

## Job Information Form

Job Opportunity:	Tractor Operator
Business Name:	Waihi Pukawa
Region:	Kuratau, South Waikato
Reports to:	Colin Gates, Farm/Operations Manager
Property Summary:	<p>Waihi Pukawa is a large-scale farming operation owned by a Māori Trust, spanning 3,900 hectares in total, with 2,750 effective hectares. Located in the rural community of Kuratau on the southwestern shores of Lake Taupō. It is just 15 minutes from Tūrangi and within an hour's drive of Taupō.</p> <p>Infrastructure across the property is well developed, and the predominantly easy contour allows for approximately 80% of the farm to be cultivatable. The farm is well tracked, with most paddocks feeding into central laneways, enabling efficient stock movement.</p> <p>Waihi Pukawa is fully equipped with its own cultivation machinery, undertaking all cultivation and agricultural work in-house. The pumice soils can be prone to summer dry conditions, although with reliable rainfall, strong winter growth can be achieved.</p> <p>The farm operates a semi-intensive system, wintering approximately 33,000 stock units across three classes: deer, sheep, and beef. Deer are the priority enterprise. The sheep and cattle policies are breeding-focused, with stock either finished or sold store depending on market conditions. The deer unit is a standout feature, covering 1,500 hectares and carrying around 17,000 stock units (13 su/ha).</p>
Position Overview:	<p>As the Tractor Operator, you'll work closely with the Station Manager and the main tractor operator across a wide range of farming operations. You will ideally have experience operating machinery for both cultivation and general farm work.</p> <p>General duties will include feeding out with a feed-out wagon, track maintenance, topping, and operating a post rammer. Cultivation work will involve all aspects of ground preparation through to direct drilling.</p> <p>Our clients are looking for someone who is confident around machinery, enjoys the mechanical and maintenance side of the role, and takes pride in their work.</p>



This is a varied position offering a wide range of responsibilities throughout the year, including some stock work during the busy times.

Skills, Experience, and Attributes Required:

- Experienced in tractor operating, both with general and cultivation.
- Competent with mechanical and machinery maintenance.
- Strong attention to detail, take pride in their work and looking after the gear.
- Be able to work unsupervised and safely.
- Good communication skills.
- Be flexible with work hours during busy periods of year cultivation/feeding out.
- Full car, driver's licence.

Staff Structure:

General Manager  
Stock Manager – sheep & Beef

- 2 shepherds

Deer Unit Manager

- 1 shepherd

2 tractor drivers (feeding out/cropping)  
Fencer General

Career Opportunities & Benefits:

- Opportunity to work within an inclusive farming environment, where there is the chance to further your skills and progress your knowledge.
- The farming business has modern gear, for the work required.
- The Owner's provide an excellent work culture and value their people.
- A modern farming operation, where you will be working in a small team and have a wide variety of work.
- Located close to Lake Taupo for water sports and near the mountains for winter skiing.
- Opportunity to work within a largescale sheep, beef and deer operation, that will give you a variety of work.

## Lifestyle Information

Accommodation:

Accommodation is a comfortable 3–4 bedroom home with open-plan living. It is currently being renovated to Healthy Homes standards, including double glazing and full insulation, and it features a freestanding fire.

Farm Location & Community Information:

Kuratau is a popular holiday destination on the southwestern shores of Lake Taupō, offering easy access to boating and fishing. Local hunting opportunities are available nearby, and the central North



**Schooling:**

Island ski fields are within a short driving distance, making it an ideal base for year-round outdoor recreation.

There is the local Kuratau primary school, with a school bus at the gate.

There is high schooling in Turangi or Taupo with a bus from Turangi.

**Farm Information****Farm Area (total/effective):**

3,900 hectares in total, with 2,750 effective hectares, this includes the 1500ha deer unit.

There are some areas of forestry.

**Contour:**

Easy rolling country

**Soil Type:**

Pumice

**Annual Growth:**

Lucerne grows 12-14T

Mainly use fescue grass as this is drought tolerant, grows 9-10T.

**Rainfall:**

1800ml per annum, can get growth through winter.

**Subdivision/Fences:**

Mix of deer and conventional fencing, with most of the paddocks apart from two feeding into central laneways for all stock classes.

The general paddock sizes are 10-12ha, with some larger ones.

**Woolshed & Other Buildings:**

The main woolshed is 8 stands, with a nightpen capacity of 1800 ewes, there is a good set of sheep and cattle yards with some satellite yards on farm.

There is a deer shed that is 8 years old and works well

**Weeds:**

Some weeds such as ragwort, thistles, these are regularly spray, or paddocks cultivated to get rid of these weeds.

**Water:**

Farm is fully reticulated, with 2 water schemes, a gravity and a pump.

**Machinery:**

New Holland 260Hp (brand new), 155Hp Case (4500 hours), both with loaders,

Power harrows, discs, cultivation, feed out wagons.

Direct drill.

**Tracks:**

There is a forestry road, through the farm, which offers good access to the farm. track maintenance

All the laneways need ongoing maintenance, due to the pumice soil.



## Farm Policy & Systems

Production System	Semi Intensive
Stock Policy - Breeds/Number:	Sheep/beef/deer  Sheep Romney with a terminal mob. Breeding/finishing. 6500 MA ewes. 1800 hoggets to ram. Lambs are either finished or sold store. Last season 4000 lambs sold store – there is a flexible policy depending on market and season. Some lambs sold to works, last year got 2 picks off mum.  Cattle Breeding and trading. 350 weaner Steers. 250 MA in calf cows. 500-600 mix of steers/heifers.  Deer Fattening and velvet. 4000 hinds. 450 MA velvet stags including sire stags. 250 R2 stags. The get 600 to 800kg of spiker velvet, with a total of 4T.
Maternal/Terminal Policy:	Maternal – Romney Terminal – Beltex Suffolk Terminal - Charolais bull
Animal Health Practices:	Animal health plan with the vets.
Cropping Policy:	200ha Lucerne crop, both feeding and if too much feed will make baleage used over summer. 80-90ha rape/plantain for summer/spring for the hinds and fawns. Later crop put in rape Jan/Feb for winter feed. Kale for winter grazing cattle. Direct drilled.



Photos



Map



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