

What you need to know.

About the work

The work at Homme Soft Fruit is challenging, but fun and rewarding at the same time. As teamwork is always required, staff often make friends for life. You will also have the opportunity to work with many people from other countries and cultures.

You will need to be flexible in regards to your working hours, as you may be required to work early mornings and late nights; this is not your usual 9 to 5 job.

The pre-season work (Jan, Feb & March) involves preparing the fields for the strawberry harvest. Every aspect of the job role is based outdoors in the field, and staff are required to work in all weather conditions. Typical jobs include putting polythene and hoops onto strawberry fields, building tunnels, pruning strawberry plants.

The harvest work involves working as a team to sort and grade potatoes.

Both *the pre-season* and *harvest work* require a physically fit person, capable of bending, walking, lifting and working as a team to ensure the job is completed efficiently and to a high standard. Some staff will be allocated work on the sites before arriving at the farm and others will have the opportunity to indicate at induction where they would like to work.

Working in the Packhouse includes duties such as washing, grading and packing. Staff will be assigned to a specific area and trained in specific tasks. During peak season, the Packhouse will run up to 12-14 hours a day at the height of the season. Again, a physically fit person will be required for this job.

Allocation of areas and tasks will take place at first induction, therefore, be prepared to work both in the Packhouse and in the field.

When starting at Homme Soft Fruit, please ensure you brief us about your previous jobs / skills so that we can match them to the work that will be assigned to you.

Pay and Hours of work

You will normally be required to work a five or six day week. We aim to allocate between 40-48 hours per week per person but this will be weather and crop dependent. The hourly rate for employees is in line with the national minimum wage.

You will be paid each week in arrears (on a Friday), directly into your bank account or onto a Barclaycard or OnePay card (others are available), which we can help you obtain.

You **must** have an active email address, as we will send payslips, P60s and important information to this electronic address.

Training and Development Opportunities

Inductions will take place on arrival at the farm; you will be provided with information such as health and safety regulations, campsite rules and advice on how to be successful in your job role.

A supervisor will work alongside you on your first day to show you how to carry out your role. If you are new to the type of work then ongoing guidance will be provided for a reasonable time after your arrival to assist in getting you to be as efficient in your job as possible.

Opportunities for promotion could be available for those that show aptitude, ability and good communication skills. We rely on you communicating with us in regards to any areas of the farm that you may be interested in working in, as we will then, if we can, do our best to match your requirements to the roles you would like to do.

Accommodation

Accommodation is available on site at EC Drummond farms; workers will be allocated to a room within a mobile home. Each mobile home will be shared with up to 4 persons although we may need to increase this to 6 if we increase our numbers. The mobile homes consist of a lounge, a bathroom and 2, 3 or 4 bedrooms. Furniture is provided, including: tables, chairs, a cooker, a fridge and heaters. However, you are required to provide your own cooking and eating utensils, and bed linen.

If you decide to stay off-site, you will need to make your own arrangements to travel to work. You will be charged a minimum amount per week for accommodation but gas bottles and electric are free.

Facilities available onsite

There are a number of recreation facilities available on-site for staff to use, such as football, table tennis, pool and television rooms. Wi-Fi is also available in the welfare rooms and around the campsites.

How we will support you while you are here

If you need to attend the doctors, dentist or hospital during your stay at Homme Soft Fruit, we will help you book the appointment and take you there.

During the year we will also have a couple of social events (BBQ's) to celebrate our staff's hard work. We also encourage all to take part in our organised sporting tournaments.

If you have any work-related issues, the Harvest or Packhouse supervisors are there to help you. We always welcome feedback from our employees and have various suggestion boxes that enables us to improve the facilities for our staff around the campsites.

What do I need to bring with me?

- Warm sleeping bag and pillows (bedding will not be provided)
- Towel and wash bag
- Passport/ID Card
- Money (we recommend a minimum of £150 to £200)
- Next of kin details
- Driving License including CPC if you wish to drive a minibus
- Other certificates / licenses: i.e. forklift, tele handler or first aid
- Suitable footwear and clothes for the British season - sturdy footwear and waterproofs are also recommended.
- You are welcome to bring things to make your caravan/ bedroom feel like home, for example photographs of friends and family, posters etc.
- Laptops*

*Please be advised that your valuables are your own responsibility; we recommend you have them insured.

How to get to the Farm

The Homme, Hom Green, Ross-on-Wye, Herefordshire HR9 7TF. Contact +44 (0) 7968 514618 (during working hours 0730- 1830)

Distance to The Homme

- **Road**

M50 Motorway Junction – 4.4 miles (7.1 km)

- **Train**

Nearest station is Hereford – 13 miles (20.8km)

Gloucester Station – 15.4 miles (24.8 km)

- **Air**

London Heathrow – 118.4 miles (166km)

Birmingham airport – 45 miles (72km)

Bristol airport – 40 miles (64 km)

Cardiff airport – 42 miles (67 km)