

Ross Farm Museum is committed to providing exceptional equine care and is seeking a dedicated Horse Caretaker to join our team. As a key member of our team, you will be responsible for maintaining the highest standards of equine care, including daily feeding, grooming, and monitoring of horse health and occasionally fill in for teamster. If you share our passion for animal welfare and are committed to delivering outstanding care, we encourage you to apply for this rewarding opportunity.

A Horse Caretaker at Ross Farm Museum is accountable for the daily care and maintenance of equine animals, ensuring their health, well-being, and safety. This role necessitates a strong commitment to animal welfare, requiring collaboration with staff to maintain stable cleanliness, provide proper feeding and care, and address medical concerns. Coordination with the farrier, veterinary team, management, and staff regarding horse needs is also essential.

The caretaker will work approximately 40 hours per week, performing physical labor in various weather conditions to guarantee the horses' well-being. Ultimately, the caretaker will work closely with the Head Teamster to organize the daily operations of the barn, yard, and horse care, utilizing leadership skills to set a high standard for less experienced team members.

Primary consideration will be granted to candidates who possess experience in safely handling a range of horses, including stallions and foals, and who hold accreditations from the Nova Scotia Equestrian Federation, as well as, completed recognized equine training programs.

Key responsibilities may include:

Horse Care:

- Daily feeding and watering of horses according to their individual dietary needs
- Regular daily grooming, hoof care and cleaning of horses

- Monitoring horse health, identifying any signs of illness or injury, and coordinating with a veterinarian when necessary
- Providing proper bedding and stable management
- Overseeing the daily turnout exercise schedule for horses in pastures and outdoor turnout, daily cleaning of turnout
- Daily cleaning of tack and harnesses, making sure tack is in appropriate working condition
- Communicating effectively with management regarding horses' health and progress
- Preparing horses for wagon rides, including grooming and tacking, keeping logs of working time
- Occasionally drive horses for wagon rides as a spare
- Daily journal entries on each equine

Extensive knowledge of equine care and husbandry practices is essential with strong leadership and management abilities.

- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills
- Ability to work independently and as part of a team
- Physical fitness to handle demanding tasks in a stable environment
- Experience in horse handling
- Extensive knowledge of equine care and husbandry practices
- Equine First Aid course is considered an asset
- Daily log and record keeping on each individual horse including breeding records
- Previous experience of handling a stallion and foal considered an asset
- Preparing feeds, adding medicines or supplements to equine's food along with ordering what's required
- Feeding, haying and providing water for equines and journaling
- Mucking out, bedding down, sweeping the barn and yard

- Keeping allocated areas tidy such as the feed room, tack room and storage areas
- Keeping the yard tidy and safe in line with health and safety regulations
- Tack cleaning
- Turning out or bringing in from the field/turnout yard
- Putting on and removing rugs as appropriate
- Tacking up and untacking equines
- Ability to harness & drive a horse(s) considered an asset
- Exercising and conditioning equines to each individual horses requirement and ability
- Handling equines for the veterinarian, farrier or therapist
- Maintaining a safe field environment for all equines

Ross Farm is committed to being an equal opportunity employer, fostering a workforce free of discrimination, valuing diversity, and representative of designated groups, including Aboriginal People, African Nova Scotians, Other Racially Visible Persons, Persons with Disabilities, LGBTQIA+ and Women, across all job levels and in occupations or positions where they are under-represented.