



# Livestock Buyer

A Livestock Buyer will oversee and participate in the buying, selling, and selection of livestock for companies and individuals.



Inspiring Minds to Grow


Funded by the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity


# career profile

Name: Chester Vanguard  
Job Title: Livestock Buyer


Employer: Sooner Meats


Education: AAS, Redlands Community College: El Reno, Oklahoma

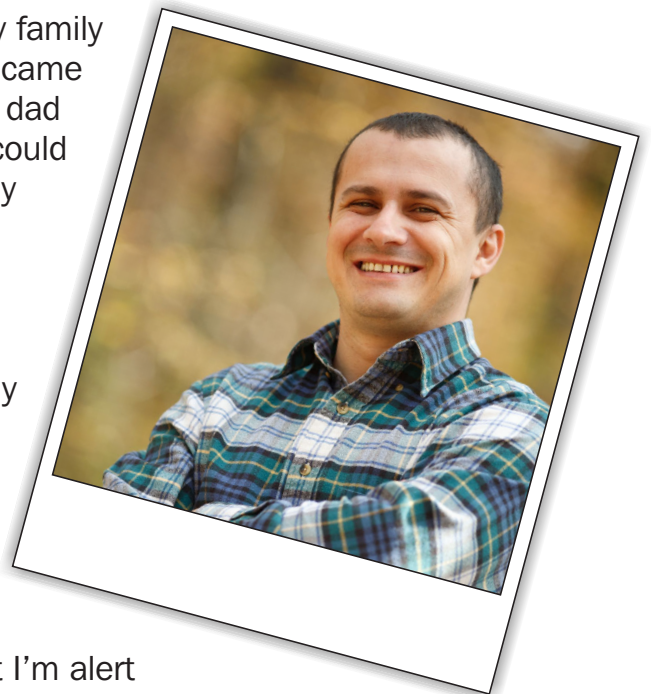
 I've been around livestock my whole life. My family raised livestock, and I showed livestock. When it came to school, I found animal science to be easy. My dad said if I was good at something, enjoyed it, and could make a living at it, I should do it. So, I went to my local community college and majored in animal science.

 I was hired as a livestock buyer to select premium animals for processing. Every day I apply my knowledge of cattle breeds, markets, communication, and salesmanship. I frequent sale yards, where I bid on animals. I start each day early in order to assess the quality of the livestock before the auction begins. I strive to purchase the best animals at the lowest cost. It

is essential that I'm alert so I can make quick decisions. I schedule transportation for animals that have been bought. Another important aspect of my job is staying up-to-date in regards to market conditions and animal supply.

 Some of my co-workers buy and inspect livestock on farms. They are involved in the preparation of contracts and may even advise the ranchers in the care and maintenance of livestock to ensure safe and efficient production.

 I enjoy my work, and I'm around people I like. In fact, I can see myself doing this for the rest of my career.



# Livestock Buyer

## overview



A **livestock buyer** oversees and participates in the buying, selling, and selection of livestock for companies and individuals.

## suggested high school courses



animal science, agriculture business, biology, and mathematics

## experience needed



Show livestock and participate in livestock judging events. Plan and implement a related Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE) Program.

## degree(s) required



An associate's or bachelor's degree in animal science or agriculture business is recommended.

## potential employers



food production companies, large meat companies, self-employment

## salary range



\$43,529 to \$63,540

## employment outlook and trends



It is expected that the overall employment outlook for livestock buyers will grow **slower than the average** for all occupations through 2014.

## professional organizations



National Cattlemen's Beef Association [www.beef.org/](http://www.beef.org/)  
Dairy Farmers of America [www.dfamilk.com/](http://www.dfamilk.com/)  
American Society of Animal Science [www.asas.org/](http://www.asas.org/)  
National Pork Producers Council [www.nppc.org/](http://www.nppc.org/)



## Want to Learn More?

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