

### **MANAGER – “Alice Downs”, Blackall Qld**

- Hands-on leadership role
- 3,000 head stud and commercial Santa Gertrudis operation
- 20km to town
- Fully furnished homestead provided

This unique opportunity is based at Alice Downs Station, located 20km north of Blackall in Queensland’s central west. In this role you will be responsible for the day-to-day management of the property, enabling the station to achieve maximum sustainable production and superior breeding. This exciting position would suit an applicant with leadership experience who is looking to enhance their skills in a hands-on role.

### **About “Alice Downs”**

Alice Downs consists of 5 adjoining properties run as a single aggregation over 93,000 acres. The country type is predominantly black soil Mitchell Grass (interspersed with Buffell grass on the ridges) and sandy Buffell grass country. The average rainfall is 20 inches. The properties are currently running 3,000 head of cattle – we are in drought and drought declared.

There are two commercial breeder herds producing yearling steers and surplus heifers. Steers and heifers are sold via the Blackall saleyards and AuctionsPlus, depending on the season and the market.

The Forest Park Santa Gertrudis Stud sells approximately 70 bulls annually through the Barcoo Breeders Sale in October and paddock sales all year round. Bulls are sold to western, southern inland and north west Queensland and also transferred across to the commercial herd.

There is a small flock of sheep bred for meat.

The station has three permanent staff (including the Manager). Local casual staff are also used during peak mustering times and two experienced family members also help out when required. Mustering is done with motorbikes. A helicopter is used for the three large timbered paddocks. Horses are used for stud cattle mothering up and mustering bulls.

There are two sets of cattle yards, laneways and two shearing sheds. Machinery includes a truck, tipper, grader, front end loader, two station vehicles and 2/4-wheel motorbikes. Water is provided by a mixture of open dams, poly pipe and open flowing bore drains

The Alice Downs homestead is a large low set house set amongst an established garden. “Alice Downs” was made famous by blade shearer Jackie Howe when he set a world record by shearing 321 sheep in seven hours and 40 minutes on the property in 1892.

Working dogs are allowed and are primarily used for handling weaners in the yards and working bulls. Due to issues with wild dogs/dingoes, working dogs are not usually used for mustering.

### **Duties and responsibilities**

- Work with cattle and sheep (sheep experience not required)
- Implementation of work programs and direction of staff (and contractors when required)
- Day-to-day operations of the bull stud and commercial herds
- Lead, supervise, train, and give direction and expertise to your team of staff across all livestock program activities

- Be responsible for all paperwork and traceability associated with stud/commercial cattle and keeping computer records up to date using designated software
- Promote and manage best practice animal welfare of cattle and sheep
- Delivering on objectives and being self-motivated and detail-oriented
- Sound communication skills and budgeting experience
- Commitment to strong workplace health and safety by ensuring the safety of all persons on the station at all times
- Taking on key improvement projects including further development of water infrastructure and laneways.

#### **Essential Criteria**

- Previous leadership experience and strong communication
- Good computer skills
- Co creation, implementation, ownership, and oversight of budget
- Understanding of the highest standards of animal welfare and low-stress stock handling techniques
- A genuine interest and passion for working within the cattle industry and with stud cattle
- The ability to maintain and service machinery
- Pregnancy testing experience
- Must be able to work as a part of a small, tight team
- Good problem-solving skills
- Must be hardworking and energetic and well-organised
- Firearms and truck license.

#### **The package**

A competitive salary package is on offer at a great location with a 3 bedroom fully furnished homestead within well-established gardens.

#### **The township of Blackall**

Blackall has primary/secondary schools, doctors' surgery, hospital, numerous sporting clubs, daily bus service to Brisbane/Mt Isa and two return flights a week to Brisbane with QantasLink.

<https://www.outbackqueensland.com.au/town/blackall/>



Front view of homestead



View from front veranda

#### **Further information and to apply**

For further information on the position, please contact owner Liz Allen on mobile 0427 733 515. Applications will be treated in the strictest of confidence.

Please send written application to Liz Allen at [etgallen@bigpond.com](mailto:etgallen@bigpond.com)