

Job Information Form

Job Opportunity:	Experienced Shepherd
Business Name:	Highland Station Partnership
Region:	Matawai
Reports to:	Guy & Rebecca Williams – Employer's
Property Summary:	Highland Station is a family-owned property based 70km from Gisborne, within the rural communities of Rere, Ngatapa and Matawai. The property backs on to the Te Urewera National Park, offering a unique and remote rural setting. The 1000ha property consists of medium to steep hill country and carries approximately 6,500su. The station runs a closed breeding and finishing operation, with stud stock being the only stock purchased. Being a summer-safe property, Highland Station is well suited to finishing the majority of its stock in a seasonal system. The property has seen significant investment in infrastructure over the years, including a central laneway providing access through to the back of the station, well-established stock handling facilities and covered sheep yards.
Position Overview:	This Experienced Shepherd role will be supporting the owners across all aspects of this farming operation. They are looking for someone with at least two years' farming experience who is keen to progress their career and take on greater responsibility. The ideal person will be confident mustering both on bike and horseback and managing stock on hill country with 4–6 capable working dogs, while bringing a positive attitude and a willingness to learn and do things the right way. The ideal person will be able to think for themselves, use their initiative and take pride in their work. Strong communication, a good sense of humour and the ability to work well within a small family team are important, as is taking ownership of your tasks. The role will involve supporting the day-to-day management of the farming operation, including assisting with stock rotations and movements, weighing and condition scoring, and ensuring stock meet target weights. You will be involved in all key stock management activities along with general tasks day to day.



This is genuine opportunity for someone who is looking to progress and take on increasing responsibility. The successful person will be encouraged to develop their skills through on-farm experience and off farm training with the opportunity to become a trusted pair of eyes across the property and step up to support the owners when required.

Flexibility is important, including being happy to work weekends when required. Our clients are committed to supporting the right person to grow in confidence, take ownership of their role and continue developing their skills as part of the farming team.

**Skills, Experience, and Attributes
Required:**

- Strong level of stockmanship and confidence working with sheep on hill country. Can confidently ride a horse.
- Around two years' farming experience, with the ability to work confidently with 4-6 capable working dogs.
- Good communication skills and the ability to work well within a small family team.
- Ability to complete general farm maintenance tasks, including fencing and water repairs.
- Strong attention to detail, good organisation and pride in completing work to a high standard.
- A positive attitude, strong work ethic and willingness to learn and develop new skills.
- Ability to use initiative, think for yourself and take ownership of tasks.
- Comfortable working autonomously while also taking direction and working alongside the owners.
- Keen to progress their career and take on increasing responsibility.

Staff Structure:

Owners – Guy & Rebecca Williams (both work on farm)
Experienced Shepherd - TBC

Career Opportunities & Benefits:

- Strong support from the owners, with a genuine willingness to share knowledge, provide guidance and help develop your skills.
- Genuine opportunity to progress your career, take on increasing responsibility and grow into a key part of the farming team.
- Good level of mustering, stock work and horse work, providing the opportunity to further develop your practical farming skills.
- Opportunity to be involved across all aspects of the farming operation and gain broad, hands-on experience.
- Support for relevant off-farm training and ongoing professional development.



- Positive, close-knit working environment where initiative, reliability and taking ownership are valued.
- Opportunity to become a trusted extra pair of eyes across the property and step up when the owners are away.

Partner Work Opportunities:

May be some casual work on the farm if interested.

Lifestyle Information

Accommodation:

Accommodation is provided in a tidy, recently updated three-bedroom home with a beautiful outlook. The home has been freshly painted, insulated and double glazed, with a new deck, wood burner in the kitchen/dining area and a heat pump in the separate lounge.

The property also includes a garage and easy-care garden and meets Healthy Homes standards. Four holding paddocks are available for the successful candidate to keep a horse or additional stock.

Farm Location & Community Information:

Matawai is the main rural community, offering a range of sporting opportunities, a local dog trial community and a rural store. Rere has a strong rural community and primary school, while Ngatapa offers good sporting opportunities, including a rugby club, along with a welcoming social community approximately 40–45 minutes away.

There is also the opportunity for deer hunting on the farm, with a farm policy in place around hunting for health and safety reasons. Pig dogs are not preferred.

Schooling:

There are two Primary school options, Rere with school bus at the gate or Matawai but a 10km drive to the bus for Matawai primary school. Pre-school at either Rere or Matawai. High Schooling is in Gisborne and would require boarding.

Farm Information

Farm Area (total/effective):

1000ha

- 161ha bush block.

Contour:

Medium to steep hill country

Soil Type:

Pumice

Rainfall:

2000ml per annum summer safe.

Subdivision/Fences:

Traditional 7 wire electric, batten, with a small amount of electric's used for internal grazing of paddocks.



	Subdivision – front country 13-20ha paddocks – out back between 30ha-50ha paddocks.
Woolshed & Other Buildings:	There is a 4-stand woolshed with a raised board and a 1200 ewe night pen capacity with covered yards. They also have a Prattley, 3-way drafting system. Good set of cattle yards, with a Te Pari cattle crush. Satellite sheep and cattle yards and permanent docking yards, main laneway to the back of farm with 161ha bush block in middle. Nice stables, workshop – tidy out buildings.
Water:	Some reticulated water around main woolshed, rest of water is natural and spring over the farm.
Machinery:	Quad bikes used, can use a horse in summer for mustering. Need to be able to ride as there are times when you need to use a horse.
Tracks:	It is well tracked with a central laneway to back of farm. The rest of the farm is reasonably well tracked; digger comes each year for track maintenance.
Farm Policy & Systems	
Production System	Extensive
Stock Policy - Breeds/Number:	Romdale 2300-2500 MA ewes 700 replacement ewe lambs kept. Crypto – ram lambs, finish as many as they, this is can seasonal dependent. Kill most of the ewe lambs – seasonal dependent. Closed farm operation, no additional stock brought in apart from stud stock. Cattle 240 MA cows – calved 60 replacement heifers, the remainder are fattened. Steer sold store at 18 months.
Maternal/Terminal Policy:	Ram – Romdale. Bull – Angus/Hereford X.
Sheep – Mating/ Lambing/Weaning Dates:	Ram out – middle April. Lamb – Mid September. Wean – pre-Christmas.



Cows – Mating/ Calving/Weaning
Dates:

Bull out – heifers mid-December, MA cows 23rd December.
Calve – October.
Wean – April, paddock wean.

Animal Health Practices:

Animal health plan in place with Vet, both cattle and sheep policy.
Get crutching trailer and conveyor to help with larger jobs.

Photos



Map

