

Just the Job

Information Sheet

Job title: Rural Contractor

Job description:

Agriculture is New Zealand's largest export sector and the rural contracting industry plays a vital role, supporting the sector with a range of services.

Rural contractors carry out a broad range of activities including:

- Working with tractors, vehicles and a wide variety of plant
- Working and communicating with all types of farmers and their staff
- Land cultivation
- Planting, maintaining crops and harvesting
- Rural earthmoving
- Supporting the agricultural sector by providing skilled and extensive support services
- Facing new challenges in different circumstances and locations almost every day

Rural contracting is an extremely varied career, with opportunities to specialise in a variety of areas including:

- Crop Production
- Fencing
- Harvesting
- Land Development
- Mechanical Vegetation Control
- Transport
- Zero Tillage

Qualifications required/age restrictions:

A range of qualifications are available through InfraTrain New Zealand (the infrastructure industry training organisation).

A full, clean Driver Licence is highly desirable.

There are no age restrictions other than for driving on and off road.

Training costs:

As training is done on the job, there is generally no cost to the trainee.

Location of job:

Work is mainly outdoors. There are job opportunities throughout New Zealand. Work tends to be seasonal, with busy periods in summer.

Career path:

There are good career opportunities in the rural contracting industry and InfraTrain offers a range of qualifications which provide a structured career path.

- National Certificate in Rural Contracting (Introductory Skills) – Level 1
- National Certificate in Agricultural Contracting – Level 3
- National Certificate in Rural Contracting (Management) – Level 5

The National Certificate in Rural Contracting (Introductory Skills) provides an excellent starting point for people who are new to the industry.

Once you have gained experience in the industry you can progress to a National Certificate in Agricultural Contracting. Additional optional strands can be completed to suit specialist job requirements. You can sub-contract for a rural contracting firm.

Experienced contractors can progress to manage an existing company, or start your own business by investing in your own equipment and contracting yourself out to customers.

Salary range:

Salaries vary, but unqualified rural contractors can earn between \$40,000 and \$70,000 per year, depending on where they work and whether or not they are studying. Salaries generally increase in line with the level of qualification attained.

Other careers this profession could lead to:

- Agrichemical Applicator
- Fencing Contractor
- Farm Manager
- Agricultural Contracting Manager

Tips on how to increase the chances of successfully entering this industry:

- Useful school subjects include English, mathematics, geography, engineering, welding, and agriculture
- Talk to a local rural contracting firm to see if you can spend some time gaining work experience
- Gain a Driver Licence as early as possible
- Be keen and have a 'can do' attitude

Websites to source information about this job:

www.infratrains.co.nz

www.shapeyourfuture.co.nz

www.ruralcontractors.org.nz

www.careers.govt.nz