

We are a mixed farm in Norfolk of about 550 acres, with arable, a dairy herd, anaerobic digestion and cheesemaking. The business is tightly integrated, with the byproducts from one section supplying the inputs to others with the aim of minimising waste. Reduction of greenhouse gas and other emissions is a major objective of the business, through generation and utilisation of energy as well as regenerative agriculture.

I am looking for someone to gradually relieve me of my workload, which involves maintenance and development of the engineering aspects of the farm. This would ideally be a graduate engineer, capable of design and development but not afraid to get dirty hands doing maintenance work. Our guiding engineering principle here is that if something needs frequent maintenance, or does not do its job particularly well, then it needs modifying or redesigning. This sometimes leads to marketable products which can form a useful sideline to the business. We also try to engineer our way out of waste in any way, materials, product or energy.

In particular, the anaerobic digester needs looking after in terms of software maintenance (PLC and HMI programming, although anyone with some programming experience will pick it up quickly), mechanical maintenance including improvements to reduce maintenance, and process control. Our SCADA system has a Mitsubishi FX3 PLC linked to a network of 9 Siemens LOGO logic controllers and various instruments and controls linked by Modbus.

There are also other systems that need looking after and development in mechanical and electrical aspects, such as the water supply, hot water system irrigation pump controls and farm machine controls. We like to develop instruments for custom applications which occasionally occur, and have recently been basing these on Arduino hardware.

The cheese room needs its heating and cooling systems looking after, as well as the pasteuriser, ozone and other equipment. New equipment needs designing and building occasionally.

The computer, CCTV and telecoms side of the business needs support, in terms of the physical infrastructure, hardware and software.

Input to the management of the business, in terms of keeping records of key performance indicators and monitoring the operation of the business as a whole would form an important component of the job. There are opportunities to be involved with other aspects of the farm.

A recent graduate or a more experienced engineer could be suitable, salary will depend on relevant experience in the first instance, with opportunities for increases as expertise develops. The vacancy is open to UK citizens and those with current authorisation to work in the UK. A driving licence is essential, as this is a rural location.

Housing could be available if needed. Area convenient for seaside/watersports and city access.

For further information, or expression of interest, please email sjt@jftemple.co.uk