

Aveley Ranch Apprentice Profile

First, A little Bit About Us.

History:

Aveley Ranch was established in 1906 as an original homestead by Theodore Moilliet, an Englishman with no farming back ground in search of adventure and a dream: to carve a living from the untamed land as a farmer/homesteader, he was only 16 when he began this journey. The Aveley Ranch homestead was pre-empted in the North Thompson Valley near what would be the village of Vavenby and was only the fourth homestead north of Clearwater.

Sheep were introduced in 1913 and have been raised for wool, meat and breeding stock to this day and continue be the primary enterprise of the ranch. Over the 30s the Ranch's land base was expanded along with additional range licences the flock was able to grow to 1,000 head of ewes and peaked in the early 2000s to nearly 1,500.

Aveley Ranch is still owned and operated by the Moilliet family and has now entered the fourth generation of operation.

Our Enterprises:

We currently keep over 600 Corridale and Suffolk cross ewes and raise up to 800 lambs and run them on a 100% pastured system. We market a percentage of the lambs direct to consumers and the rest are sold as livestock.

We grow and harvest all of our own hay on the ranch as well as selling roughly 30 tons annually.

Much of our property is forested and is managed as either silvo-pasture (managed for timber as well as pasture) or solely growing timber which is managed as sustainably as possible. In addition the Ranch owns a provincial woodlot licence which is managed for timber revenue as well as for non-timber forest products.

To value add some of our forest products we have invested in a small scale sawmill which is currently an ongoing development. The sawmill has been an exiting enterprise addition and we hope to grow it in the near future.

In 2018 we are planning to start an organic mixed vegetable program with the help of a partner. This is something we are very excited about and believe it will be complementary to our land and lifestyle.

Although we do not currently operate cattle on a commercial level we do have two Jersey cows to supply fresh milk and beef for those living on the ranch. The milk is also utilized in lambing to feed bottle lambs.

Goals on the Horizon:

Rotational Grazing systems –

Although we have been using some forms of rotational grazing since the beginning of raising livestock we have not maximized nor fine-tuned this amazing management tool. Because of our large range licences, in the past we have relied heavily on them for summer grazing, but due to the lack of natural burns, fast growing tree plantations and increased predation, we get less time with fewer animals on the range. We are now looking to maximize the use of our forage that grows on the farm through management intensive grazing. This will be achieved through revising current fencing and new fence installations with permanent electric fence and the incorporation of portable electric fence to achieve daily rotations as well more extensive and or portable water solutions. This is a plan we intend to work on and fine for years to come.

Alternate Species –

We hope to add other species to our grazing plan as we fine tune our grazing management. Beef cattle will likely be the next addition to our operation followed by poultry and pork in due time and with the right partners to participate.

Our Philosophies:

We believe that food should be produced on the land fuelled by passion and not merely by short term dollars.

That land can be restored and enhanced using sustainable methods.

That sustainable forestry and sustainable agriculture can be balanced on the same field.

That what ever our farming practices may be, they must not compromise our environmental integrity.

That the key to preserving our environment lies in preserving true farming practises. To work with the land and not against it.

The Qualities We are Looking for in an Apprentice:

- Willing and eager to learn
- Respectful
- High level of personal pride in their work
- Extremely high work ethic
- A positive attitude
- Good at communication
- Asks Questions
- Resourceful
- Enjoys problem solving
- A safe worker
- A team player/worker
- Can work well on their own
- Takes instructions well
- Works well under stressful situations
- Highly observant
- Honest

- Reasonably physically fit (able to do basic physical tasks on a daily basis. Although we are always willing to work with individuals with certain physical disabilities)
- Can be independent and self sufficient when needed

Other:

- Gender preference: Non
- Age preference: over 18 and young enough to follow the above points (more or less)
- Couples: are accepted

All of the above qualities are what we believe is necessary, at least to some degree, to thrive and succeed with Aveley Ranch. If the applicant feels that they lack in some of these points we ask that the these be discussed in further detail.

Useful Qualifications:

- Drivers licence
- Motorcycle licence
- Firearms licence
- First aid (any level)
- WHMS

Useful Skill Sets:

- Fencing
- Chainsaw operation
- Livestock handling
- ATV/motorcycle experience

- Tractor operation/farm machinery experience
- Basic construction
- General mechanics
- Other technical trades
- Experience in pasture irrigation

Accommodation Arrangements:

We have a tiny home on wheels (approx. 7.5x14.5) that is self sufficient with propane cooking, wood heat, a double bed, electrical plug in for lights small devises, a small fridge. The unit will be placed in a wifi zone, will be near an out-house and fresh running water. Showers and laundry are available at the main house. Food will be provided as needed and as part of the board package.

Spring/Summer Work Schedule:

Chores include:

- Manual sprinkler changes daily or twice daily
- Checking and tending animals
- Making hay over July and August
- Sheep drives as needed
- Expected hours to be worked in a given day: generally 8 hours but depends on what is being done, the arrangement of compensation and the willingness of the apprentice.
- Expected hours to be worked in a given week: depends on the arrangement of compensation but generally 40-50 hours.

- Days off: at least 2 days will be given off however many chores need to be done 7 days a week, some of these chores can be passed off to others from time to time. Again this will be discussed in the terms of compensation

Other Work:

- Fencing
- Livestock maintenance, health and handling
- Equipment maintenance
- Building construction
- Forest management
- Silvo-pasture management
- Vegetable production
- Pasture management
- And much more

In Conclusion:

If an applicant has any further questions please feel free to contact Joseph Moilliet directly at any time, we would like to know the applicant's thoughts on any issues.

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