



Join us and be part of one of the UK's most dynamic agricultural industries



This won't be a scholarship placement where you're a bit part player – you will be carrying out a key role at the heart of our business where you will have the opportunity to gain knowledge and skills that will be relevant for the rest of your career.

Supported by an experienced team, you will be given both hands-on and management responsibility to build your confidence and expertise.

We work in partnership with one of the country's top producers, Pilgrim's Europe, who have pioneered industry leading initiatives to help support and manage the supply of high quality and locally farmed poultry. Their customers are the country's premier supermarkets including Waitrose and Sainsbury's.

Best of all, you will be working at a state-of-the-art and expanding farm housing around 360,000 birds. We continually invest in the latest technology, equipment and animal welfare.

In a nutshell, your scholarship will provide you with knowledge of:

- Poultry farm management
- Environmental regulations
- Biosecurity
- Feed costs
- Disease control
- Market conditions and volatility
- Management skills



Meadowland Poultry Fact File

- Our purpose-built farm is located in a stunning area in north Shropshire, close to both Wem and Shrewsbury
- This year, we are adding three more houses increasing our capacity from 240,000 to around 360,000 birds
- Our houses are all new, state-of-the-art buildings and our farming is backed by modern technology with optimum welfare and bio-security
- We recently made a £1 million investment in poultry and farming welfare, and sustainability, through the installation of renewable energy systems, namely solar to produce electricity and heat exchangers to reduce fossil fuel consumption
- Our success has been built on the model of better welfare and lower stock density
- Farm Manager is Robin Price who has worked in the poultry industry for over 40 years
- The farm was established ten years ago
- We are part of the Grocott Group, established by local business people, siblings David and Linda Grocott. Our other businesses include 4M Portable Buildings, Tilley Green Coffee Company and Whixall Marina. More about the Group here: www.grocottgroup.co.uk
- Placement scholars participate in the Group's Young Talent Programme and wider business initiatives
- Group Staff Discount Card – colleagues receive a 10% discount on a wide range of products and services provided by Group companies, including Whixall Marina – café, holiday accommodation and boating holidays



So what's it like to work with us?

"I was looking for something really different and challenging, and not just harvest based farming. A role with lots of variety was important to me and to also work in a business that I could gain management experience from."

It's not just us blowing our own trumpet! Harper student, Josh Vaughan is currently working with us on a one-year scholarship, so we decided to point the microphone in his direction to get his views on life at Meadowland Poultry:

Can you tell us a bit about yourself and what you're studying and what you like to do when you're away from the farm?

I'm 20 years old and I'm studying for a FdSc Agriculture degree at Harper Adams University. My degree course includes a year-long industry placement which I'm carrying out at Meadowland.

When I'm not working, I play rugby for Bishop's Castle & Onny Valley RFC and previously played for Newtown RFC.

Where are you from? I'm from Newtown, mid Wales and went to school in Bishop's Castle. After studying agriculture at Newtown College, I started my university course at Harper Adams.

What does a typical day at Meadowland look like for you? It's a 7.30am start, with a brew until 8! I cover a large number of tasks each day which include checking vital information on our computer system, covering CO2, plus humidity and temperatures in the houses. These readings are then transferred onto an Excel spreadsheet and the Mtech database.

Daily, I walk each of the current six houses, shortly expanding to nine, to check everything is in good order and to issue vitamins and minerals to any birds that need them. Later, I check the woodchip bunkers – the biomass boilers are fuelled with woodchip to generate power and water for the houses.

More general duties include checking and changing food bins over when needed, checking feed tickets and completing general yard work.

What were you looking for in a placement when you applied? I was looking for something really different and challenging, and not just harvest based farming. A role with lots of variety was important to me and to also work in a business that I could gain management experience from.

Did anything about Meadowland stand out to you before joining? For me, it was the opportunity to work in the poultry industry and to learn something different. Being part of a larger Group and the variety that offers also appealed to me. I'm involved in the Group's Young Talent Programme which focuses on upskilling younger people within the Group across a number of disciplines such as HR, marketing and communication.

What skills are you hoping to develop during your placement? Definitely farming focused management skills and to gain a wide knowledge of poultry farming.

How do you think this role will help you in your future career? For me, it feels very much like a kick-start to management and the opportunity to work on developing specific skills before entering a specific job role. Also gaining an understanding of how the farm works within a larger group of companies.

What advice would you give to other students considering a placement year? Challenge yourself. Do something different, it's a new experience so make it interesting.

It's all about the detail

Here's the full role description to provide you with everything you need to know:

The scholarship will be associated with a one-year placement, where the successful candidate will receive on-the-job training and be exposed to daily development opportunities and experiences. The candidate will also be allocated a mentor throughout the scholarship, providing guidance and development during the placement, and furthermore, will secure a place on our in-house leadership and development programme.

The successful candidate can also expect to be involved in "all things" business, including monthly operations meetings and our young people's forum.

The core hours of work will be completed Monday — Friday, with occasional hours required at weekends, during the evenings and early mornings to support farming situations.

What will the role involve?

- Working closely with the Farm Manager to assist in the day-to-day running of the farm.
- Ensuring bird welfare is never compromised. Monitoring ventilation, heating, feed, water, litter and lighting within the agreed standards, ensuring the highest quality conditions are provided.
- Carrying out administrative duties as required. Ensuring paperwork and documentation are completed accurately and on-time. Maintaining records as appropriate.
- Acting as a key point of contact for visitors, contractors and suppliers, supporting their requirements promptly and professionally.
- Ensuring compliance with the audit standards of Red Tractor and specific customers.
- Ensuring the farm complies with various legal guidelines. Minimise the environmental impact of the business.
- Assisting in the preventative maintenance of the site, ensuring it is fit-for-purpose, presentable and audit-ready at all times.
- Ensuring site security.
- Carrying out practical and manual duties as required and necessary.
- Covering the alarm as required, ensuring it remains operational. Reporting and rectifying faults appropriately.
- Cleaning and preparing houses between crops and load feed.
- Driving and delivering continuous improvement opportunities.
- Providing out-of-hours support for emergency calls (at times of absence or holiday).
- Deputising and providing cover for the Farm Manager and colleagues as required.
- Always working in line with Health & Safety and company codes of practice.

What are we looking for?

- A genuine interest in farming and/or agriculture.
- Flexibility due to the necessity to potentially work weekends, early morning and late evening.
- The ability to communicate and challenge whilst maintaining effective relationships across the business.
- Self-motivated with the ability to work independently and as part of a team.
- Highly organised with a proactive and adaptable attitude to work and tasks.
- The ability to identify and implement improved processes.
- Proactive, professional and balanced in approach.

We would love to hear from you!

To apply for this scholarship, go to the Placement page on the Harper Adams website and search for Meadowland Poultry Industry Scholarship under Current Opportunities: <https://www.harper-adams.ac.uk/study/1103/careers-and-placement/placement/>



Summer 2025 — three new houses under construction

