm Manager. The property is in close proximity to good primary and secondary schools with a school bus service from the road end.

There is a dedicated Farm Office in a converted outbuilding at Knockquharn.

A complete package will be offered including; a competitive salary, a vehicle, entry into the Estates' Group Personal Pension Scheme and entry to the Health Insurance Scheme.

7. Reporting

The Farm Manager is responsible to the Hon Charles Pearson. Andersons have been involved with the strategic planning and management of the business for over 20 years and are the principal point of contact for the Farm Manager and act as managing agents. The Farm Manager will be expected to work closely with Andersons on all areas of their management of the business.



ANDERSONS

the
FARM *business*
CONSULTANTS

All applications will be treated in the strictest confidence. If you have any queries on the post or require further information please do not hesitate to get in touch with David Siddle for a confidential discussion on 01968 678465 or 07885 809119

Closing date for applications mid-day Wednesday 5th December.

Please apply in writing with covering letter and CV to

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Or via email to edinburgh@andersonsnorthern.co.uk