



IRRIGATION CONTROLLER

Job Description

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Position	Irrigation Controller
Location	Myrtleford, VIC
Reports To	Farm Manager VIC
Reported to By	A small team of Farm Hands
Position Summary	<p>The Irrigation Controller manages the delivery of the irrigation and fertilisation program, systems and associated infrastructure across HPA's VIC farm sites in the Myrtleford region. The primary focus is to optimise hop plant health by effectively managing irrigation and fertilisation operations.</p> <p>Success in this role requires working in a consultative, collaborative, and supportive manner to ensure actions are delivered on time and production objectives are met.</p>
Responsibilities	<p>Crop Operations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lead, organise and supervise a small team responsible for irrigation and fertiliser management, from planning and implementation to maintenance and evaluation.• Work with the Agronomist and farm management to develop and execute annual crop production plans, specifically design, implement, and manage irrigation and fertiliser schedules based on crop needs, weather conditions, and water availability.• Monitor and maintain irrigation infrastructure, including pumps, pipes, and sprinkler systems, to ensure optimal functionality. Coordinate servicing of all irrigation infrastructure, repairs, maintenance and troubleshooting.• Collaborate with the Farm Manager and other team members to develop water-efficient practices and improve irrigation efficiency.• Conduct regular field inspections to assess crop moisture levels and adjust irrigation practices accordingly.• Keep accurate records of water usage, irrigation and fertiliser schedules, and maintenance activities in line with company protocols.• Meet budget expectations for irrigation and fertilisation applications.• Ensure dealings with internal and external stakeholders drive a positive reputation to deliver timely and cost-effective performance.• Assist the Farm Manager and Assistant Farm Manager in harvest planning and execution. <p>Team Management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ensure that Farm Hands are adequately trained, equipped, and motivated to deliver a safe, timely, and cost-effective irrigation program.• Support farm supervisors in their supervision of casual employees during stringing, training, and harvest periods.• Ensure all relevant induction training is recorded and completed according to



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procedures.

- Communicate regularly with the Farm Manager on the work performance of employees. Provide regular feedback to employees.

Quality and Food Safety

- Actively collaborate to review and improve the Quality and Food Safety Management System.
- Identify areas for improvement. Monitor quality and food safety aspects of production/processing and report any issues that may impact quality or food safety (non-conformances).
- Investigate issues, propose, implement, and track corrective and preventive actions.
- Support a positive team culture aligned with the Quality & Food Safety Management System and lean manufacturing standards, ensuring adherence to work procedures.
- Participate in internal and external audits, meetings and other verification activities as required.

Work Health and Safety

- Maintain adherence to the safe and correct storage, handling, mixing and transportation of chemicals and fertilisers ensuring attention to correct dosages.
- Ensure all records are updated in the WHS information system.
- Actively collaborate to review and improve the safety management system. Lead hazard identification with work crews.
- Demonstrate and foster a positive safety culture by following work procedures to maintain safety compliance.
- Monitor safety aspects of production/processing and report hazards, incidents and non-conformances that may impact your safety or the safety of others.
- Facilitate meetings as required and participate in internal and external audits.
- Investigate hazards, incidents and non-conformances and develop, recommend, implement and monitor corrective and preventive actions.

General Duties

- Assist Farm management roles to ensure employees look after and use tools, PPE, and all other equipment appropriately.
- Monitor stock levels and use of resources to assist with forecasting, allocation, and purchase of materials within the role's assigned delegation.
- Assist management in identifying gaps and opportunities for improving production processes, including plant and equipment, resourcing or applications.
- Support management to keep the property clean, tidy, and secure. Ensure



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employees dispose of rubbish appropriately and secure farm access points. Ensure employees keep their work areas clean and tidy.

- Perform other duties as requested from time to time, within the scope of the role.

Skill Requirements

Essential

- Proven experience in irrigation coordination, maintenance and management within horticulture enterprises. Experience with subsurface drip and overhead would be an advantage.
- Strong leadership capabilities and ability to maintain a supportive farm culture.
- Strong understanding of water management and conservation techniques, and an active interest in smart and sustainable farming practices.
- An eye for detail, excellent problem-solving and time management skills.
- Strong communication and interpersonal skills.
- Sound computer literacy skills and experience with irrigation control systems.
- Flexibility in hours worked to achieve operational targets.
- A sense of urgency and a can-do attitude.
- Sound working knowledge of farm-based WH&S risks and requirements.
- A current driver's licence.
- Certificate III in Irrigation Technology or Certificate IV in Irrigation Management, or related qualification/s.

Desirable

- Current First Aid & CPR certificate
- Safe Handling of Chemicals training (Chemcert/AgSafe)