

FRONT-END WORKER

# What do they do?

A front-end worker helps to process cattle and ensures that

animals are healthy and well fed. Front-end workers handle

cattle, replenish food and water for the animals, equipment

and tools, perform small repairs on fences and farm

infrastructure and ensure the efficient processing of

cattle. They receive on-the-job training and supervision

to help them improve their skills and learn about

many different aspects of the feedlot business.

# A day in the life…

Kerry is a front-end worker at Plainsridge Feedlot in Alberta. He started working in agriculture in high school, working summers as a fruit picker, and when he graduated, he decided that he wanted a job that combined farming and animal management. His job as a front-end worker is perfect, he says, because he gets to help handle the animals as well as ensure they healthy and well fed. Every day, he process cattle in and around the farm. He helps to clean the cattle accommodations inside and out, and he makes sure the animals have enough bedding, feed, and water during the processing period.

Front-end workers also focus on equipment repair and maintenance to farm infrastructure. Kerry assists with the construction and maintenance of farm surfaces and livestock holding areas. He enjoys working with his hands and helping to build all types of structures. At any given time, Plainsridge Feedlot will have at least 2,000 head of cattle to feed and process. Making sure the cattle stay safe and healthy keeps Kerry very busy. When he’s not maintaining the paddocks and yards, he’s out in the fields tending feed crops. He has learned how to operate the tractor and use various attachments to plow, seed, fertilize, and harvest various crops, including corn and oats.

“In another year or two, I’ll be ready for the next challenge,” Kerry says. “Maybe I’ll move into management here at the feedlot, or I might specialize in animal nutrition and finishing. There are so many opportunities in this industry, and my skills are in demand.”

# learn more about this job

See a complete **job description** for this job.

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