

Farm Manager

Job Location: Low Becks Farm, Mungrisdale, Cumbria, CA11 0XR

Reports to: Head of Learning, Operations & Partnerships (North)

Direct Reports: Farm Worker Apprentice(s)

Contract: Full time, with hours varying according to the farming calendar

Package: £40,000 - £45,000 per annum, depending on experience and accommodation arrangements



Farm Manager

The role

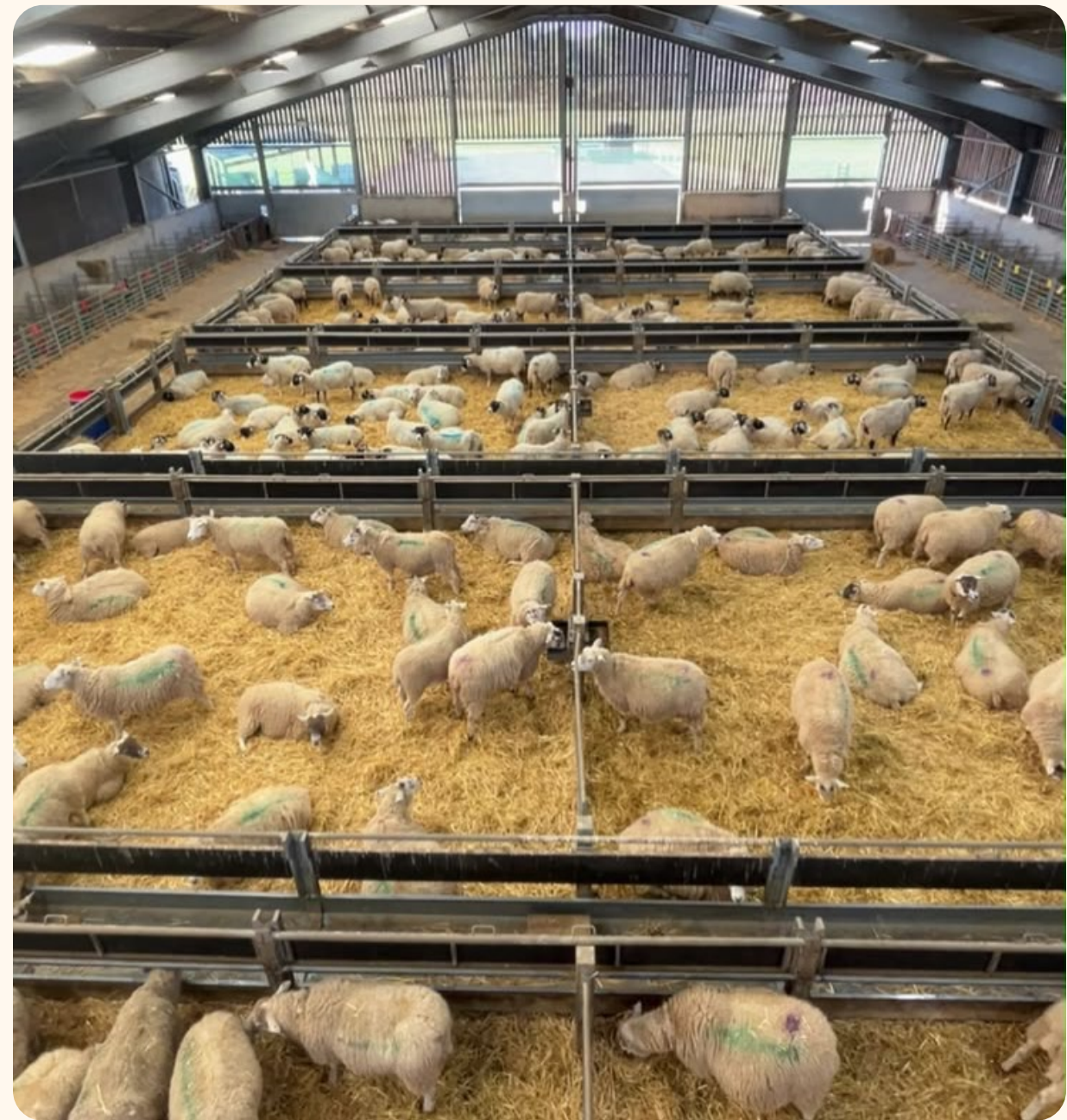
The **Farm Manager** is responsible for the safe, effective and sustainable management of Low Becks Farm as a viable upland farm and as a core asset for the Ernest Cook Trust's learning, environmental and partnership work.

The role combines professional farm management with a strong commitment to learning. The Farm Manager will ensure that the farm is well managed, financially and operationally responsible and maintains high standards of livestock health, welfare, land management, safety and compliance.

Alongside this, the Farm Manager will work closely with the Trust's Learning team and external partners to enable high-quality learning through the working farm.

This will include practical demonstrations, skills development, farm visits, work experience, apprenticeships, research activity and opportunities for children, young people and adults to understand farming and land management through direct experience.

The Farm Manager will contribute to Low Becks Farm's environmental and research activity, including nature recovery, sustainable land management and the Resilient Glendamarackin Landscape Recovery project. They will work constructively with partners and help turn practical experience and emerging evidence into opportunities for shared learning.



Role Responsibilities

Farm Management, Livestock & Land

- Lead the safe, effective and sustainable day-to-day management of the Farm.
- Maintain high standards of animal health, welfare, husbandry and productivity across the sheep and cattle enterprises.
- Undertake and oversee feeding, bedding, breeding, lambing, calving, livestock movements, animal health and associated husbandry activities.
- Manage and undertake appropriate tractor, machinery and practical farm work, including hay and silage making, grazing management, fencing, boundaries and general farm maintenance.
- Maintain accurate and up-to-date farm records, including livestock, medicines, machinery and compliance records.
- Ensure appropriate machinery servicing and maintenance records are maintained.
- Manage the farm in accordance with relevant legislation, assurance requirements, stewardship agreements and Trust policies.
- Ensure that farming activity is undertaken safely, efficiently and with appropriate cost control.
- Contribute to the development of the farm business and its longer-term sustainability, recognising the relationship between productive farming, environmental stewardship, learning and other appropriate land-based activity.
- Be available to respond to stock needs in accordance with agreed arrangements.
- Work within the priorities and strategic direction agreed by The Ernest Cook Trust and its farm management through ECT Farms Ltd.

Learning Through the Working Farm

- Work closely with the Trust's Learning team to create a safe, welcoming and high-quality learning environment, delivering practical demonstrations and activities that share knowledge of upland farming in accessible and engaging ways for a wide range of learners.

- Use the day-to-day operation of the working farm to help learners understand the connections between farming, livestock, food, nature, climate and rural livelihoods.
- Work collaboratively with the Learning Team to provide appropriate practical support, supervision and positive role-modelling for students, trainees and apprentices.

Nature Recovery, Landscape Recovery and Land-Based Learning

- Contribute practical farming knowledge and experience to Low Beckside's nature recovery, environmental management and wider landscape objectives, including the Resilient Glenderamackin Landscape Recovery project.
- Support the implementation and monitoring of land-management approaches, research, trials and demonstrations, working collaboratively with the Trust, project partners and other relevant organisations.
- Help create opportunities for learners, farmers, researchers and other partners to understand and engage with nature recovery, environmental change and the practical realities of upland farming.
- Share learning from the land-management practice, including successes, challenges and trade-offs, maintaining an open and enquiring approach to innovation and continuous improvement.
- Ensure that environmental objectives are considered alongside the practical requirements, welfare responsibilities and long-term viability of the working farm.

Heritage, Place and Land-Based Knowledge

- Contribute to learning that reflects Low Beckside's place within a living upland farming landscape and recognises its cultural and agricultural heritage.
- Share knowledge of local farming practices, commoning, hefting, shepherding and other land-based skills, supporting opportunities for practical and intergenerational learning.
- Help make the working farm and surrounding landscape accessible to learners and visitors through farm walks, demonstrations and other appropriate activities.
- Recognise and value the contribution of local farmers, communities and traditional knowledge to understanding and managing the landscape.

Role Requirements

We are open to any applicant who is confident they can fulfill the role.

You must be passionate about farming and the land, with an interest in sharing knowledge and creating opportunities for others to learn. The successful candidate will be curious, open-minded and willing to learn from new approaches, research and practical experimentation.

The role requires good communication and interpersonal skills, with the ability to explain practical farming activities and decisions clearly to different audiences.

Requirements

Essential

- Relevant agricultural qualification and equivalent practical farming experience.
- Certification in tractor driving and agricultural machinery operation.
- Veterinary Medicines Certificate, or willingness to obtain this within an agreed period, if required.
- Strong practical skills in livestock husbandry and farm maintenance.
- Prioritising working safely and creating a safe working environment for others.
- Ability to plan and prioritise practical work effectively and maintain accurate records.
- Patient, respectful and supportive approach when working with children, young people and adult learners.
- Willingness to learn, adapt and consider new approaches to farming, land management and learning.
- Full driving license and ability to work with working dogs.

Desirable

- Qualification or additional training in livestock husbandry, land management or environmental stewardship.
- Qualification or training in teaching, training, mentoring or practical skills instruction.
- First Aid qualification.
- NEBOSH or IOSH trained.
- Experience or training in environmental monitoring, nature recovery or sustainable land management.
- Experience of supporting apprentices, trainees or students.
- Experience of contributing to research, demonstration or knowledge-sharing activity.
- Chainsaw ticket or willingness to work towards.



What to expect

Join our growing team at the Trust for a friendly and rewarding experience. We offer competitive salaries, a range of benefits plus a training budget for your personal growth.

We currently have around 50 team members working at our Gloucestershire head office, and across our UK landholdings, with many working hybridly.

Enjoy our generous benefits:

- 10% employer pension contribution (5% from employees)
- 27 days annual leave, plus statutory holidays and additional leave between Christmas and New Year
- Life Assurance
- Access to Employee Assistance Programme, providing 24/7 support for health, mental wellbeing, and more
- Dynamic, creative, and welcoming work environment

Equity, Diversity and Inclusion

Embracing diversity is an essential part of the work of the Ernest Cook Trust. We are committed to treating everyone as a unique individual, fairly and with respect, irrespective of race, disability, age, gender, marital status, sexual orientation, or religion. We are committed to ensuring equality, respect, and safety for all, and prioritising the wellbeing of the children, young people and vulnerable adults we support. Our safeguarding policy can be found [here](#).

The appointment will be subject to satisfactory background checks including Disclosure and Barring Service and relevant online searches to comply with best practices in Safeguarding, and proof of the right to work in the UK.

About the Ernest Cook Trust

In our nature

The Ernest Cook Trust is an educational charity grounded in the land. We cultivate deep-rooted connections with the land, through outdoor learning and experiences in nature. We believe that land can deliver multiple benefits united by a unique ability to enrich both lives and livelihoods.

Through our learning programmes, grant making, collaborative partnerships, and progressive land management, we are working to change the way people across the UK understand and experience land and nature.

At the Ernest Cook Trust, we see a future where land and lives enrich each other. A future where anyone can find their place, purpose and potential through connections to thriving land.

You can read more about our heritage, our mission today and our vision for tomorrow on our [website](#).

Our 2026-29 strategy and our latest annual report are both on the website scroll to the bottom of the home page.

Working with us

Working outdoors can be challenging – it's often muddy, hard work, and no two days are the same. But this is what also makes it so rewarding. And whether you're looking for a career outdoors or your role supports our land management and learning, there will always be opportunities to get outside on our land and beyond our boundaries.

So come, join us outdoors – explore our job vacancies, partnership opportunities and other ways to learn on the land.



The Ernest Cook Trust today

£4.3M

charitable spend

4,859

young people got outdoors with our learning delivery programmes

342

young people learnt land-based skills

25

farm tenants

9,000

hectares in our care

651

outdoor learning sessions hosted at our sites



Our values

Guiding and shaping all we do



Cultivating connections

Creating a sense of connection and belonging — to the land, between each other, and with new audiences.



Freedom to try

Committing to our belief that learning helps us thrive — whether from each other or across our land.



Progressive stewardship

Acknowledging that adaptation is necessary and builds resilience, but is rooted in a deep care for the land.



How to apply

Please submit a CV with a cover letter to briefly introduce yourself and why you think you are suited to this role. This should be addressed to Victoria McDermott, Head of Learning, Operations & Partnerships (North).

Upload your letter and CV via this [link](#).

Closing Date: Sunday 15 November 2026

1st Interviews: Wednesday 25 November 2026 at the Ernest Cook Trust, Low Beckside Farm, Mungrisdale, CA11 0XR.

2nd Interviews: Friday 4 December 2026 at the Ernest Cook Trust, Low Beckside Farm, Mungrisdale, CA11 0XR.

What3words: <https://w3w.co/remarking.parks.client>

Please note that this role may close earlier than advertised due to the volume of applications received.

Find more information about the Ernest Cook Trust on our [website](#).
We look forward to hearing from you!



Ernest Cook

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