

# Your dairy's labour needs

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Having a yearly plan of your labour needs will show you when your busiest periods are, and your peak demands for labour. This will assist with cash flow budgeting and planning labour needs well in advance. Include on the plan an annual holiday for yourself and your family, plus staff annual leave periods. People often complain that they can never get away from the farm, but if

you plan ahead and make a booking there will be much more chance that it will actually happen!

How many hours of work are there to be done on your farm each week? Make an estimate. Some jobs will be seasonal or labour-intensive for short periods. Try to identify when these times may occur.

For example, if it takes two people to milk the cows, and it takes two hours to do it, that means:  $2 \times 2 \text{ hours} = 4 \text{ hours}$ ,  $\times 2 \text{ times per day} = 8 \text{ hours per day}$ ,  $\times 7 \text{ days} = 56 \text{ hours per week}$  spent on milking.

Task	Average hours per week	Seasonal tasks – average hours/week	Month in which seasonal tasks occur
Milking & cleaning up			
Feeding calves			
Rearing heifers			
Feeding cows: shifting fences, feeding silage, mixing grain			
Paddock work: growing and managing pasture			
Irrigation			
Repairs & maintenance			
Cattle breeding and AI			
Cattle health & husbandry			
Administration & bookwork Record keeping			
Fodder conservation			
Other jobs			
Total hours worked			

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