



Equipment Operator & Welder

Donald Grigg

PROFILE

Employer:

G. Morris Caseley Ltd. - Potato and Wheat Farm

Location:

Kensington, PEI

Education/Training:

**Grade 12 (including Pre-apprentice Welding)
Welding Course (1 year) -
Holland College
Class 3A License**

**Years Working in Agriculture:
20 years**

Nature of Work:

**Seasonal (May - November)
Full Time (for 7-8 months)
Indoor and Outdoor**

Salary Range:

\$18,000 - \$30,000

Job History:

**Grew up on a beef and pork farm
Welder - 10 years
Equipment Operator - 6 years**

What I like best about the career:

"Doing a variety of different jobs throughout the year."

WHAT IS AN EQUIPMENT OPERATOR/WELDER?

An equipment operator/welder is a person responsible for: building different pieces of equipment and maintaining the equipment used each different season.

WHAT DOES A EQUIPMENT OPERATOR/WELDER DO?

An equipment operator/welder completes the following duties:

- operates heavy equipment
- drives tandem trucks
- builds or fixes anything that is broken down

A typical work week would consist of about 75 hours per week from May through November.

WHAT SKILLS ARE REQUIRED?

The following skills are required to be a welder/equipment operator:

- a Class 3A License
- a welding background
- a mechanical background

HOW DID YOU BECOME AN EQUIPMENT OPERATOR/WELDER?

I became an equipment operator/welder through a combination of the experience that I obtained growing up and working on the farm along with my professional welder training.

Staying in school was very important in helping me to decide to become an equipment operator/welder. However, obtaining hands-on experience was the key to finding out what my interests were.

WHAT DO YOU NOT LIKE ABOUT YOUR JOB?

The long hours can be trying especially since I have a new baby at home.

SUMMER CAREER OPTIONS FOR STUDENTS

During the summer months there are various options for employment for students including:

- grass cutting
- painting
- silage or hay
- roguing potatoes

THE FUTURE (JOB OUTLOOK)

There currently seems to be lots of work for equipment operators/welders. If anything, there may be a shortage right now.

As agriculture grows on Prince Edward Island, there will be new ways in handling potatoes. Bigger equipment is always being developed making it easier to do the job at hand.

RELATED CAREERS

Truck Driver
Welding Shop

