

Mar 21 2025



Deer Farm Manager – Sheerwater

Location: South Head, Kaipara (1 hour northwest of Auckland, 25 minutes from Helensville)

Employment Type: Full-time

About Sheerwater

Sheerwater is an award-winning deer farm developed over the past 34 years, located on the South Head Peninsula, adjacent to the Kaipara Harbour and running alongside Lake Ototoa. With a moderate year-round climate, quality pasture management, and well-developed infrastructure, Sheerwater has spent three decades selectively breeding premium deer bloodlines, ensuring exceptional weight gains and development performance. 270 ha running 450 Hinds and their progeny and 400 velvet stags total stock number 1300 animals. Cattle trading according to feed in spring.

We are also deeply committed to conservation and sustainable land management. In 2003, Sheerwater won First Prize in the Deer Industry Awards for our conservation practices, reflecting our dedication to environmental stewardship.

This role is an exciting opportunity for an experienced farm manager or an aspiring senior stock manager looking to step into a leadership position. It also offers an excellent lifestyle for a young family to relocate to a well-established and highly regarded property.

Key Responsibilities

- **Deer Management:** Oversee the care, breeding, and velvetting of our high-performance deer herd, ensuring optimal health and productivity.
- **Animal Husbandry:** Implement best-practice feeding, monitoring, and health management for deer and cattle.
- **Velvetting Operations:** Manage the velvetting process to ensure compliance with industry regulations and maintain the highest standards.
- **Pasture & Grazing Management:** Maintain and improve pasture quality for both deer and cattle, implementing rotational grazing and feed strategies.
- **Farm Infrastructure & Maintenance:** Ensure fencing, water systems, sheds, and farm equipment are well-maintained and operational.
- **People Management:** Lead and supervise any staff, contractors, and seasonal workers as needed.
- **Financial & Business Planning:** Contribute to budgeting, planning, and reporting to optimise farm productivity and profitability.
- **Conservation & Sustainability:** Uphold Sheerwater's commitment to conservation, ensuring responsible land and resource management.
- **Compliance & Record Keeping:** Maintain accurate records for animal health, velvetting, breeding, and environmental sustainability practices.

Skills & Experience Required

- Proven experience in deer farming, including velvetting and venison production.
- Strong livestock management skills, including cattle grazing as a secondary income source.
- Experience with pasture and farm infrastructure management.
- Strong leadership, communication, and ability to manage staff and contractors.
- Knowledge of health and safety regulations and compliance.
- Practical skills in farm machinery operation and maintenance.
- A proactive, hands-on approach to farm operations with a passion for innovation.
- A strong interest in conservation and sustainable farming practices.
- Open to experienced farm managers or aspiring senior stock managers looking to take the next step in their career.
- Relevant qualifications in agriculture, farm management, or animal science (preferred but not essential).

What We Offer

- **A well-equipped farm** with modern infrastructure, excellent pastures, and premium deer genetics.
- **A warm, three-bedroom family home** provided on-site.
- **A supportive and collaborative farm environment** with direct engagement from the owners.
- **A competitive salary package**, negotiated based on experience and skill set.
- **A complimentary lifestyle** in a picturesque rural setting with access to golfing, hunting, fishing, and other recreational activities.
- **Convenient schooling options**, with a primary school 10 minutes away and secondary school 30 minutes away (bus service available).
- **An opportunity to contribute to a farm with a strong conservation ethos** and a track record of sustainable practices.

How to Apply:

If you are an experienced or aspiring farm manager with a passion for deer farming and conservation, we'd love to hear from you. Our present manager is retiring after 26 successful years in this position. For further information please call either of our numbers below.

Please send your CV and a cover letter to the owners

Brian Richards 021 64 58 58

Brian@Richards.Partners

Brigitte Richards 021 62 16 16

Brigitte@Richards.partners