

GENERAL CATTLE WORKER

# What do they do?

A General Cattle Worker participates in the preparation and

maintenance of cattle accommodations (e.g., facilities, pens,

corrals or yards and ranges) to ensure optimal cattle welfare

and safety. They monitor the health and welfare of cattle and

perform disease and pest prevention activities. In order to be

effective, they follows standard operating procedures when

moving cattle from one location to another in the feedlot or

site. Their work often requires that they operates and

maintain farm equipment, tools, and technology during all phases of production. 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…

Jatinder is a general cattle worker at Merrill Ranch. While he didn’t have any prior experience working on a cattle farm, he had experience working on a swine farm.

Since he started a year ago, he has learned many new skills. He can recognize the signs of stress or disease in the cattle. Working with animals is only half the job. He also works with many types of machinery, including trucks, tractors, balers, combines, and the smaller types of farm equipment that are needed to clean and prepare the holding pens, pastures, and paddocks where the animals are kept.

He spends a lot of time keeping things in good repair, including the fences, the sheds, the maintenance shop, and the roadways. Most of the time, he’s outdoors in all weather. Physically, it’s hard work, but he enjoys being outside and active.

He says that following procedures carefully is an important part of the job, because it keeps both the other farm workers and the animals safe. But there are also opportunities to try new ways of doing things or explore new technologies.

“I like the variety in this job,” he says. “In the morning, I’m riding my horse and sorting cattle. Then in the afternoon, I’m putting up an electric fence or repairing a generator. Every day is different.”

# learn more about this job

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

This is a living document, last updated February 22, 2017.