



How do I tackle pay rates?

Frequently asked questions - Updated January 2024



Employee classifications, pay rates and hours

Step 1 What is the employee's classification?

All employees should be given a classification which accurately reflects their skills and experience and the work they do. As a minimum, wages paid to the employee should meet award rates of pay which apply to their classification. The Pastoral Award 2020 applies to dairy employees. There are five employee classifications for dairy in the Award, which are summarised in the table overleaf.

Step 2 Find the minimum hourly rate – (you must pay this rate or above)

The minimum hourly rates for each employee classification are listed in the table below which apply from the first pay period on or after 1 July 2024.

Classification	Adult Full-time weekly rate (100%)	Adult Part-time hourly rate	Casual hourly (125%)
FLH1	\$891.50	\$23.46	\$29.33
FLH3	\$928.60	\$24.44	\$30.55
FLH5	\$965.60	\$25.41	\$31.76
FLH7	\$1,032.30	\$27.17	\$33.96
FLH8	\$1,109.20	\$29.19	\$36.49

Templates and tools

Use the flat rate calculator (excel spreadsheet) to work out the hourly flat rate that takes into account overtime and penalty rates. Visit thepeopleindairy.org.au/employment-rewards/pay_rates

Further reading

National Training Wage Schedule
awardviewer.fwo.gov.au/award/show/MA000104#P1630_73483

National Employment Standards
thepeopleindairy.org.au/engagementreward/national-employment-standards

Stepping Stones provides information on the different types of careers and explores the different pathways available for people looking to start and/or progress their dairy career further available at thepeopleindairy.com.au/steppingstones

Pay rates, Working out a package and the Pastoral Award 2020 are available at thepeopleindairy.org.au/employment-rewards/pay_rates

Record keeping thepeopleindairy.org.au/employment-rewards/record-keeping

Step 3 Is the employee full time, part time or casual?

Under the Pastoral Award 2020 ordinary hours are 152 hours worked over a four-week period. Ordinary hours for casuals are the same as for full-time employees. Note: Part time employees are entitled to overtime for all hours worked in excess of the agreed part time hours. All part time and casual employees are entitled to a minimum payment of 3 hours' work. A casual worker must be paid at the hourly rate plus 25 per cent. The minimum engagement period for full time secondary students aged 18 years or younger is 2 hours.

For more information visit thepeopleindairy.org.au

This leaflet is a guide only and professional advice should be sought about your specific circumstances.

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Can I pay a flat hourly rate?

Once you have worked out the relevant minimum amounts of pay required by law and any other benefits which you may be able to provide, you can begin to work out a package.

Sometimes it may be more straightforward to pay a flat rate of pay taking into account overtime and penalty rates. As this is a variation to the award, the employer and employee must formalise the pay rate as part of an Individual Flexibility Agreement (IFA) or an enterprise agreement or an annualised salary arrangement. IFA's and enterprise agreements must pass the Better Off Overall Test (BOOT) to ensure the employee is better off overall compared to the award. Annualised salaries must pass the No Disadvantage Test.

The flat rate calculator will help you to work out a flat hourly rate or an annualised salary that takes into account overtime and penalty rates.

Classifications

Pastoral Award 2020 classification	Job category	Indicative Training level
Farm and livestock hand level 1 (FLH1) Dairy operator grade 1A with less than 12 months' experience in the industry who: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> uses their knowledge and skills to perform set procedures such as milking and attending to livestock, haymaking, fencing. 	Assistant Farm Hand (works under supervision) This category is for people who are involved in a general range of farming tasks and working under supervision.	Certificate II
Farm and livestock hand level 3 (FLH3) Dairy operator grade 1B with 12 months' experience in the industry who: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> uses their knowledge and skills to perform set procedures such as milking and attending to livestock, haymaking, fencing. 	Farm Hand (works under limited supervision) This category is for people who are skilled or unskilled in a range of farming operations and work either independently or as part of a team.	Certificate III
Farm and livestock hand level 5 (FLH5) An employee at this level includes: Dairy operator grade 2 who: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> has two years experience in the industry; uses their knowledge and skills to multiple operations involving basic levels of problem solving and decision making; and has an appreciation of the overall processes involved in a dairy farm. 	Senior farm hand This category is for skilled people working either independently or as part of a team.	Certificate IV
Farm and livestock hand level 7 (FLH7) An employee at this level includes: Senior dairy operator grade 1 who: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> uses their knowledge and skills to coordinate the operation of a farm process or area of expertise e.g. milking and animal attendance, pasture and farm maintenance, breeding programs and artificial insemination area. 	Production Manager (implements policy and sets tactics) People in this role have significant responsibilities in managing the production activities on a dairy farm. Dairy farm production managers demonstrate broad industry knowledge and advanced technical skills.	Diploma
Farm and livestock hand level 8 (FLH8) An employee at this level includes: Senior dairy operator grade 2 who: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> under the direction of the owner or manager uses their expertise and skills in order to supervise and maintain the operation of a dairy farm. 	Senior Production Manager (farm supervisor) (supervises staff and reports to management) People in roles of this category have responsibility for staff and various production activities on the farm. A supervisor is expected to carry out some business management activities like monitoring WH&S in the workplace, preparing operating budgets and supervising work routines of others. A senior production manager uses industry knowledge and may be asked to solve a range of problems.	Diploma
Award-free business manager	Business Manager (sets policy) People in roles in this category have significant responsibility for ensuring the dairy enterprise is managed successfully. They are expected to demonstrate extensive industry knowledge, technical skills and business management principles in order to perform this complex role.	Advanced diploma

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