

## SUMMARY

The cow pusher ensures proper cow flow into the holding area, cleans stalls and barn alleys, and provides assistance to animals in labor.

## QUALIFICATIONS

- Stand and walk for up to 12 hours
- Lift up to 50 lbs
- Accurately follow directions
- Gently and patiently handle cows

## DUTIES

### I. Push cows / General duties

- Ensure that there are always cows in holding area for milkers (get cows every half hour)
- Interact with animals calmly and without unnecessary disturbance
- Follow accepted safety practices when working with animals
- Visually observe changes in individual animal health status (example: lame cows, sick cows, etc)
- Identify cows in heat
- Check gates and doors to ensure they properly latch
- Practice self management (is on-time every day, works at a reasonable pace defined by the herdsman, maintains internal motivation)
- Communicate work related information with appropriate dairy personnel
- Recognize the difference between work that is well done and work that is poorly done
- Work as a team member to solve problems and improve work processes
- Make basic work-related decisions
- Identify opportunities for improving work processes

### II. Clean stalls, alleys, and water tanks

- Rake and clean stalls when getting cows from pens (see SOP “Cleaning stalls and alleys”)
- Scrape cross alleys where water tanks are
- Inspect water tanks for cleanliness and proper function (see cleaning schedule)
- Maintain bedding/resting area (see schedule and SOP)
- Understand manure removal equipment and be able to maintain equipment in good condition

### III. Push up feed

## COW PUSHER - TJ DAIRY

- Every hour and half push up feed from pens 1 & 2 (see SOP “Pushing up feed”)
- Twice during shift rake feed from pens 3, 4, 5, and 7 to evenly distribute feed along the entire bunk (see SOP “Pushing up feed”)

### IV. Assist cows calving

- Check pre-fresh pen once per hour (spend 5-10 minutes watching cows) (see SOP “Caving assistance”)
- Recognize when a cow is in the beginning stages of labor
- Provide assistance to animals in labor
- Decide in a timely manner when to contact the herdsman for assistance
- Safely restrain (lock up) a cow
- Administer oral treatments (drench, bolus, etc)
- Administer IV (intravenous) treatments such as calcium, fluids, etc.
- Read and follow directions on drug and vaccine labels
- Revive a new born calf
- Feed colostrum to newborn calves within 2 hours of birth
- Follow colostrum handling and storage procedures to maintain quality
- Use an esophageal feeder if necessary
- Administer vaccinations and parasite control
- Keep health and birth records
- Should handle calves in a calm, professional manner

### V. Other duties

- There may be other duties required as directed by herdsman or assistant herdsman

## RELATIONSHIPS

- Supervised by the herdsman and assistant herdsman
- Works closely and maintains communication with milkers, feeder, and manager

## HOURS

- Full time cow pusher work 50 to 65 hours per week.
- Milking shifts typically last 12 hours
- The herdsman maintains the schedule