



## Farming & Site Operations Manager

This is a varied role with a combination of planning and management with hands on practical work as part of a small farm team. It requires collaboration with a number of different internal roles and disciplines including finance, retail, restaurant, and senior leadership.

The ideal candidate has an eye for detail, a natural enjoyment of farming and growing, enjoys problem solving, is highly organised, and doesn't mind getting their hands dirty.

### Responsibilities

- Work with directors to develop detailed cropping plans and annual farming budgets, and be accountable for execution throughout the growing season
  - Support and lead on developing farming operations to produce a more diverse and year-round supply of homegrown produce to our Farm Shop and create on farm customer experiences to support our brand
  - Lead and foster a culture of attention to detail, tidiness, planning, record keeping, and continuous improvement
  - Manage farm team on all day-to-day operations planning ahead to ensure they are deployed most effectively, and work is organised and consistently to our highest standards
  - Be accountable for all farm record keeping which includes allocation of labour, application of crop inputs, farm stock counts and valuation, records of crops harvested, wasted, and sold
  - Ensure the farm business operations are compliant to all relevant Health, Safety, and Environmental regulations at all times and work with third party advisers to carry out regular audits and inspections
  - Manage and maintain farming equipment and other fixed assets to ensure they are kept in good working order, are presentable, and with accurate records of maintenance plans and costs
  - Tidy, organise, and maintain farm sites to be efficient, presentable and well maintained (includes buildings, yards, access roads, drainage, gates, fencing, woodland and hedgerows)
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- Integrate seamlessly with the Farm Shop team under the Farndon Fields brand working collaboratively on farm produce supply, site maintenance support, farm customer experiences
  - External maintenance at the farm shop site (includes car park, fencing, exterior signage, grass verges, trees, drainage, any other infrastructure requirements)
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- Manage the site set up of customer events and experiences on the farm such as our annual Pumpkin Festival
  - Disposal of unused farm fixed assets for best value
  - Support and manage new farm and property CAPEX projects

### **About the Farm**

We manage an area of approximately 550 acres across 3 sites in relative proximity to the Farm Shop in Market Harborough.

The aims of farming at Farndon Fields are threefold:

1. To produce as diverse an array as possible of high quality and unique home grown produce to supply the Farm Shop and Farmer's Kitchen
2. To manage the land in a responsible and sustainable way both to support the environment and to ensure the future of the business
3. To create a location that can inspire and educate visitors about our way of growing food and looking after the land

Traditionally the main crops we have grown to support the Farm Shop and Farmer's Kitchen restaurant are potatoes, a diverse array of vegetables (cabbages, cauliflowers, kale, brussel sprouts, runner beans, courgettes, beetroot, carrots, etc), some tomatoes and cucumbers, squashes and pumpkins. In the past we have also grown soft fruit, mainly tabletop strawberries in polytunnels as well as raspberries although this enterprise was halted in 2023 due to labour scarcity and inflation of input costs. We also have a small number of rare breed pigs fed from waste vegetables and milled home-grown cereals to supply into our butchery.

The remainder and majority of the farmed area is used for combinable crops; wheat, oats, and beans with an increasing area of land devoted to SFI and other environmental schemes to try and farm more regeneratively and manage our input costs.

### **About the Business**

Farndon Fields is an award-winning family run food and farming business founded in 1983 by Milly and Kevin Stokes. Operating from a purpose-built Farm Shop at Farndon Fields Farm on the edge of Market Harborough, the business has grown consistently for many years.

Originally selling just home-grown fresh produce, the product offering within the farm shop now also includes a butchery serving locally reared meats, delicatessen counter serving home-made sandwiches, pastries, and desserts, and locally produced farmhouse cheeses and charcuterie, and a large range of grocery products including locally baked artisanal breads, beers, wines, and spirits.

The Farmers Kitchen restaurant was built in 2005 and serves breakfast, lunches, and afternoon teas, and there is an adjoining garden centre area and homeware and gifting selection. The business has recently also expanded into seasonal events with The Pumpkin Festival held throughout the month of October on the Farm.

The focus of the business continues to be on delivering an exceptional customer experience, selling high quality and local food and drink, and supporting farmers, growers, and artisanal producers and suppliers. Our mission is to be the ultimate destination to experience local food and farming.