



Dear Applicant

Thank you for responding to our advertisement and requesting further details of this post.

Pennyhooks Farm lies at the heart of the service given by Pennyhooks Farm Trust to people with complex autism and other associated difficulties. The cattle and the conservation, the donkeys, goats and hens all provide a sense of purpose as well as opportunities to learn work skills. Our students take part in real life activities such as animal care, egg sales, woodwork, thistle digging, making products for our open days

Through a thorough understanding of the condition of autism by its specialist staff, and through a willingness to use and adapt the farm and the environment to support the needs of the students, Pennyhooks addresses the difficulties autism presents and recognises and enhances the strengths and skills of each individual.

Pennyhooks Farm Trust not only hears, but truly listens to its students and offers them opportunities for personal development and fulfilment. At Pennyhooks we believe people with Autism have lots to offer.

I was caring for the family farm when I also began this Project in response to the fact that there were no appropriate post 19 opportunities for the young people that had been in Oxfordshire's special education provision throughout their childhood. 20 years ago, I was working as a teacher with them and they had been coming to my farm for visits. I attended a conference about Care Farming that encouraged me to develop our service. At the same time my head teacher asked me specifically to provide meaningful activities, and so our unique service was born.

Since then we have grown! From 5 students, to currently 35, from a yurt and mobile home to the building of purpose designed workshops, kitchens and communal rooms plus greenhouse and wooden cabins. And now we have permission to convert our cattle yards into residential accommodation; the parents have been requesting somewhere for their young people to live and work.

As we move into the next phase of our development we need a Farm Manager who is as compassionate for people as for animals and the environment. We look forward eagerly to welcoming the right person onto our team.

With all good wishes,

Lydia Otter

Lydia Otter MBE, CEO



Meeting the
care farming
Code of Practice

Registered Office: Pennyhooks Farm Trust, Appletree House, Pennyhooks Farm, Shrivenham, Swindon, SN6 8EX
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