

## Transferable Skills Checklist for Farmers

Transferable skills are universal skills that can be learned through training, education, work, hobbies, etc. These are the skills employers consider most valuable. Many of the skills you have acquired farming are transferable skills that can be used in other types of employment. You may not even realize how many of these skills you have acquired over time. The fastest way to assess your skills is to ask yourself two questions: What am I good at? What do I enjoy doing? Take a few minutes to read through the skills listed below. Circle the skills you have used farming and put a check mark (✓) by the skills you would like to use on your next job.

### LIVESTOCK

Dairy farming (sanitation, health standards, maintenance of operating equipment)

Maintain feeding records

Maintain breeding records

Determine feeding method and feed

Breeding: knowledge of genetics, traits for desired offspring

Artificial insemination

Pregnancy checks

Examination of animals for disease or injury

Consultations with veterinarians treat and vaccinate animals

Maintain proper temperature and ventilation in confinement buildings

Prepare livestock for market

Harvest furs

Shear sheep

Determine method/time to market livestock/products

Castrate animals

Transport livestock

Butcher livestock

Other (list) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### CROPS

Estimate seed, fertilizer, pesticide and herbicide amounts

Mix chemicals such as herbicides, fertilizer and pesticides;

Know proper procedures and safety measures.

Know various tillage methods

Select land for specific crop

Analyze federal farm programs

Select type and variety of crops

Establish time and rate of seeding

Prepare fields, plant, harvest crops

Spray crops using machinery or airplane

Assemble and operate irrigation equipment

Evaluate soil and water conditions

Inspect crop periodically and treat for pests and weeds

Determine harvesting time and methods

Storage of crops

Grain blending  
 Grain fumigation  
 Seed conditioning

Bin preparation  
 Analyze production results

MANAGING NATURAL RESOURCES

Install drainage tile  
 Construct waterways  
 Plant windbreaks  
 Maintain water quality (i.e. manure lagoons)  
 Establish crop rotation programs  
 Practice erosion control methods  
 Evaluate soil conditions to minimize compaction

Maintain soil fertility/balance  
 Harvest timber  
 Practice woodlot conservation  
 Practice wildlife conservation  
 Avoid chemical contamination of the environment

MACHINE MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR

Adjust and maintain equipment  
 Welding - list types (oxyacetylene, spray arc, submerged,mig,tig,stick)  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Heating and cooling system maintenance  
 Heating and cooling system repair  
 Use and maintain safety equipment  
 Paint equipment

Repair machinery:

	semi-skilled	skilled
Gas engines	_____	_____
Diesel engines	_____	_____
Transmissions	_____	_____
Clutch	_____	_____
Brake system	_____	_____
Exhaust system	_____	_____
Carburetor	_____	_____
Drive chain	_____	_____
Electrical system	_____	_____

GENERAL FARM MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR

Repair buildings	Concrete finishing or repairs
Repair heating and/or ventilation system	Erect and repair fences
Painting (specify brush or spray)	_____
Electrical repairs (specify)	_____
Plumbing repairs (specify)	_____
Power tools operated (specify)	_____
Hand tools used (specify)	_____

CONSTRUCTION OF FACILITIES AND EQUIPMENT

Design and build equipment	Build foundations, footers, floors
Select building site and plan building layout	Frame buildings and/or insulate structures
Compile a bill of materials, compute building costs	Apply siding and roofing
Comply with zoning and building code regulations	Install plumbing and/or electrical system
Prepare building site and drainage	Construct waste storage
Other (list) _____	Customize building interiors

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EQUIPMENT OPERATION

Tractors	Backhoe
Combines	Trencher
Bulldozer	Front-end loader
Skid loader	Semi truck
Other truck (list type) _____	
Other farm equipment (list Type) _____	

RECORD KEEPING

Farm markets (tracking, hedging)

Expense and income records

Payroll

Tax preparation

Complete inventory records and depreciation schedules

Budget preparation

Complete actual cash flow, profit and loss and balance sheets

Maintain mileage records

Production records (dairy, crop, beef, other)

SALES AND MARKETING

Seed/feed

Fertilizer

Implement or equipment

Insurance

Livestock sales (list type of sale, direct market, etc.)

Determine cost of production and minimal acceptable profit margin

Other \_\_\_\_\_

Develop product marketing strategies

Qualify crops and/or products for government programs

Apply for government loans

Participate in product promotion groups

Utilize various financial marketing instruments (cash sale, basis contract, options, D.P., hedging)

Consult with brokers

COMPUTER SKILLS

Word Processing (MS Word etc.)

Database Use (MS Excel/ACCESS etc.)

Record Keeping (Quickbooks etc.)

Other \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail

Internet Research

MANAGEMENT AND SUPERVISORY SKILLS

Analyze potential enterprises for profitability

Develop enterprise budgets

Analyze potential enterprises for potential growth or change

Analyze potential enterprises for potential risks and rewards

Establish long and short range goals

Determine labor needs

Analyze past records and credit needs

Develop a tax strategy

Develop an estate plan

Plan for debt reduction

Plan for replacement of equipment and facilities

Plan work schedules and daily tasks

Direct others

Teach workers new skills

Supervise workers

Organize farm activities

OTHER FARM SKILLS

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Choose the skills from above that you most enjoy and would like to continue using in your new job:

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