

Job Information Form

Job Opportunity:	Livestock Manager
Business Name:	Drumpeel Farms Ltd
Region:	Hawke's Bay
Reports to:	General Manager – Hugh Ritchie
Business Summary:	<p>Drumpeel Farms Limited is a family-owned farming business based in the Poukawa district of Hawke's Bay, just 10 minutes south of Hastings. The operation spans two properties: 1,400ha on Horonui Road (Poukawa) and 600ha on Drumpeel Road in Otane.</p> <p>The business runs a high-performance lamb and bull finishing system alongside an intensive arable programme, underpinned by strong integrated land use and robust environmental standards. Seasonally, they finish approximately 1,400 R2 Friesian bulls and 8,000–10,000 trade lambs, while also maintaining a small sheep breeding flock.</p> <p>Both properties are well resourced with quality infrastructure. The Drumpeel block focuses primarily on cereal cropping, processed vegetables and small seed production over summer, forming a key pillar of the business. Operational priorities shift seasonally, with cropping taking precedence in spring and livestock in autumn.</p> <p>Ongoing investment in technology and systems supports Drumpeel Farms' position as a high-performing, forward-focused farming enterprise committed to continual improvement.</p>
Position Overview:	<p>As Livestock Manager, you will lead the professional and profitable performance of Drumpeel Farms' livestock enterprise across both properties. You will have full responsibility for the livestock system, overseeing stock numbers, driving physical performance, and aligning livestock operations with the wider cropping programme.</p> <p>Working closely with the owners, you will contribute to budget setting and maintain accountability for financial performance. You will manage livestock trading in partnership with stock agents and negotiate supplier and contractor arrangements within agreed budget parameters.</p> <p>The role works collaboratively alongside three Block Managers, supporting day-to-day operational planning and coordination across</p>



the farming business. Strong leadership is essential, guiding an experienced team, setting clear expectations, and leading from the front.

The majority of lamb finishing is based on the Drumpeel block, the main cropping property, which includes 400ha of irrigation. Seasonal priorities shift across the business, requiring strong planning capability and the ability to balance livestock and cropping demands.

During the quieter months, you will plan and coordinate general maintenance programmes, ensuring high standards are upheld. When larger projects arise, you will help bring both properties together as one team to deliver efficiently and effectively.

While strong livestock and commercial experience is important, Drumpeel Farms also values attitude, sound judgement and a genuine desire to grow. If you bring strong leadership capability, a practical mindset and the drive to add value, but feel you may not tick every box, you are still encouraged to apply.

Skills and Experience Required:

- A practical understanding of livestock finishing and trading systems, with a sharp eye for stock performance, condition and growth rates.
- Proven ability to develop and implement stock policies aligned to seasonal feed supply, cropping integration and financial targets.
- Sound commercial acumen, including experience contributing to budgets, managing costs, and making financially informed trading decisions.
- Experience purchasing and selling livestock in conjunction with stock agents, with a clear understanding of market dynamics and performance benchmarks.
- Highly organised with strong planning capability, able to balance seasonal priorities between livestock and cropping operations.
- Confident communicator with the ability to build and maintain strong working relationships with owners, block managers, staff, contractors and suppliers.
- Demonstrated leadership capability with the ability to lead from the front, provide direction to an experienced team, and foster accountability and performance.
- Interest and capability in utilising technology and modern farm systems for accurate record keeping and reporting; strong spreadsheet skills are essential, and experience with Farmax would be advantageous.
- Practical understanding of animal health, feed budgeting and performance monitoring in an intensive finishing system.



Staff Structure:

General Manager
Livestock Manager
3 Block Managers

Career Opportunities & Benefits:

- A proactive, solutions-focused mindset with a commitment to maintaining high standards of animal welfare, infrastructure and environmental compliance.
- Need a current full NZ Driver's Licence.

- This is a genuine leadership role with full responsibility for a sizeable livestock enterprise operating alongside an intensive arable programme.
- It offers exposure to integrated land use and the opportunity to influence whole-farm performance across 2,000ha.
- Working directly with the owners on budgeting, livestock trading, and supplier negotiations provides real commercial accountability. It offers hands-on experience in financial decision-making, procurement, and market engagement with stock agents.
- Drumpeel Farms is a high-performing, technology-invested business with strong infrastructure and irrigation. This provides the opportunity to work within a progressive environment focused on performance, efficiency, and continuous improvement.
- The opportunity to operate at a senior level within a structured team while still leading from the front operationally.
- Drumpeel offers stability and the chance to grow within a business that values performance, planning and leadership.

Partner Work Opportunities:

Due to the location of the property, Hastings and Havelock North are only 20 minutes away where there are plenty of work opportunities.

Lifestyle Information**Accommodation:**

Accommodation is a tidy 3-bedroom home with office based on Horonui, that has recently been repainted with new curtains. It has an open plan kitchen and dining area with heat pump and double garage. There is a small studio cottage adjacent to the house.

Farm Location & Community Information:

The business is based 10 minutes south of Hastings, there are plenty of sporting opportunities and outdoor activities such as winery's and beaches within a 30 minute drive.

Schooling:

There is an excellent rural primary school at Poukawa, and there are also other schooling and daycare opportunities in Havelock North.



High schooling options are in Havelock North, Hastings and Te Aute College is nearby.

Farm Information

Farm Area (total/effective):	2050ha Horonui - 1400ha Drumpeel - 600ha
Contour:	Horonui is flat, to easy rolling hill with some steeper hill country. Drumpeel is flat, with some easy hill.
Soil Type:	Horonui is Limestone hill country.
Rainfall:	850ml annually.
Subdivision/Fences:	There is a mix of conventional fencing, with 4 wire electrics with the hill blocks in 2-3 ha paddocks. At Horonui they have a block where they can bring in 400 bulls feed troughs, it is an extensive feed pad.
Woolshed & Other Buildings:	Horonui has 2x 3-stand woolsheds, with 1 set of covered yards and the other not. Drumpeel has a 4-stand woolshed, a quality set of uncovered concrete stock yards, automated sheep weighing scales, and a cattle weigh platform.
Weeds:	Clean farm, with some variegated thistles. Annually re-grassing 60ha spray fallow, done internally.
Water:	Fully reticulate,
Machinery:	Side by side.
Tracks:	Well track easy access

Farm Policy & Systems

Production System	Intensive
Stock Policy Breeds/Number:	- 13-1500 bulls 8-10,000 lambs 2 day shifts run high residual for good growth rates



Animal Health Practices:

Lambs are brought in February/March through to May/June with the lambs finished and gone by August/September.
Cattle are brought October/November and March/April – they are kept for a winter and then gone.

Best practice at all times, quarantine drench on arrival

Cropping Policy:

Horonui – 20-30ha put in rape for lambs.
Cropping - new winter short rotation Italian rye.
400ha Italian, 6 months autumn/winter, then back into crop
Annual nitrogen application on Horonui.

Irrigation Systems:

Drumpeel - 400ha irrigation on the cropping area

Map

