

Job Information Form

Job Opportunity: Experienced Shepherd

Business Name: Brownrigg Agriculture

Business Summary:

Brownrigg Agriculture is a largescale farming agribusiness based in Hawke's Bay, growing a range of natural farm produce of excellent provenance. Privately owned by brothers David and Jonathan Brownrigg, the business is



based in the highly productive region of Hawke's Bay. With a long-term focus, Brownrigg Agriculture has the scale and internal controls to be a highly reliable supplier of premium products across its range of activities, spanning production cropping (export squash, onions, maize) through to lamb and cattle finishing.

The Livestock operation is organised into five farm units under the management of Farm Managers and their supporting shepherding teams. With an effective grazing area of around 5,500ha (being variable depending on cash cropping commitments), these units range in size from 550ha through to 2,000ha and finish from 8,000 to over 30,000 lambs apiece.

The livestock enterprise is underpinned by high standards of animal husbandry, traceability, and production efficiency, with a strong focus on winter lamb finishing and bull beef farming. Improved forage systems play a key role in the operation, supported by proven management systems designed to maximise productivity and drive continual improvement.

To find out more visit <https://www.brownrigg.co.nz/>

Property Summary:

Puketio is a 1,430ha mixed farming operation, with lamb and beef finishing combined with an area of high value cash crops in the summer (which are managed by their Cropping and Agronomy teams). The property comprises approximately 500ha of flat to easy rolling country, with the balance consisting of steeper hill country, creating a diverse farming environment and offering a wide range of management opportunities and challenges.

The business operates an integrated mixed farming system, combining lamb and beef finishing with high-value summer cash crops and winter lamb grazing.

The main farm and the second block work together to support the finishing of around 20-25,000 lambs through winter and early spring, alongside a flexible bull beef policy. The operation also runs an Angus breeding cow herd year-round, utilising the steeper hill country well suited to this class of stock. Animal



Position Overview:

performance is driven by a diverse forage programme, incorporating lucerne, plantain, chicory, kale, and winter annual grasses. The property is still being developed and improved with new technologies including virtual fencing being explored to aid in further advances.

Brownrigg Agriculture are looking for an experienced Shepherd to join the team at Puketio, offering a great opportunity for someone who enjoys good stock work, technical mustering and working dogs, while wanting to continue developing their skills within a progressive farming business.

This is a hands-on role with plenty of stock work, including mustering, dog work, stock movements and day-to-day stock management. You'll work across a mix of steeper hill country and flatter country, giving you the opportunity to put your stockmanship and dogs to work while building your experience across different farming environments.

The role will give you plenty of opportunity to get stuck into technical mustering, larger mobs and hands-on stock work, working alongside an experienced team to achieve feed and grazing targets. You'll also gain exposure to cropping and improved forage cropping, building your understanding of how these systems can be used to efficiently grow and finish stock. With a supportive team around you, there are plenty of hands available to help with yard work and during the busier periods on farm.

Brownrigg Agriculture are prepared to support further training and upskilling, with opportunities to progress your career within the wider business. Modern farming systems are also embraced, including FarmIQ, providing the opportunity to build your skills with technology and data-driven farm management.

Skills, Experience, and Attributes Required:

- A sound understanding of livestock farming and practical farm systems.
- Ideally having 3 years' experience, to succeed in this role.
- Strong stockmanship skills and confidence working with a team of 3-5 working dogs.
- Good communication skills, a positive attitude, and the ability to work effectively within a team.
- A genuine desire to learn, develop, and take on increasing responsibility.
- An interest in modern farming technology and confidence using farm systems and recording tools (FarmIQ).
- A strong desire to continually develop their skills and contribute to the ongoing profitability of the property.
- Good organisational skills and the ability to maintain accurate records.
- A high standard of farm presentation and attention to detail.
- A strong commitment to health, safety, and animal welfare.
- Initiative, reliability, and a willingness to contribute wherever required.
- A clean full NZ driver's licence.



Staff:

Farm Managers, Shepherds, Centralised Farm Support Team.

**Career Opportunities
& Benefits:**

- Plenty of hands-on stock work, including technical mustering, dog work and working across both hill country and flatter country.
- Opportunity to work within a large-scale finishing operation, gaining exposure to the scale, systems and infrastructure of a progressive farming business.
- Develop your stockmanship and mustering skills, working with larger mobs and a variety of stock classes.
- Exposure to cropping and improved forage cropping, building your understanding of crop utilisation, feed management and efficiently growing and finishing stock.
- A supportive team environment, with experienced management and a wider support team available to assist with yard work and during peak periods.
- Strong training and career development opportunities, with Brownrigg Agriculture committed to investing in its people and supporting further training and progression.
- Modern farming systems and technology, including FarmIQ, within a performance-focused farming business that encourages new ideas and initiative.
- Competitive remuneration package, including nice accommodation and benefits, with an hourly structure that rewards additional hours worked during peak workload periods.
- A great rural lifestyle close to Hastings, located approximately 20 minutes from town with local schooling options available.
- A favourable farming calendar, with generally less stock work over the Christmas period, as most stock is sold by November and lamb purchasing recommences around March.

**Partner Work
Opportunities:**

There are opportunities for your partner to pick up work on other Brownrigg Agriculture-operated properties or in roles across the wider business, depending on their experience and interests.

The property is also well located for access to Hastings, Havelock North and Central Hawke's Bay, providing a range of employment opportunities across the wider area.

Lifestyle Information**Accommodation:**

Depending on your personal situation there are several accommodation options available within rural settings with kennels available for your team of dogs. This will be discussed at time of interview.



Farm Location & Community Information:

Based in Poukawa, 20 minutes south of Hastings. This proximity to town offers a lot of opportunities and Hawke's Bay is home to a variety of outdoor activities from beaches, wineries, sporting, and social opportunities.

Brownrigg Agriculture has a strong culture of its own and in-itself is a thriving and busy community. The company strives to bring a 'One Business' ethos into all we do and encourages cross-business engagement, whether that is in the sharing of resources to manage seasonal workloads or the active participation at one of the company wide social team-building events.

Schooling:

A wide range of schooling options is available due to the property's close proximity to Hastings. There are two well-regarded and well-resourced rural primary school, located within a 5-minute drive from the available accommodation. Additional schooling options for all age groups are available in Hastings and Havelock North.

Farm Information

Farm Area (total):

1,430ha.

Soil Type:

Mix of Pallic (silt over clay) limestone hill country.

Rainfall:

770mm average, variable.

Subdivision/Fences:

A mix of conventional and electric permanent fencing, with temporary polywire fencing used to subdivide within conventional paddock fences in some areas; average paddock size is about 5ha.

Woolshed & Other Buildings:

Two woolsheds (3-4 stand), two main sets of sheep yards plus several satellite sets. Two main sets of cattle yards (with cattle crushes), plus a couple of basic satellite sets.

Weeds:

Weed control is guided by Brownrigg's in-house agronomy team.

Water:

Mostly reticulated water from spring supplies. As this farm has been built over time through accumulation of other blocks, there are several different systems in operation. Brownrigg Agriculture has a dedicated team member focused on water systems across the business to assist farm staff.

Machinery:

Can-Am side-by-side.

The wider business has dedicated Cropping, Trucking, Earthworks, Mechanical and Engineering divisions so in-house specialist support is widely used and never far away.

Tracks:

All weather access to almost all paddocks, with key central laneways to facilitate stock movements to yards.



Farm Policy & Systems

Production System	Intensive finishing.
Stock Policy – Breeds/Number:	Lamb and beef finishing combined with high value cash crops in the summer. The Farm Manager is responsible for the Livestock enterprise, but cropping activity responsibility sits outside the role. Store lamb purchasing is centralised to leverage scale, with all lambs processed on arrival, including vaccinating, sexing, quarantine drench, and weight ranging. In a typical season, lamb purchasing begins in March and continues through into August. The main sale period is September through into November. Their Farm Support team assists the designated farm team with seasonal tasks such as processing arrivals, ewe lamb scanning, and mouthing. Friesian bulls are a flexible year-round stock class for the farm. R1s bulls are purchased through winter, with a portion sold store the following autumn, and the balance carried through. R1 bulls are used over late spring and the summer to maintain pastures for the start of the lamb trade. Two of the farms have a small herd of Angus breeding cows, which are utilised to effectively graze and manage areas less suited to Friesian bulls. Cows are mated to an Angus bull, using Hallmark and Totaranui genetics. Currently, all calves are sold as weaners.
Cows – Mating/ Calving/Weaning Dates:	Angus breeding cow herd, bulls join mid-November to target a calving mid-point of early September. Weaning is flexible, but early- to mid-March.
Animal Health Practices:	Best animal health practices at all times. Work closely with vets.
Cropping Policy:	There are two cropping policies in play, cash cropping (squash / maize / onions) and forage crops (lucerne/chicory/plantain/kale/Moata). Livestock policies have evolved out of the need to optimise cash cropping programmes, so their in-house Agronomy Team is central to ensuring the platform sharing is well planned, communicated and executed. Farm teams will have the opportunity to leverage that tight relationship and grow their own knowledge. The forage cropping and regrassing programme over the farm has been extensive with the vast majority of ‘drillable’ contour being part of the pasture renewal programme.





