

Farm Worker (Potato)

Lori Anderson



PROFILE

Employer:
A. S. MacSwain & Sons Inc.

Location:
Morell, PEI

Education/Training:
*Grade 11
Tractor Operator
Class 3 License - JVI
Forklift Certificate - JVI
Dangerous Goods - JVI
Pesticide Certification License
- AG1*

Years Working in Agriculture:
10 years

Nature of Work:
*The work I do is seasonal,
and a lot is done outside.*

Salary Range:
Minimum wage - \$12/hour

Job History:
*Worked as a Fish Plant Worker
for 3 years before going to be a
Farm Worker.*

What I like best about the career:
"I enjoy doing different things every day, and working outside is a bonus. My employers are very pleased with my work and attitude. I know I am appreciated and receive compliments all the time on my performance. They all say I am a pleasure to work with."

WHAT IS A POTATO FARM WORKER?

A potato farm worker is someone who doesn't mind honest hard work. On a potato farm, there are many jobs available including:

- Truck Driver's class 1 & 3
- Forklift Operators
- Tractor Operators
- Graders (rock pickers)
- Overall maintenance (includes: painting, lawn care, etc.)

WHAT DOES A POTATO FARM WORKER DO?

On the potato farm, I have many duties. My usual week would include:

- Truck Driver (potato & water)
- Tractor Operator
- Chemical Mixer
- Maintenance (painter, cleaner, and lawn care)
- Forklift Operator

A typical work day would be about 8 hours in length. However, in the spring during planting or in the fall during harvesting, working a 15-16 hours day is possible sometimes 7 days a week.

WHAT SKILLS ARE REQUIRED?

For the truck driving, I obtained a class 3 license. For the water truck, I acquired a chemical certificate; and depending on the type of truck, I may need a different class of license. For the forklift operation, I also obtained a certificate. Also, a healthy, positive attitude goes a long way.

HOW DID YOU BECOME A POTATO FARM WORKER?

I was working in a fish plant for 3 years when a friend told me about the position. Being a person who enjoys trying new things, I applied for the job. The idea of working outside and having a salary increase was enticing.

WHAT DO YOU NOT LIKE ABOUT YOUR JOB?

Nothing really! I like it all! In my job, I am appreciated and complimented on the quality of my work and my attitude all the time.

SUMMER CAREER OPTIONS FOR STUDENTS

Farmers hire students all the time. Working part time usually fits both the student's and employer's needs. Everyone benefits.

THE FUTURE (JOB OUTLOOK)

As for me, someday I would like to try for my Class 1 Tractor Trailer Licence.

RELATED CAREERS

Anywhere in agriculture.

"If you enjoy working outside and doing different things, you would go a long way in this industry."



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