



MEAT & LIVESTOCK INDUSTRY CAREERS

Dairy: The Western Australian dairy industry offers exciting opportunities, especially in the South West regions of Harvey, Margaret River, and Denmark. As a key contributor to the local economy, the industry combines traditional farming with cutting-edge technology — from automated milking systems to advanced processes like pasteurisation and packaging. Whether you're interested in hands-on farm work or the tech and science behind food production, the dairy industry provides a rewarding career path with room to grow and develop valuable skills.

Relevant qualification: Certificate III in Agriculture

Visit: Dairy Industry Association of Australia <https://diaa.asn.au>

Livestock: The beef industry in Western Australia is a great place to start your career in Agriculture — it's the third-largest sector in the state's agricultural economy and offers a wide range of job opportunities. The industry is split into two main areas based on location and production style. In the Kimberley, you'll find large-scale cattle operations across vast natural pastures, where roles often focus on remote station work, livestock handling, and pastoral management.

In the South West, beef production is more hands-on and intensive, involving improved pastures, supplementary feeding, and often working within mixed farming systems that include cropping. No matter where you start, you'll gain valuable, transferable skills like livestock care, nutrition and pasture management, and farm operations — setting you up for a strong, long-term career in agriculture.

Relevant qualification: Certificate III in Agriculture, Certificate III in Pork Production

Visit: Meat & Livestock Australia <https://www.mla.com.au>

Butchery: Butchery is more than just a trade — it's a time-honored craft that blends skill, knowledge, and passion. Becoming a butcher can lead to a deeply rewarding career, offering the satisfaction of hands-on work, a solid understanding of food, and meaningful interactions with customers. Yes, it's physically demanding, but in return, it provides a stable and lifelong profession. And let's face it — most of us love meat, whether it's white, pink, red, or somewhere in between. It's a staple in many diets, and butchers are at the heart of bringing it to our tables.

Relevant qualification: Certificate III in Meat Processing (Retail Butcher)

Visit: Australian Butchers' Guild <https://www.australianbutchersguild.com.au/>

Meat Processing: The abattoir industry is a major employer in WA's South West — one of the most desirable regions to live and work. With a strong demand for both skilled and unskilled workers, this sector offers a wide range of career opportunities in meat processing, including roles like boners, slicers, slaughterers, meat inspectors, and quality assurance officers. There's also a growing need for expertise in areas such as compliance, IT, data analytics, animal welfare, sustainability, hygiene, and food safety.

The industry is evolving fast, driven by emerging technologies like advanced biosecurity systems for improved traceability, cutting-edge machinery for processing (including strip cutting, smoking, injecting, and dicing), and new equipment to enhance workplace safety and reduce manual strain. Whether you're looking to start a hands-on job or build a career in food technology or compliance, the abattoir industry offers real opportunities for growth in a stable, forward-thinking environment.

Relevant qualification: Certificate III in Meat Processing

Visit: Australian Meat Processor Corporation <https://www.ampc.com.au/>

Further information on qualifications: visit Jobs and Skills WA
<https://www.jobsandskills.wa.gov.au/>

For general information about careers: contact Diane Smith, Industry Consultant, Food Fibre and Timber ITC, 0419292404

