

Careers in Agriculture

You might be surprised.

Real stories of what jobs in
agriculture *actually look like*





1

Start with what interests you

Flip through the magazine and notice what catches your attention — a job, a story, or an industry.

2

Think about yourself

What do you enjoy? Working outdoors? Solving problems? Helping people? When have you enjoyed learning or working the most?

3

Scan and explore

Scan the QR codes throughout the magazine to follow your curiosity and explore real opportunities.

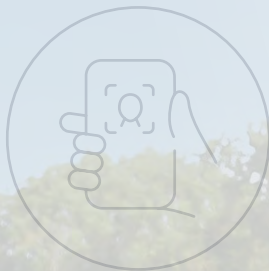


STUDENTS How to use this magazine

4

Explore different pathways

There's no single path into agriculture, people enter in many different ways.



5

Stay open

You don't have to decide everything now. This is about exploring ideas and seeing what connects with you.

› Looking for more information?

1

Use this magazine to spark career conversations

Ask students what surprised them and which careers stood out.



2

Link to student's strengths

Support students to explore how careers connect to their interests, values, and strengths.



3

Use in small groups

Have students explore different sections and share what they learned.



4

Extend learning

Extend learning beyond the classroom using QR codes to explore real pathways and industry examples.



5

Reflect and discuss

Prompt students to think about what they learned and what they might explore further. Ask: "What surprised you?" or "What could you see yourself trying?"

TEACHERS How to use this magazine

› [Looking for teacher resources?](#)



Acknowledgements

Introduction

The Careers in Agriculture magazine has been developed to help illustrate the depth and breadth of careers in agriculture across Queensland. The magazine was updated in 2026 through funding from the Department of Primary Industries' Rural Jobs Initiative and the Department of Trade, Employment and Training through the Industry Workforce Advisor program. QFF acknowledges the committed and experienced working group who provided their time and expertise to develop this resource.

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This magazine was compiled by Career Motivate www.careermotivate.com

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CLICK LINK

This is a clickable link

When you see a button like the this, you can click it to open a new tab with more information.



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Explore careers in agriculture by theme.
Use the sections below to explore careers based on your interests.

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Step inside the world of farms, stations and production systems that grow the food and fibre we use every day.

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See how science, research and environmental knowledge are shaping the future of sustainable agriculture.

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Discover careers dedicated to managing land, water, forests and ecosystems to support sustainable agriculture and healthy environments.

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Discover how innovation, machinery and engineering are transforming the way modern agriculture works.

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Learn how school subjects, training programs and university pathways can lead to exciting careers in agriculture. Explore practical tools and ideas to help you understand your strengths and start planning your future career.

46 Industry pathways

Explore the wide range of agricultural industries and see how people build careers across different sectors.



What careers does Agriculture offer?

Use these categories to find roles in Agriculture that are interesting. The icon on the left will be on each page that is related to that category.

Agriculture is where innovation meets real-world impact, spanning industries such as cane, cotton, horticulture, livestock, aquaculture and forestry.



Production & Operations

Hands-on careers producing food and fibre across farms, stations, aquaculture & forestry.



Science & Sustainability

Careers focused on research, animal and plant health, biosecurity & environmental outcomes.



Technology & Engineering

Roles using machinery, automation, data & precision agriculture to improve productivity.



Agribusiness & Supply Chain

Business, finance, processing, logistics & management roles that support agriculture.



Land & Natural Resource Management

Careers managing water, soil, land & natural systems sustainably.



Education & Community

Roles supporting training, extension, engagement & industry development.

Find Your Path:
Careers That Match
Your Interests

Like Working with Business and People?

Explore careers in
Agribusiness and
Supply Chain

Interested in Science and the Environment?

Discover Science and
Sustainability Pathways

Enjoy Hands-On work?

Learn about careers
in Production and
Operations

Love Technology and Machines?

Check out Technology
and Engineering roles



Want to find out more about jobs in agriculture?

This magazine is full of articles and links to help you better understand how Ag can be your career choice and why it would suit you. Check out this video to start you off!



Your guide to careers in Agriculture

Agriculture is one of Queensland's most dynamic and diverse sectors and it needs the next generation of talented, curious and driven people to help shape its future.

The careers available in agriculture today span far beyond the farm gate. From science and sustainability to technology, engineering, agribusiness, data and community engagement, Queensland agriculture connects our regions to global markets and drives our state's economy. Emerging technologies like drones, artificial intelligence, automation and precision agriculture, are rapidly transforming how we produce food, fibre and foliage, creating exciting new pathways for the workforce of tomorrow.

Whether your strengths lie in working with people, animals, machines, data, business or the environment, agriculture has a place for you, both in regional communities and in our cities.

This magazine has been developed to help illustrate that depth and breadth of opportunity. We hope it inspires you to explore what a career in Queensland agriculture could look like, and to consider the vital role you could play in securing a strong future for our sector and our state.

Jo Sheppard, CEO, Queensland Farmers' Federation

Agriculture at a glance

65,000+
directly employed in Queensland Agriculture

Total value of
\$26.8b
industry value

More than
386,000
jobs across the supply chain



Lots of jobs to choose from

Agriculture offers more career opportunities than you might expect. The key is choosing a course that fits your strengths, values, and interests. There's no single pathway, just plenty of options. Here's a taste of what's possible.

A Certificate I, II, III or IV in Agriculture is a great way to start a career in the industry. These nationally recognised qualifications teach practical skills such as working safely on farms, maintaining equipment, keeping accurate records, and managing land and resources sustainably.

Many courses offer flexible learning options and are designed to be completed alongside hands-on experience in the workplace, allowing students to build real skills whilst gaining industry experience.

These qualifications can open the door to roles across farming, agribusiness, horticulture, livestock production, and emerging areas such as agricultural technology and sustainability.

Year 10, Senior Secondary Certificate of Education, or Certificate I or II

- | | |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------|
| › Animal Attendant | › Abattoir Worker |
| › Artificial Insemination Tech | › Dairy Farm Hand |
| › Beekeeper | › Storeperson |
| › Farm Hand | › Natural Resource Manager |
| › Fish Farm Hand | › Harvesting Operator |
| › Gardener | › Weed Controller |
| › Nursery Assistant | › Slaughterer |
| › Shearer | › Landcare Worker |
| › Winery Worker | › Animal Breeder |

Certificate III or IV, or relevant experience

- | | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| › Aquaculture Technician | › Wool Classer | › Horse Trainer |
| › Cheese Maker | › Facility Supervisor | › Park Ranger |
| › Fish Farm Hand | › Irrigator | › Shearer |
| › Tree Faller | › Weed Controller | › Stablehand |
| › Farrier | › Beekeeper | › Forester |
| › Tree Surgeon | › Forklift Operator | › Fisheries Officer |
| › Saw Doctor | › Jackaroo Jillaroo | › Laboratory Worker |



3 steps to exploring your future career

1. Understand Yourself.

Learn about your strengths, skills, values and interests.

2. Explore Your Options.

Discover the thousands of careers available.

3. Find a Good Fit.

Identify careers that match who you are and the qualifications or training you may need to get there.



A Bachelor level qualification is the highest level undergraduate option you can obtain.

Common courses include the Bachelor of Agriculture, the Bachelor of Agricultural Studies, the Bachelor of Engineering (Agriculture) or the Bachelor of Agricultural Technology and Management which provide an excellent headstart into the industry. They provide you training in advanced skills such as data mining, GPS scanning, cloud computing, livestock management, profit forecasting and more. These are highly sought-after qualifications and will also teach you valuable 'soft skills' including communication, teamwork and creative problem-solving skills, crucial for a long-lasting career. These qualifications usually take 3 or 4 years to complete and produce graduates ready to make an immediate impact.

Diploma or Advanced Diploma

- | | |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
| › Agriculture Tech. Officer | › Animal Technician |
| › Aquaculture Technician | › Dairy Technician |
| › Farmer | › Farm Manager |
| › Fisheries Officer | › Forest Technical Officer |
| › Geographic Information | › Horse Manager |
| › Tradesperson | › Laboratory Worker |
| › Resource Manager | › Natural Therapist |
| › Park Ranger Surveyor | › Wool classer |
| › Supply Chain Manager | › Stablehand |
| › Horse Trainer | › Timber Production |
| › Warehouse Manager | › Logistics Manager |
| › Weed Controller | › Beekeeper |
| › Pilot | › Winery Worker |

If you wish to enter the workforce above entry-level positions or want to further educate yourself beyond the basics, a Diploma can offer a more in-depth analysis of and training in the agricultural industry.

Courses such as the Diploma of Agriculture teach you more advanced skills such as resource development, management of property and the basics of running your own agricultural business. These courses can often be easily completed through both online and offline learning methods, offering differing levels of practical and theoretical knowledge. Such courses are also an excellent pathway to additional study at Bachelor level.

Bachelor Degree or higher

- › Agriculture Economist
- › Agricultural Scientist
- › Biotechnologist
- › Chemical Engineer
- › Environmental Engineer
- › Environmental Scientist
- › Geologist
- › Hydrogeologist
- › Landscape Architect
- › Meteorologist
- › Resource Manager
- › Toxicologist
- › Viticulturist
- › Urban Planner
- › Surveyor
- › Microbiologist
- › Marine biologist
- › Horticulturist
- › Geophysicist
- › Agricultural Consultant
- › Ecologist
- › Conservation Officer
- › Chemist
- › Botanist
- › Agronomist
- › Agriculture Engineer

The diversity of jobs in agriculture

Policy Advisor

Warehouse Manager

Accountant

Meteorologist

Baker

Chef

Tractor Operator

Truck Driver

Butcher

Studhand

Cleaner

Forklift Operator

Chopper Pilot

Cotton Farmer

Gardener

Drone Pilot

Photographer

Soil Scientist

Nanny

Designer

Poultry Hand

Beekeeper

Statistician

Biochemist

Dairy Hand

Harvester Operator

Teacher

Piggery Hand

Cheese Maker

Cane Farmer

Mechanic

Farm Manager

Hatchery Technician

Visit the links or scan the QR code to learn more about these careers and the pathways into them.



Queensland Agriculture = A place to build your future

Queensland agriculture is one of the most dynamic, diverse and future-focused industries in the country. It feeds families, supports regional communities, drives export markets and shapes the landscapes we live in - and it needs talented, curious people to help lead what comes next.

The industry has changed. The people working in it today are scientists and engineers, data analysts and drone pilots, business managers and environmental specialists, veterinarians and policy advisors. Many of them never expected to end up in agriculture — and can't imagine being anywhere else.

What draws people in is what keeps them there.

The variety. The purpose. The knowledge that the work you do genuinely matters - to the people who eat the food you help produce, to the farmers you support, and to the Queensland communities that depend on a strong agricultural sector.

Your future in the Queensland agriculture sector will contribute to:



Feeding Queensland and the world with safe, nutritious and sustainably produced food, fibre and foliage.



Leading innovation through precision agriculture, data science, drone technology and world-class research.



Protecting what matters - Queensland's land, water and ecosystems - for the generations that follow.



Building regional Queensland - the communities, economies and industries that make this state what it is.

There are lots of pathways to Agriculture

Are you deciding what subjects to study or what courses to take? There are many different pathways into agriculture, some start straight from school, while others involve vocational training (TAFE), university, apprenticeships, or on-the-job learning.

Most of all, it is important to know that there are LOTS of different ways to get you to where you want to go. You can even change your mind and pivot or adapt along the way.



Meet Lily the wool grader

School › Certificate III (VET) › Diploma › Employment

Lily wanted to drop out of high school in year 11. She just wanted to be outside doing something practical! A Certificate III in agricultural studies was recommended to her, so she studied her Certificate III in Agricultural and started checking out the job options. During her study she applied for work in sheep shearing and was successful. She then completed her Diploma of Agricultural and was promoted to a wool grader.



Meet Angela the helicopter mustering pilot

School › Gap Year Farm Work › Licence Training › Employment

Angela decided at the end of year 12 to have a gap year as a jillaroo. During her gap year she encountered helicopter herding methods and decided to study for her pilot licence. She successfully completed her helicopter licence. Whilst studying she continued to work on the farm, gaining experience in herding. She loves meeting different people and hopes to start her own business in the next 2 years herding from her helicopter.



Meet Xavier the fitter and turner

School › Apprenticeship › Qualified Trade

Xavier completed year 12, and applied for a range of apprenticeships, called businesses, and shared his resume with prospective employers. He successfully accessed a Fitter and Turner apprenticeship through a company 35 minutes drive away from his home. He likes his boss, works Monday to Friday and enjoys getting things done.



Meet Will the agricultural technician

School › Certificate II (VET) › Employment › Ongoing Training

Will finished year 12, without any certificates or an ATAR. He applied to an agricultural equipment dealer to work and complete his Certificate II in Automotive Underbody Technology and was successful. Once completed, he hopes to move across to do the Certificate III in order to become an agricultural technician. Will loves working on cars, enjoys problem solving and likes doing things that are practical. He hopes to become a field technician in the future and go and work with clients to fix their big machinery to help keep them moving.



Meet Alex the science and business student

School › University (Double Degree) › Professional Career Pathway

Alex completed year 12 with an ATAR of 91. Passionate about the environment, Alex decided on a career pathway towards research by studying a double degree, a Bachelor of Science and Bachelor of Business. He would like to work in biosecurity, and has obtained 10 days of work experience over the next university holidays.



Meet Matt the barramundi farmer

School › Certificate II (VET) › Employment › Ongoing Training

Matt completed year 10 and decided he wanted to work on boats. He found a Certificate II in Aquaculture, called a barramundi farm and said he was interested. They invited him for a visit, he loved it and is currently studying, and working towards his qualification. He fishes on afternoons and weekends and goes camping with his friends in his 4WD.

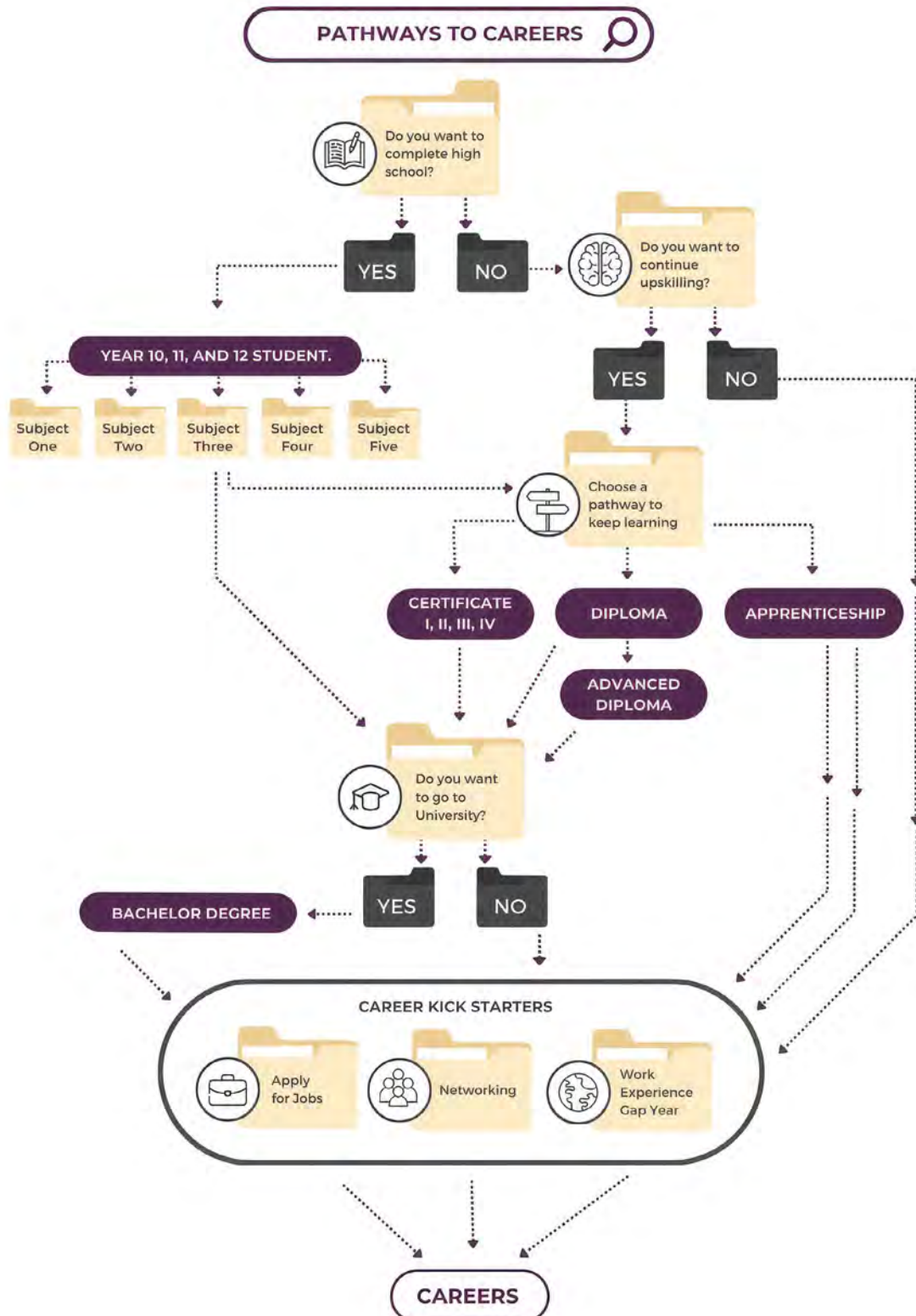
Wool Grader

Helicopter Pilot

Livestock Farmer

There are lots of ways to get your career moving

Use this pathway map to explore how different school subjects, training options, and work experiences can lead to a wide range of careers in agriculture.



Fitter & Turner Agricultural Technician



Apprenticeships in Agriculture

Meet Abbey

Abbey is 21, friendly, adaptable and practical. After finishing Year 12, Abbey worked in a toy store and worked out that she enjoyed the picking and packing of goods, so she worked for Hastings Deering and got her Certificate III in Warehousing.

She lost her role through COVID-19 pandemic and needed to go back to her family's Merino Sheep farm. She did get another warehousing role, but realised she loved the tools, and was successful in her application for the role working in the tooling store. She learned all the tools, and this year is working as an apprentice agricultural technician.

She loves working with people who have so much knowledge and experience and really values the diversity of the role. She is never bored these days, working on a mower one day and a cotton picker the next. She lives with her partner who is a diesel fitter, and is looking forward to the future. She enjoys earning a steady income and working around 40 hours a week.



Challenges

Her size! She says at less than 50kg she needs to be a problem solver when she needs to move heavy equipment, and she really values her communication skills and teaming up with someone who has the strength and she can bring the knowledge. The up side, she says, is that she can access parts on the machine that the bigger guys can't.



Future

She doesn't know yet what the future holds, there are lots of opportunities, and she is still considering what role she can hold moving forward. At the moment she is really enjoying her apprenticeship, and she has a couple of years to think about it.



Meet Will

Will has a dad who is an accountant and a mum who is employed as a property manager, but his grandparents were in trades.

Will knew he wanted to work with mechanical things. He is mechanically minded and loves tinkering with motors. Heavy machinery piqued his interest, but he wanted something different to the cars he works on at home (including a 1928 Model A Ford that belonged to his grandfather).

He pulled together an application and talked to people who worked in the area. Will is now working through RDO, and is studying a Certificate II in Auto Underbody and is on a pathway to being an agricultural technician apprentice and working on heavy machinery. He likes learning about the different ways to find solutions to complex problems that come up, enjoys being mentored by the experienced mechanics around him, and is happy to put in the effort.



Top tips

1. Listen lots, because this is a dangerous job, for example, even knowing how to rotate massive tyres is a challenge.
2. Pick up things quickly, have a good memory, and put things back after you use them.
3. Get some experience, and talk to people in the role, get a job that is related to the industry and that way you can learn what you might like to do.
4. Be patient, do the research- use your initiative to work out your problems and ask for help if you need it.
5. This is not a knuckle dragging job, you need a good brain to do this, and it is fun.
6. Listen carefully and take it one step at a time.



Challenges

There are so many vehicles and so much to learn. To be efficient, you need to remember lots of different types of transmissions, and different systems. The electric, the hybrid, the petrol and diesel, and all of the interesting new technology that can help farmers to be precise and more productive. He knows he has a lot to learn.



Future

Will looks forward to being knowledgeable enough to be an agricultural field technician on the road, helping farmers to get their machines working right whilst they are still on the land.

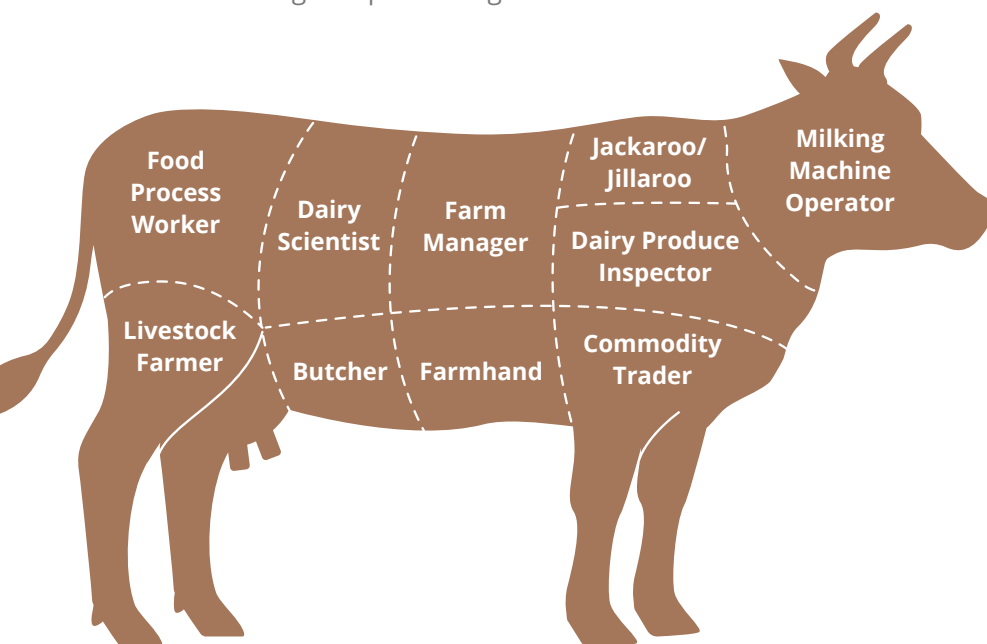


Careers with Cows are Mooving

Maddy Wightman
EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

- › Grew up in inner city Brisbane, Queensland.
- › Began a Bachelor degree in Environmental Science, to realise it wasn't for her. She has now completed a Certificate III in Agriculture.
- › Worked for 4 years in the Northern Territory on multiple cattle stations.
- › Maddy gets to be involved in almost all aspects of agriculture as executive assistant to the owners. Her job is incredibly varied and hands on, it is safe to say that no two days are the same.
- › She has the opportunity to work across multiple aspects of the red meat industry such as breeding, feedlotting and processing.

"I grew up in inner city Brisbane and my interest in agriculture was first sparked when I started my schooling at St Margaret's Anglican Girls School, where some of my best friends were boarders. I enjoyed spending time at their properties and my interest in and love for the cattle industry began. Post leaving school I started a degree but soon realised it wasn't for me. I packed up my bags and was off to Western Australia & the Northern Territory, which is where I stayed for 4 years."



Scan the QR code for:



[Resources](#)



[Careers in Beef](#)



[Careers in Dairy](#)



SIGNATURE BEEF AUSTRALIA

Tanisha George

LEVEL 4 MEAT INDUSTRY WORKER

- › Grew up in Emerald, Central Queensland.
- › Started her butchery apprenticeship in grade 10 and has continued that throughout her schooling, she's now 21.
- › She works in the abattoir full time as a butcher. She works on both the slaughter floor and in the boning room. She has some very valuable knowledge and skills which add value to the team.

Jackson Scott

LIVESTOCK CO-ORDINATOR / ASSISTANT MANAGER

- › Completed Grade 12 then went on to have a gap year in WA. He had a hands-on experience on a cattle station.
- › Studied a Bachelor of Veterinary Biosciences majoring in Production Systems at Sydney University.
- › Met the team at the Wagga Wagga Intercollegiate Meat Judging Competition in 2020. They were offered a Graduate position in 2021 and now holds the role of Livestock Co-ordinator / Assistant Manager with Signature onFarm.

Tess Camm

GENERAL MANAGER AT SIGNATURE BEEF

- › Grew up just outside of Dalby in regional Queensland.
- › Completed grade 12 and has studied a Bachelor of Business Management majoring Human Resources Management.
- › She has worked for Signature Beef for 8 years and been General Manager for 5 years.
- › Tess is currently overseas as she was selected to participate in the Nuffield farming scholar program in 2020. Nuffield is an Agricultural Scholarship organisation that awards Primary Producers with a scholarship that allows them to travel and study.

Arthur Marais

GRADUATE POSITION

- › Originally from South Africa and moved to Dubbo NSW.
- › Completed Grade 12 and then completed a Dual Degree in Agribusiness and Agricultural Science majoring in Animal Production.
- › Currently in a Graduate Position for some time across each area of the business. He accessed the opportunity through networking at a meat judging competition in Wagga Wagga. Signature Beef was at the careers expo and had mentioned their graduate position for 2022, as well as longtime family friend Jackson Scott, giving an insight into the company and organising work experience for Arthur.

Claire Wright

BEEF SUPPLY CHAIN TRAINEESHIP

- › Grew up in Canowindra, NSW on a small family property.
- › Completed grade 12 in 2021 and at the age of 18 she took a gap year before commencing university. She is hoping to study a Bachelor of Agriscience.
- › In her position within the Beef Supply Chain Traineeship program, she gets to work in the pastoral, feedlot and abattoir teams. It is pretty amazing to be able to see food go from paddock to plate all on the one station.

"This role has allowed me to develop knowledge right along the supply chain, from working cattle in the yards right through to processing beef in the abattoir. I am excited for the future of the industry and to see where it can take many young people like myself."



Harry the Sheep Farmer and Business Student

Harry's story

Harry is a 33-year-old farmer, and a Graduate Certificate of Business student.

He shares his time between Brisbane and the farm and he has some diverse roles, everything from supervising the technology that does the foetal egg count on his sheep, through to mustering, accounting, and fixing diesel engines. He also farms pulses, mung beans, chick peas, wheat, and barley depending on the season and on the weather.

Harry is a 4th generation farmer from St George who loves his sheep farm, and he is enjoying his study. In his role he is building his business and building efficiencies, and his study is helping him do that. He has a close relationship with his Dad, and they work their businesses closely too. He enjoys running with his dog daily, it helps him stay focused. He loves the diversity of his roles, including the study, he is a practical person and he loves learning. He has worked in Brisbane as a welder for some time, but prefers being out on the farm because on the farm he is not doing the same thing every day.

Challenges

Harry says farming is not easy, but that challenge is part of the fun.

Harry has had some mental health issues in the past couple of years, and the outside time, and different jobs to do each day have been a real help to him.



Careers in agriculture

There are also lots of jobs that people don't know about in agriculture, people don't think about commodities broker, or large animal vets. Most people don't think about how good it is not to be in hours of traffic every day, and to be responsible for your own success.



Top tips

1. Take the time to try different things and get experience.
2. Find a career that is fulfilling.
3. Make sure you are good at all your basic maths, not the complex stuff, but know that it is all necessary regardless of the job you do.

Josh the General Manager and proud Mithaka man



Josh's story

Josh is the General Manager of Mithaka Aboriginal Corporation in Windorah Queensland. Mithaka People are Traditional Owners who have social, economic, cultural and spiritual affiliations with, and responsibilities for, Mithaka traditional land and waters.

Josh and his team do a lot of work to support young people from both the city and the country, to get back to positive pathways through their work in the Mithaka community. Josh manages to drive an average of 78,000 km per year visiting farms, mines, sites, and people they have partnerships and connections with. He says he is very lucky to have a great team to work with and values the work that he does with communities, farms, mines, research and stakeholder management. He would love to see even more partnership between them and the land owners, to build sustainable futures on the land, and promote Beef and Indigenous Bush Foods together.

"The best thing in the world is that you do not have the negative social media impacts out here. You've got the space and time to learn who you are and find out what helps you feel fulfilled. You work hard, but it is worth it."



Josh's study path

Josh says most of his opportunities have come from having strong networks with family, locals and business. He talks about there never being a shortage of work for the people in his community. There are a lot of opportunities including roles working with cattle, fencing and trucks. He enjoys supporting country and city, Indigenous, and non-Indigenous people to find work on country. He says, even if the position doesn't make him really wealthy, he and his family love the lifestyle and that is why they have stayed.

Josh finished Year 12, and has worked with cattle his whole life. From carting cattle, to mustering, working in the helicopter, he has assisted and managed different stations across Queensland and the Northern Territory. His post-school qualification is his Chopper license. He has done his learning on the job.

Josh credits his grandad (a cattle drover) saying:

"My Grandad paved the way by building strong relationships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples."

Challenges

Josh loves helping people, but he says people also have to help themselves, and sometimes it doesn't work out that way. He finds this tough, but loves supporting his people to give them opportunities.



Top tips

1. Have a strong work ethic. Sometimes doing good work is a great distraction from tough situations.
2. Be open minded on how to do things. Some things are new and technological and others are old-school. Both have value.
3. Build your self-respect and your social skills.
4. Listen and LEARN. Be willing to ask questions if you do not understand.
5. Remember that sometimes it doesn't work. Admit your mistakes so you can learn from them.



Scan to learn more about Channel Country



Scan to hear more about Indigenous Agriculture

Fencer

Truck Driver

Farm Manager



Conrad the Station Hand and a proud Ngadjonji man

Conrad's story

Conrad is a 22-year-old station hand at Olivevale Pastoral in Far North Queensland.

He is a Ngadjonji man from the Atherton Tablelands. He musters and feeds cattle, cleans troughs, fixes fences, does some shed building and a bit of mechanics. He got his job through a Facebook ad. He loves his job, the people he works with, the accommodation, the food, his bosses and the company.

Conrad did not start as a station hand but he has been on horses since he was 2, and near cattle since he was 7. His dad was a Head Stockman. Conrad explored a career in the mines when he finished school which he enjoyed but the contract ended. He completed most of a sheet metal apprenticeship, but then he found his favourite career so far through becoming a station hand. In future, he may think about becoming a Head Stockman himself. For now, he just wants to get his job done well.

"It's pretty chill most of the time and a great place to work. You do need to have a practical head on your shoulders though, and the focus to get the work done."



Challenges

The heat can be a tough reality. I'd also say the stress around making sure to live up to expectations, particularly if the bosses aren't there and you are responsible.



Top tips

1. Be practical and find solutions.
2. Listen and ask questions.
3. Have a strong attention to detail.

Jem the Engagement Officer (Biosecurity) and a proud Anaiwan woman

Jemma's story

Jem is currently a Senior Engagement Officer with the African Swine Fever Prevention and Preparedness Project (ASFPPP) at Biosecurity Queensland (Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF)).

She is proud to work on a project that enables our state and country to be prepared, and to be as response ready for emergency animal disease as it can be. She enjoys the variety of work that her role provides. In a typical week, she can go from working on developing communications materials or writing articles, to engaging with stakeholders or evaluating project deliverables. Jem is a member of the DAF Diversity and Inclusion Working Group representing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander colleagues.

Jem feels there are so many amazing possibilities to explore within DAF to further integrate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture.

Jem loves her colleagues and has been well supported in her career in Biosecurity to learn and develop as a professional in the industry. She got into Biosecurity because she became more and more interested in environmental issues whilst completing her Master's in Public Health and her work in communications. In her role she engages with a diverse range of stakeholders, from local government and industry to landholders and producers. In 2020, she got an Indigenous scholarship to study public sector management. She graduated last year and is very grateful for the opportunity.

"We are all unified in working to protect and preserve our country. There is nothing more important. As a First Nations person, our unique country holds particular significance to me. I work in an incredibly supportive and high functioning team. It is a pleasure to go to work."



Challenges

Working in Engagement is often about education, and behaviour change. This can be hard for stakeholders who are busy and have different priorities. "I love working in this space and supporting stakeholders to find ways to move forward."



Top tips

1. Build your interpersonal skills.
2. Share your culture, and help others understand you and your people.
3. Get out there and get some experience. Volunteer or get some part-time work.
4. Talk to people who do the jobs that interest you.

"People make their careers in sugar, that longevity still exists here."



Felicity with Sugar Research Australia



The variety development manager and plant breeder.

Enjoy getting dirty? Have great communication skills, a love of science and an attention to detail?

Felicity's Story

Felicity oversees and promotes one of the four selection programs within Sugar Research Australia.

Their role is to breed new varieties of sugarcane that are more profitable, sustainable, and productive. They set out to increase yield, sugar content, and disease resistance. They analyse how to improve efficiency using automation or more productive varieties. She usually works 5 days per week, during daylight hours, likely 7:30am - 4pm (weather dependant of course)! You need to be able to think on your feet, change priorities and have a really strong attention to detail. She sees the skills for the role as accountability, good spatial awareness, strong attention to detail, liking data and numbers, and good communication skills.

Study path

Felicity has been working for this company for 22 years, but her undergrad was not even in agriculture - it was in ecology, population biology and conservation. She loved biology and it had been her favourite subject at school and got her an OP, now an ATAR, of 70 or so. Through her experience she learned she liked plants more than animals. She did her Honours Degree in Macadamia nuts before starting her career in sugarcane. Then, her PhD took 6 years part time to complete whilst she worked full time. She has moved for her role 3 times - Bundaberg, Brisbane, and then to Cairns.

Her job is diverse, for example planting trials, harvesting trials, and cross pollinating sugarcane parents, most varieties that are grown in Australia are created here. She enjoys her role, and loves finding good combinations of sugarcane parents. She supports both field and photoperiod crossing using climate- controlled facilities, this helps them do their breeding. The plants even have a honeymoon suite to help them breed successfully.



Top tips



1. Do research into the organisations that you want to work for before your interview.
2. Get some work experience to see if something works for you.
3. Apply for scholarships, they can make it easier.
4. Do what you are interested in! Don't be too hung up on grades.

Challenges

Every season is different, and that is a challenge, but she likes challenges! They are funded by, and breeding for, the growers and millers, and varieties developed and released must meet their future needs.

Felicity says you need to have great communication skills because you work with so many diverse people, from casual field hands and research technicians to growers and harvesting contractors, all the way up to industry representatives and company CEOs. Most people in the industry are passionate about their roles and their future which is amazing.

"Agriculture is far more connected than people think, I thought I was going to be isolated in farming, but it turns out agriculture is all about connection."



Abby - Growing Ginger, Growing Knowledge

Agronomy and Projects Co-ordinator

Do you enjoy working outdoors AND indoors? Like seeing the results of your hard work? Want to help feed communities? A career in horticulture could be for you.

Abby's Story

Abby is a fourth-generation ginger farmer in Queensland. Her role combines science, strategy, and hands-on farming, but her pathway into agriculture was not a traditional one.

With a background in health science and research, Abby brings strong analytical skills and evidence-based decision-making into the family business. She works with the farm agronomist and team to monitor crops, analyse soil data, and support longterm improvements.

Ginger farming is highly specialised, requiring careful crop rotation, disease management, irrigation planning, and attention to detail. For Abby, agriculture is about applying science across disciplines to help future-proof the farm.

Through her involvement in Young Horties, an industry network for young horticulture professionals, she has built strong connections and highlights the importance of community in agriculture.



Top tips

1. Study the science behind agriculture, soil, plant health, and data analysis are powerful tools.
2. Pay attention to detail, small changes can make a big difference in crop performance.
3. Be curious and willing to trial new ideas, agriculture is always evolving.
4. Think long-term, sustainable decisions today protect farms for the future.

Farm Manager



Study path

Abby did not originally study agriculture. She completed a Health Science degree, followed by a Master's degree in a specialised health science field, building strong skills in research, analysis, and evidence-based practice.

She later transitioned into the family farming business, bringing transferable skills such as critical thinking, project management, and data analysis into her role in agronomy and farm projects. Since joining the business, Abby has developed her agricultural knowledge through hands-on experience, collaboration with agronomists, and ongoing learning.

Her journey shows that you don't always need a traditional agriculture degree to build a career in agriculture, transferable skills matter.



Challenges

Ginger production presents unique challenges, including disease management, climate variability, and maintaining soil health over time. Because ginger is a high-value crop, precision and careful planning are critical.

One of Abby's key challenges is balancing innovation with risk management. Trialling new techniques or inputs must be done carefully to protect both productivity and profitability. There is also the responsibility that comes with working in a multi-generational family business. Decisions impact not just the current season, but the long-term sustainability of the enterprise. Despite these challenges, Abby finds the work deeply rewarding. Seeing healthy crops in the field and knowing that careful planning contributed to their success makes the effort worthwhile.



Sustainability

Kaitlin discussed how far fish farming has come, and how little people know about it and how valuable it is as a risk minimisation strategy to help avoid our oceans being over-fished. She talked about the feeding methods (including feeding the fish algae), their waste disposal and the care everyone takes to ensure best practise. She is very focused on sustainability and loves that she works somewhere that has a true care for the environment, as well as the animals.

Kaitlin said her parents had always told her that the squeaky wheel gets the oil, and to just keep trying. The farm manager contacted her, she got an interview and today she is bringing up baby Barramundi, 1000's at a time. They get harvested when they weigh 3Kg and that takes a couple of years. Like any great farm, they love their livestock, vaccinate, and watch their animals carefully to check for illness or disease.

Hatchery Technician at Coral Coast Barramundi

Kaitlin's story & study path

Kaitlin is 24 and loves her life working 5 days a week as a part of a team of 32 at Coral Coast Barramundi.

She gets lots of independent work time, and she knows she is making a difference! After finishing year 12 with an ATAR under 60 Kaitlin decided to take a gap year, save some money and travel overseas. She worked at a bakery and managed staff, and then travelled for a couple of months through Europe and took some time to work out what she was keen to do moving forward.

A Bachelor of Science majoring in Marine Studies was her study decision. During Covid she got work experience through her university on a trout and salmon farm. She was not sure she would like it, but it was available. She liked it, and she surprised herself and decided aquafarming was for her.

With her degree completed she decided to move to Queensland and started to apply to fish farms, but without success. However, by emailing the farm manager at Coral Coast personally with her resume (which focused on her recent university placement experience), she had a breakthrough.

Challenges



- › When animals do get sick, and the strong motivation to get them better and fix the issue.
- › Continuing to learn and develop her skills.
- › Putting herself out there as she was not from farming and she needed to build relationships in the industry.

Top tips



1. Get some work experience to better understand what you want to do.
2. You do not have to have qualifications, but it does help.
3. Ask questions, be accountable and communicate clearly, it will make everyone's time better.

Future



She is very much looking forward to building on her experience at the farm and likes the idea of trying to make it to manager in the coming years. She is also really keen to be a part of the many research activities they have on the farm so she can help maximise success, minimise environmental impact and better understand the fish.



Agronomy is Growing

Agronomy is a low and high-tech industry that uses satellite systems, computer databases and spreadsheets, biotechnology and many other innovations to increase efficiency, sustainability and profitability for farmers. It is an outdoor role, with lots of indoor work too.

Meet Billie

Billie studied a Bachelor of science majoring in Agronomy, and through her study Billie did 30 days work placement across 2 companies in different parts of Queensland. She was offered a job at the second! She says employers and the industry are crying out for "Agro's"

In her career thus far she has worked with cane, grain, horticulture, pasture but mostly cropping. Her growers call her a "dirt doctor", and her hands get dirty regularly! She is a scientist that helps farms by working with them on their economic and environmental sustainability. She spends about half her time in the office, and half her time on the farms, and she does a lot of driving. Usually, she does farm visits in the morning, and paperwork in the afternoon.

She helps farmers use less pesticides (so they save money) and be more environmentally friendly making farming more sustainable.

There is a lot of tech in my job, precision Agronomy: TSM mapper, precise management systems, satellite imagery, drones, and more.

"We get satellite images every couple of days so I can track cropping at a distance. I get to do a lot of walking, and see lots of different fields and farms. My job is also affected by the weather very regularly so I need to be adaptable, and sometimes spend the day in the rain."

Agronomist

Soil Scientist



Challenges

As a practical person, Billie finds the paperwork a little tedious, but knows it is a necessary part of the role. She works a lot in soil management, nutrient management, irrigation management, and pesticide management. Evidence and data are really important. This role and all of farming is very weather dependant, so you have long days, short days and plenty of the in between.



Agronomy

1. You get to spend time outside, meet lots of people, support the environment and help farmers build their businesses.
2. It's a growing industry with so many opportunities opening up in tech, data, mapping etc.
3. We can help improve profitability, and sustainability for our food, farmers and future. Check this job out. It is great.





Eduardo the Agronomist

Meet Eduardo

Eduardo is now 33. He grew up in Sao Paulo in Brazil and after his Bachelor degree worked in Sugar Cane farms there as an agronomist.

Then the big journey onto Australia where he learned English for 6 months, and then studied horticulture for 2 years, whilst working as a Barista, Strawberry farmer, Farmers market seller, Nursery Horticulturalist, even a gardening business owner. While he was studying, he and his wife worked hard to pay the bills.

Through his coffee networks (Go Barista!) he was offered a second in charge farm hand role at a dairy farm in Victoria. He loved this role, it's diversity (Cows, Tractors, tech, irrigation, feeding) and how much he learned. He got a promotion to farm manager during his years there. He wanted more sunshine though and has now returned to Queensland and is working in Cairns as an Agronomist with Farmacist.

Eduardo loves Cairns and his team. He has short days, and very long days, and enjoys the diversity of roles and jobs he needs to do. He has held a diverse career so far, and enjoys learning and building his skills and relationships with lots of different people. He loves his social life with his family and 2 young children.

Technology

Eduardo has his drone license and sees the future of drones in agriculture as HUGE, helping with oversight of crops, minimising the need to use tractors and travel, dropping baits for caterpillars in a precise and efficient way, even herding. He also sees Agronomy and working in agriculture as his opportunity to make change and be a changemaker for the better in the environment and for the health of people.

He said Cane farming had changed a lot in the 5 years he was working in different areas of agriculture and now that he is back, he is inspired by the developments that are increasing productivity, and improving sustainability.



Challenges

Eduardo discussed how challenging English has been, the specificity of the language, particularly in the sciences and how much he has had to learn in order to be clear in his explanations. He discussed the constant need for staff in agriculture, and the necessary paperwork and expectations to ensure success and transparency. He loves the challenge though. He talked about the need to be flexible, to keep learning, and to keep up with the technology, the science and the networks. He said it can be tough for immigrants if they cannot find someone willing to sponsor them.



"Good communication and a smile are the best tools you can have in a job working with people. Science and agriculture have so much value as careers and are not going anywhere, people will always need to eat. Agriculture connects the whole world; it is a career that can travel."



Eleanor - Australian Banana Growers' Council

Extension Officer, graduate of the QFF extension program

Enjoy working with people? Care about where food comes from? Eleanor's role shows how agriculture brings together science, communication, and hands on learning to support growers and protect the environment.

Eleanor's story and study path

Eleanor works as an extension officer with the Australian Banana Growers' Council, supporting banana growers across Far North Queensland.

Her role focuses on working directly with farmers to improve on farm practices that protect water quality while supporting productive, viable businesses. The job is highly people focused. Eleanor spends time on farms in conversations with growers and translating research into practical information that growers can actually use. It's not a desk only role, and it is not purely physical work either. It sits in the space between science, communication, and real-world problem solving.

Eleanor did not follow a traditional school pathway. She didn't finish school, instead, she travelled and worked, and met people who helped shape the direction she wanted to head in. When Eleanor was ready to study, she completed a Tertiary Access Course through James Cook University.

This pathway gave her what she needed to pursue agricultural studies in Armidale, where she was surrounded by livestock production and broadacre cropping. While there were many agronomy roles available, Eleanor's passion always lay within horticulture.

A graduate extension program run by Queensland Farmers' Federation gave Eleanor the opportunity to return north and step into an industry role that aligned with her values and interests. She has continued building her career from there.

Extension Officer



Challenges

Horticulture is exciting, but it is not without challenges. The industry is labour intensive and heavily influenced by weather, pests, market pressures, and expectations around perfect looking produce.

Eleanor believes there are strong opportunities ahead in soil health research, value adding, waste reduction, and building resilient farming systems. She also challenges consumers to rethink cosmetic standards, recalling a grower who once said, "I grow peels, not fruit."



Top tips

1. Say yes to opportunities, especially if they will challenge you.
2. Get experience across different farms and systems.
3. Ask questions and try to understand different perspectives.
4. Keep learning through both formal study, and real-world experience.



Extension Officer Jasmine

Jasmine's story

Jasmine studied Zoology, Ecology and Conservation at university, despite not getting an ATAR.

She had appendicitis in Year 12, and was unable to complete her exams. At university she started a degree in Marine science, and then decided that her job prospects would improve with Zoology, conservation and ecology so she changed her major. This was her pathway into agriculture. She did some work experience through a banana farm, and worked hard to build her networks.

She is a strong listener, and has a lot of empathy. She does not come from a farming background, and she finds listening to be her greatest skill to find common ground and build relationships.

Jasmine applied for anything and everything near the end of her degree, and was really flexible on where she wanted to live. She says there is Ag everywhere, but be open to opportunities that you may not have considered before. She does a lot of driving in her role, there is 80,000 (800 square kilometres) hectares of cane in the Burdekin. She works about 50 /50 in the office or out in the field. She gets to work pretty independently, but she also needs to show initiative, a good attention to detail and meet her timelines. She needs to be a good time manager.

As an extension officer for Burdekin Productivity Services, Jasmine works predominantly with cane growers and researchers to help make connections that improve farm productivity and sustainability. She helps cane farmers benchmark where they are and supports them to meet and exceed industry standards. Jasmine works to support these groups to access accreditation and can also help farmers access more funding for sustainability initiatives etc. She is often the middleperson in between researchers and farmers helping be a conduit from one to the other.

"I love a strong people culture and a healthy workplace where people get along. There are lots of future opportunities for people like me and farming is continuing to diversify. I like learning and am interested in a Masters in Entomology too, it is a growing part of agriculture."



Challenges

In her industry everyone wants instant results, and working with people to develop their time management, and to research solutions that suit the growers she works with.

"I needed the networks and the knowledge so I had to learn fast and listen hard." She is not from the country so she needed to build her knowledge quickly."



Top tips

1. Get some great mentors, they help sooooo much, be open minded with the people that you work with.
2. Science and Agricultural degrees are a great start, and you need a good work ethic. It is not a Monday to Friday role, and sometimes you work early, or late.



Regenerative Agriculture Officer

Growing food with nature in mind

Some careers in regenerative agriculture include Agronomist, soil scientist, or farm manager

Perfect for: Nature lovers, problem-solvers, and hands-on learners who want meaningful, future-focused work.

Why is this role growing?

Queensland producers are shifting toward climate-smart farming, soil restoration, carbon farming and sustainable grazing. As the state adapts to climate change, this is becoming one of the fastest growing agricultural career areas.

Farmers now need specialists who understand:

- › soil health
- › regenerative cropping and grazing
- › carbon sequestration
- › water efficiency
- › biodiversity and landscape repair
- › digital and environmental monitoring tools

This makes regenerative agriculture a powerful career choice for young Queenslanders keen to make an environmental impact.

What do they do?

Regenerative Agriculture Specialists help rebuild land health and support farmers to operate sustainably. Their work may include:

- › assessing soil, water, pasture and biodiversity health
- › designing regenerative grazing or cropping systems
- › working with farmers on carbon farming projects
- › using drones, GPS, GIS and digital tools to monitor land condition
- › improving water retention, landscape function and resilience

Other Related Job Titles

- › Soil Health & Carbon Farming Advisor
- › Sustainable Farm Systems Specialist
- › Regenerative Agriculture Officer
- › Climate-Smart Farming Advisor
- › Natural Resources & Landcare Officer

How to become a Regenerative Agriculture Specialist

Ready to turn your interest in agriculture into a career? Explore the full range of Certificate, Diploma and Bachelor-level pathways available across Queensland, from hands-on farm skills (e.g. Certificate III & IV or Diploma in Agriculture) through to specialised degrees in Agricultural Science, Environmental Science or Sustainable Agriculture. Check out TAFE Queensland and university pages for details and enrollments.

Scan the QR code to research this further.





Droning on about Tech in Agriculture

**Do you like the outdoors? Are you motivated?
Do you enjoy planning and have attention to detail?
Working with drones in Ag could be for you.**

Luke's story and study path

Luke grew up in farming and horticulture and never imagined his current career, but he wouldn't change it and is loving the drone business! He started as a plumber (and enjoyed it) but once he'd finished his apprenticeship, he was looking for a challenge. Initially Luke recognised an opportunity to save his partner money by getting his drone pilot licence so he could take the images she needed, and then it all grew from there. He has learnt a lot from their business. He works every day, most of his work is seasonal and often weather dependent, but he gets to drop the kids off and pick them up, and loves spending time with his family. As a small business owner, he works with lots of different people, for example agronomists, farmers, insect growers, and the industry bodies that provide the regulations and certifications necessary.

Luke was surprised to love all things "business". These days he enjoys learning, planning and being adaptable and meeting the challenges. Each job he does needs to be documented and he uses software to help him keep up with all the regulations.

He is always being challenged with new things, the chemicals to use, catchment areas, documentation required etc., it is all part of the job.

FUTURE FOCUS: Being an innovator, Luke is currently investigating robotic AI, and how it can help farmers to keep the growth going!



The drones

Drones are dropping "beneficials" which are insects that help the soil, minimises the pests and reduces the amount of chemicals growers need to use. In wet weather when tractors can't get to the land, a drone can survey and let everyone know what's happening.

Drones can carry insects and baits, they can take images and they really widen the reach of a farmer. Technology is certainly helping farmers do their job. Drones are saving farmers money, and time. They are also helping minimise the chemicals used by farmers on their crops which in turn helps the environment. It is a win, win, win and a growing (literally) industry.



Top tips

1. Connect with the Industry bodies around your area of interest.
2. Build your communication skills, communication and reliability are so important.
3. Talk to the people you want to work with and do what you say you are going to do.
4. Be yourself, ask questions, it is okay not to know the answers, talk to people that do.
5. Entrepreneur- start off small, be the best and then grow from there.
6. Learn something different from everyone, it's important to listen.

Drone Pilot

*Are you curious,
practical, and
interested in business
as well as farming?
A future in agribusiness
could be for you.*



From Study to Speed Tagger: Cam's Ag Innovation Journey

Cam's story

Cam is the founder of Speed Tagger, a growing agricultural business based in Queensland's South Burnett region that focuses on livestock identification and management tools.

Alongside running a small breeding herd of Angus and Santa Gertrudis cattle, Cam designs and sells innovative equipment, including an electric-powered ear tag applicator, that helps producers work more efficiently and safely with livestock.

What makes Cam's journey unique is that he didn't come from a multi-generation farming background. Instead, he entered agriculture through study, curiosity, and a desire to solve real-world problems faced by graziers.

Today, his business supports producers across the industry while allowing him to stay closely connected to hands-on cattle work.

For Cam, agriculture is not just about farming, it's about combining business, innovation, and practical knowledge to improve how the industry operates.

Challenges

One of Cam's biggest challenges has been entering agriculture without a farming family background. Learning industry systems, building networks, and gaining credibility took time and persistence.

Running a start-up business also comes with its own pressures, from product development and manufacturing to marketing and customer relationships.

Balancing business growth while managing a breeding herd requires strong time management and adaptability.

Like many in agriculture, Cam has also faced the reality that progress doesn't happen overnight. Building trust with producers, refining products, and growing a brand takes patience and resilience.

Farmer



Study path

Cam studied an Agribusiness-related degree, which gave him a strong foundation in both agriculture and business management. This helped him understand supply chains, farm operations, and how to turn an idea into a sustainable enterprise.

While studying, Cam gained exposure to real agricultural environments, which sparked ideas for improving livestock handling and identification processes. From there, he combined his business knowledge with practical farming experience to launch Speed Tagger.

His journey highlights how agriculture degrees can lead not only to farm roles but also to entrepreneurship, innovation, and ag technology businesses.



Top tips

1. Be open to non-traditional pathways into agriculture, you don't need to grow up on a farm to succeed in the industry.
2. Look for problems that need solving, many great ag businesses start from seeing inefficiencies on farms.
3. Build practical experience alongside study to understand how the industry really works.
4. Don't be afraid to start small, Cam began with one main product and grew from there.
5. Surround yourself with people in the industry who can offer advice, feedback and support.



Future

He is living in the moment and “the opportunities are endless”. He hasn’t thought too far ahead yet, but he enjoys what he’s doing and wants to keep doing it. Harry says the tech that is coming through is very exciting, it is more fuel efficient and better for the environment and has improved self-driving technology. He feels lucky to be in the industry.



Challenges

There is a lot of money lost when machines aren’t working, it is all about speed so the customers can get back to work. Sometimes machines might break down 500 kilometres apart, and how you prioritise is tough. The people are great though and always so welcoming.



Top tips

1. Enjoy the travel, the experience and the people you meet
2. Learn and listen to the people with experience
3. Agriculture is an industry driven by people that know what they are doing, have a can-do attitude and you’ll get a job that is different every day and you’ll meet people you can learn from

Harry the Field Technician

**Are you hands-on, a practical problem solver?
Do you love tech?**

Harry's story

Harry is a 21-year-old field technician with RDO equipment in Toowoomba. He mainly works with cotton pickers in the cotton industry. He travels a lot for his role, all the way from the Northern Territory and down to the Victorian border. He is a 4th Year Apprentice in Agricultural technology.

After growing up on a cotton farm, he did work experience with RDO, and really enjoyed the work with the John Deere equipment. He said he wasn’t an A student at school, but he said he did alright. He got into university but decided he wanted something more hands-on, and so it was an apprenticeship for him. RDO like to build their talent from the ground up, and they have 29 branches. He says you get to work on everything from tractors, to lawn mowers. He goes to TAFE and has TAFE training blocks, and gets his skills assessed as he goes through his study.

He is one of 9 field technicians at RDO. Usually in the morning they go in and do their paperwork, and then they are out and about. He had 5 months last year when he only had 4 weeks at home though- he was working on machinery for a wide range of farms mainly through NSW. He supports everything from engines, to helping customers understand the precision agriculture technology that is part of their equipment. He is not only working on the engines; he also works on the many different computers on the pickers.

Agricultural Mechanical Technology

Agricultural Technician

Cotton Farmer



The role

Andrew is a 38-year-old farm manager, of both a sugar cane farm and a banana farm. His dad still manages the cane and he helps, but the banana farm is all his. He does all the operational management for the bananas, the environment paperwork, accounting, book keeping, staff management etc. He goes to the banana farm most days; they have 110 hectares. He has around 30-40 staff. There is fruit packing every week, I supervise the packing shed, he uses a lot of seasonal workers from Samoa and Tonga. His supervisory staff are more experienced.

“Running a farm is so much more than planting a field. There are so many diverse responsibilities around technology, paperwork, staffing, environment, and building strong people culture in the businesses. Every day is different.”



Top tips

1. For those from a farming background get some experience through Vocational Education and Training e.g. TAFE, University or a Trade and get that qualification.
2. If you haven't been exposed to agriculture, get out there and get some experience on the farms or in other industries that feed agriculture.
3. Not all days are easy, but that is true for any job. Having motivation for your industry is really important.

Andrew the Canegrower and Banana Farmer

Andrew's story

Andrew's great grandfather came out from Northern India and started his cane farm and it has been in the family ever since. After doing his degree Andrew worked for a couple of years off farm working as an Agribusiness manager for Westpac and he learned a lot. He was keen to return to the farm though.

Andrew started Banana farming simply because the opportunity arose. Great soil, good water, and I knew the previous owner who was retiring. The only downside is the distance from the other farm. He supplies Banana's to Coles, Woolworths, Aldi and other stores. Banana farming has an intense crop, greater yield from a smaller crop, but also more work- it is a fulltime role. The finance and HR elements of my degree have really helped me in managing workers.

He uses GPS guidance in both Banana and Cane for their planting and ground preparation and can really see the potential in technology in spraying and harvesting technology. He knows he is only touching the tip of the iceberg. He has enjoyed being a part of the Reef Rescue project and building his understanding of technology and sustainability that can be used. He would love to expand further, maybe some further lease farming etc. You need to be at scale because the machinery is expensive, so you want to be able to use it. He also wants to delegate more to others within his business in order to get to spend more time with his young family.

Business

Cane Grower

Crop Farmer



Katlin - Resource Consulting Service

Advisor and Coach in regenerative agriculture

Katlin never imagined she'd build a career in agriculture, until she discovered just how many opportunities existed beyond the farm gate. Now working with Resource Consulting Services, she supports agricultural businesses through projects, planning, and industry development.

Kaitlin's story

Katlin works with Resource Consulting Services (RCS), supporting agricultural businesses and organisations across a range of projects.

Her role involves working with industry groups and stakeholders, helping with planning and development initiatives, improving systems and processes, and contributing to research and consultation work. No two days are the same, which is one of the things Katlin enjoys most about her job. The work connects agriculture with business, sustainability, community development, and innovation.

"There's a lot of variety. You're always learning, meeting new people, and working on different challenges," Katlin says.



Challenges

One of the biggest challenges, and opportunities Katlin faces in her role is working closely with people, particularly when supporting families, businesses, and groups with differing perspectives and pressures. With agriculture often involving family-run enterprises, long histories, and deep emotional connections to land and livelihood, strong communication and problem-solving skills are essential. "Working with people and families can be challenging at times, especially when there are different opinions or expectations," Katlin explains, "but it's also one of the most rewarding parts of the job," highlighting how patience, empathy, and relationship-building continue to shape her work in the industry.



Study path

Katlin's pathway into agriculture wasn't a straight line. Like many young people, she didn't initially see herself working in the industry and only discovered the wide range of career options once she became involved.

Agriculture offers pathways through university study, vocational education and training (TAFE), internships, graduate programs, and on-the-job learning. Many roles, like consulting and project work, value transferable skills alongside industry knowledge.

Katlin's experience shows that you don't need to come from a farming background to build a successful career in agriculture.



Top tips

1. Talk to people already working in the industry.
2. Try work experience, internship or part-time roles.
3. Don't assume agriculture is only about farming.
4. Follow your interests and explore, there's likely a role to suit you.

"There are so many different pathways into agriculture," Katlin says. "Even if you don't come from a farming background, there are lots of ways to get involved."

Agribusiness Consultant



Emily the Agribusiness Student and Goat Farmer

Are you an entrepreneur, do you love practical work? Are you interested in business? Farming could be for you, and so could study and careers in agribusiness.

Emily's story

Emily is a modern farmer with 7000 goats on her farm. She says goats have a big future, they are low maintenance and are a great animal for Queensland. Goat farming is a new industry, and it is a growing market.

She talks to lots of producers and they are all learning about how to build this newish business. She is used to being outside often, and is pretty active. She is currently studying agribusiness to help her move her farm forward. She is loving her time learning the business side of agriculture, and talking to people and hearing their experiences. She loves the stud element of the operation and is interested in bloodlines and building a quality stock. She has implemented a range of breeding technologies, and has been seeing the benefits.

She has had plenty of practical experience on the farm, working in both commercial focus and stud operations. She has worked with some great mentors and is now passionate about stud farming and developing her goat herd. Her plan is to travel overseas next year to do more research into the genetics of goats, and to build and expand her program.

There is a lot that most people do not know about goat farming, including me. I don't think people realise how much communication skills are needed to be successful. Producers really care about their animals, and the community needs to know that.

Agribusiness Specialist

Goat Farmer



Challenges

She loves working and innovating, but sometimes she struggles to back herself, so she finds strong mentors to help. Goat farming is moderately new, so there is so much to learn, and more trends and tech to learn every day. Being able to adopt it and use it successfully is so beneficial but it is challenging. You have to make sacrifices, and it is stressful.

"Agriculture is changing, and it's an evolution. The technology is great but knowing how to use it and apply it effectively is an ongoing challenge."



Top tips

1. Apply for scholarships and bursaries, they can really help.
2. Improve your communication skills and build your business networks
3. Be picky, and talk to big agriculture companies, get some experience.

"After year 12, I knew I didn't want to go to university straight away, so I got 5 years' practical experience, and then I knew I would get value from the study, and I am getting value. I'm learning a lot."



Lucy the Regional Engagement Officer

Are you an entrepreneur, love practical work, and are interested in business? Farming could be for you, and so could study and careers in agribusiness.

Lucy's story

After finishing high school with an OP5 (ATAR90) Lucy did not know what she wanted to do, she knew she liked agriculture (she's from St George, attended boarding school, and has a family with a farming background).

She also loved community and social equity work. She took a GAP year that stretched to 2 to think about it, working as an Agronomist's assistant, a lifeguard, worked as a horse-riding instructor at a summer camp, and even having a role at St George visitor's centre. She even started an Arts degree but she missed the agriculture component.

Lucy works from home, her closest office is 2 hours away. She is often at home doing reports, planning or researching. She is usually creating and then fostering relationships, and spends around 50% of her time working away from her home office, and the rest doing the relevant reports, emails, research and paperwork. She works with everyone, from farmers, to fisheries, first nations people, schools, politicians and industry.

Her role is with the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water. She is the Regional Engagement Officer (REO) for the water division. She is the "boots on the ground" and is a conduit between community and government. She works the Condamine Balonne catchment and supports information for the community about things as diverse as implementations for the basin plan, water allocation, and the different funding or projects available to the community.

"My role is to report the community sentiment that I hear, frankly and fearlessly back to the Murray Darling Basin Authority (MDBA)."



Challenges

This is a complex role, there is so much to learn and people feel very strongly about their community and rightly so. I need to help the government be aware of community perspectives around cultural, economic, environmental and social aspects of water. I love my job.

"The Government is not super scary. Everyone I have met is intelligent, passionate, dedicated to their job and just so friendly. My role keeps exceeding my expectations, it's really cool."



Qualifications

Lucy is a third of the way through her Bachelor in Sustainability. With all her different experience she found a degree that suited all her needs across agriculture, and social justice and sustainability and she is a 1/3 of the way through it. Her major is community engagement and development. She loves the diversity of her degree- and she finds sustainability exciting. She uses the Country University Campus near her to help her in her study, it provides space, WIFI and meeting rooms to help rural and regional students connect and learn.



Top tips

1. People skills, particularly communication and empathy, are crucial for effective interaction.



Kate - Agriculture is BIG Business



**Are you hands-on, a practical problem solver?
Do you love tech?**

Kate's story

Kate finished high school in Rockhampton with an OP 5 (ATAR 90). Whilst completing her Bachelor of Economics; she got her role at Suncorp at the end of her second year in her degree.

During her degree she also worked as an assistant to a financial advisor. It taught her a lot. She worked in Rockhampton, and then moved to St George. She has been at Suncorp for 6 years and has come up from the bottom. She says she is meant to be out of the office and working with clients 3 days per week, and she loves this aspect of her role.

Kate loves to be busy and also volunteers with the local Chamber of Commerce, the Cotton Growers Association, and the local Water Sports Association. She loves primary production, and she loves her job. There are a lot of opportunities out there and she sees herself adding value in this space in the future, and maybe studying some more too. Agribusiness roles include all activities that support the production, processing, marketing, distribution, financing and development of agricultural commodities and resources. This includes food, horticulture, natural resources, and agricultural services.

Kate works with business customers with millions in loans and lending. She works with them, their accountants and their solicitors, and they all add value to the client's business. She helps them run efficiently, and support their growth through equipment and property finance. Kate spends a lot of time being invited into homes and businesses and also does lots of paper work to help make things happen. She has set targets, KPI's and sales targets that she needs to meet. These targets lead businesses towards financial growth, but also support Kate's customer value-add and how she works with people and culture.



Challenges

Seasons and markets! The weather is not reliable, and if my clients struggle, it means I struggle too. Having dry seasons is tough and sometimes there are a range of really tough conversations. Day to day she is challenged by client expectations, and personally her greatest challenge is that some people do not expect what they get from her. She is a 27 year old petite blonde. She also knows she is so lucky to have a lot of clients who help and support her and help her grow.

She is an empathetic person and sometimes it is challenging to watch people and need to work with people who are struggling.



Top tips

1. Growth comes to those that do a good job and those that are seen in the community.
2. Regional and Rural opportunities can really give you big opportunities to shine and step up, maybe more than city or urban opportunities.
3. Treat everyone the same, the world is smaller than you think, and you are best off being the best you can. Ambition is important, and you can learn from every interaction.
4. Back yourself and be brave.
5. Working for a big bank can really provide some great opportunities.

"My role is as diverse as banking and lending, setting up a jumping castle at a local event, through to supporting a client with their internet banking whilst they are in the IGA. I do not only work Monday to Friday."

Agribusiness

Economist



Agriculture Education Pathways

The students interviewed come from Home Hill High school, a high school half way between Townsville and Airlie beach.

Each of the girls is in Year 11 and works casually whilst studying in high school at different retail and grocery stores. They demonstrated strong communication skills, a great attitude, and a real interest in agriculture.

What do you enjoy about studying Ag?

They want to support food security, and learn about biosecurity, and better understand the risks that exist to crops and animals and how to minimise them. They are enjoying bringing up the crayfish as part of their study, conducting research and writing reports, AND they like their teacher. The girls discussed the different jobs that they had heard about:

Commodities trader, Farmer, Fertiliser sales representative, Aquafarmer, Biosecurity Officer, Horticulturalist, and Agronomist.

The girls also talked about the other subjects they are studying. Here is one student's SET plan for Year 11 and 12.

- › General Maths
- › Essential English
- › Legal Studies
- › Agriculture
- › Certificate II in Horticulture
- › Accounting



Top tips

1. Get some experience. It is fun and practical and you get to meet people in agriculture.
2. Be open minded, keep learning, and do your research into areas you haven't considered.
3. Improve your communication skills as they are important, no matter what you do.



Future

The girls mentioned careers in farming, fitness, and agronomy, but they are still researching.

"You get outside, you're touching nature, it's fun."

Why did you choose to study Ag?

Elayna, Rina and Jasmine all agreed that they wanted to learn about animals and plants, in a practical way and studying agriculture in years 11 and 12 is certainly helping them do that. They discussed enjoying the hands-on activities, and learning about the aquaponics and the hydro elements of agriculture that they had been unaware of before. Two of the girls had agricultural backgrounds, coming from farms so they knew it was an area of strength and interest that they could build on.



Resources for Teachers



Primary Industries Educational Foundation (PIEFA)



Australian Dairy



Queensland Beef



Shearing



Cane



Cotton



Agforce



Agriculture



Horticulture



Forestry



Scholarships in Agriculture

Why apply for a scholarship?

Many people think scholarships are only for highly academic or top-performing students. In reality, there are many different types of scholarships that recognise a wide range of strengths, experiences and achievements. Scholarships are available for all kinds of people, not just those with high grades.

Scholarships can help reduce the cost of study, but they also offer valuable opportunities to build connections, gain industry exposure and grow your professional networks. These connections can be incredibly important, as many jobs are found through social and professional networks.

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Looking for more scholarships?

Here's one site to help



UniSQ Rural, Regional & Remote Scholarships



UniSQ Weis Scholarship



Study Australia Scholarships



AgriFutures Scholarship



CQU Scholarships



CEF Scholarship



UQ Undergraduate Scholarships

Diesel Mechanic

Farm Hand

Beekeeper



Realistic

Working with practical, hands-on problems and solutions

Laboratory Worker

Logistics

Accountant



Conventional

Working with data and details, following set procedures

Biotechnologist

Agronomist

Scientist



Investigative

Working with ideas, searching for facts and discovering new solutions

Matching your Skills and Career



Enterprising

Starting up and carrying out projects, leading people, business focused

Farm Owner

Business Owner

Agricultural Consultant



Social

Communicating with and teaching people

Agronomist

Teacher

Landscape Architect



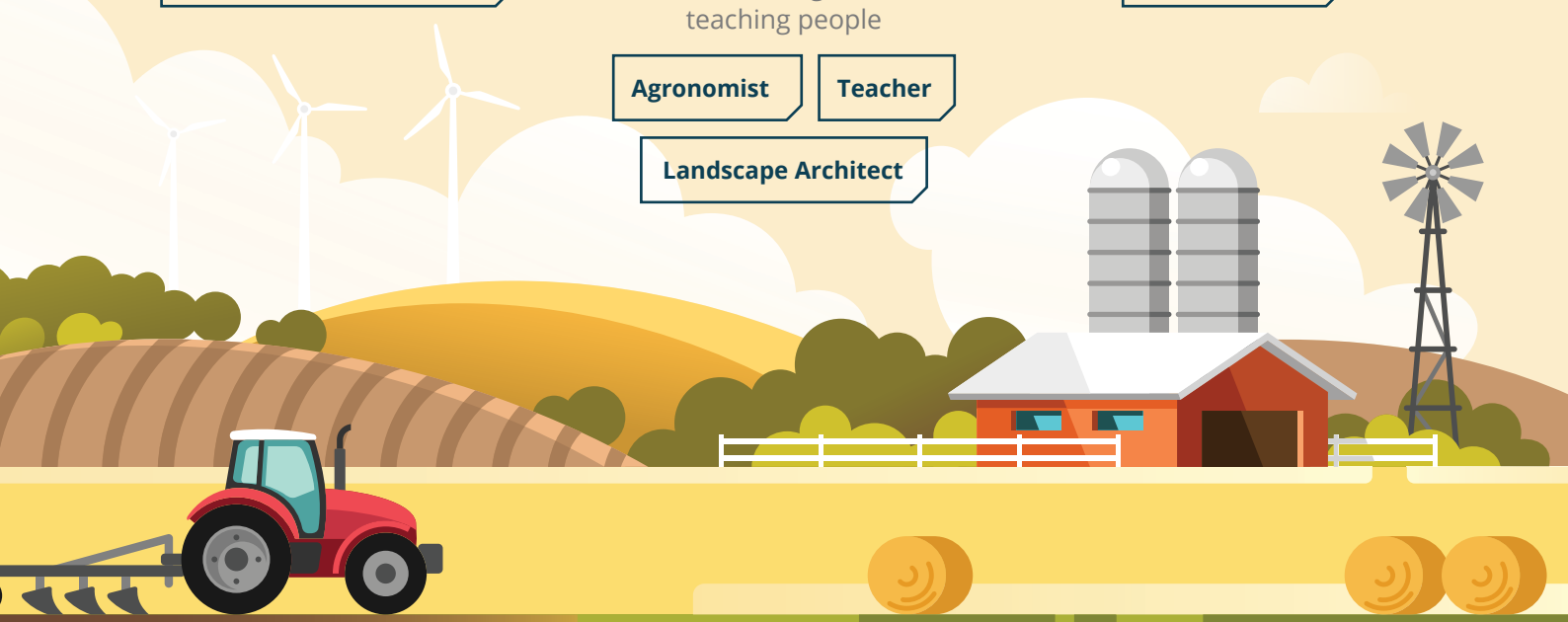
Artistic

Working with design and patterns, self-expressive and creative

Journalist

Designer

Photographer





"My job is to ensure they are supported both in work and socially as many of them move to be here."

Danielle - Tassal

"We need people who can see that all clients have wants and needs. We need people who understand systems and how to use them with a people focus."

Danielle - Tassal

"With communication we can work with most limitations to find ways to support legitimate barriers to communication such as language or digital literacy. It is more if people choose not to communicate, details around nonattendance, safety incidents, general responsibility and respectful communication."

Danielle - Tassal

What do employers want?



Positive Attitude



Agility and Adaptability



Communication



Commitment & Accountability



Alignment with Organisational Values



Problem Solving Capability



Keen to Learn & Engage with Industry

Jayson Farmacist



Precision Agronomy Solutions

Thoughts from Jayson,
Director and Agronomist.

Farmacist is an agronomic solutions provider based in Mackay, the Burdekin, and Far North Queensland. They are constantly on the search for great staff across agronomy, Geo-spatial services, and Data management. Their recommendations for farmers are based on what is best for the crop, environment and for profit. Farmacist have supported the Queensland Agricultural Extension Work Placement Program (AEWPP) which connects agricultural extension graduates, trainees and early career professionals with employment and training opportunities with host organisations and they have had great success.

I don't care about a GPA; I can train skills but I can't train personality.

This can be anything from showing them fishing and camping spots, to helping them connect with social and community groups that align with their interests. It is about more than pay, and enjoying time is so important.

"In a company like ours reputation is everything. I want people with drive, aspiration, not clock watchers. Some days are early and some days are late. Harvest waits for no one."

"People often think it's about working in the dust, that's just a tiny bit. Now there is tech- data, science, weather, GIS, drones, there is so much work around sensors, web based- and AI, not to mention the business opportunities."

What would you say to parents or carers about recommending agriculture as a career to their children?

If they work in Ag their day will never be dull, they can build relationships, it's heaps better than people imagine. They can work in things from marketing to machinery, from drones to irrigation or aquaculture, and from cane to cattle or cotton. There is an incorrect perception that exists around agriculture.

"There is a great deal of potential in the Aquaculture/ Agricultural sector. As long as the population continues to grow we will need to produce sustainable food sources."

Danielle Tassal



Australian Salmon Farming

Danielle, the National
Learning and Development
Manager shares her thoughts.

Tassal has a commitment to bring sustainable financial stability and jobs to regional and rural areas where aquaculture is an important part of the area's economy. We place a strong emphasis on employing people from these local communities and to enable people to live and work locally. All this is done in conjunction with sustainable environmental outcomes.

Aquaculture/agriculture is a diverse industry that can accommodate a variety of skill sets that may not always be immediately considered as options. In a company as large as ours there can be a pathway for most interests from tertiary qualifications in Aquaculture, marine science, environmental science, Engineering, technology streams, mechanical and electrical trades, manufacturing, supply chain and logistics, sales, legal, human resources, marine logistics and business. As a vertically integrated company there are entry level roles through to specialised functions with clear pathways for development and growth especially in a tight market.

For those that have not obtained tertiary qualifications, we have offered, school-based apprenticeships, traineeships, apprenticeships, scholarships, internships and supported further education. We have an internal focus on leadership development with foundations in neuroscience and psychological safety.

What would you say to parents or carers about recommending agriculture as a career to their children?

The use of technologies and increased automation has seen a move to an Agritech focus. Smart farming technologies, the increased use of data and business intelligence to inform decisions and drive performance. Drones, electric vehicles, robotics, AI programming to name a few of the areas. For those living in remote areas the industry can offer an alternative that is close to home.



Pathways to Careers in Cotton

Queensland's cotton industry is one of the world's most technologically advanced agricultural sectors - spanning farming, harvesting, ginning, research, water management, logistics and business.

Did you know?

Australia produces some of the most water-efficient, sustainably grown cotton in the world, underpinning thousands of jobs in regional communities.

Scan to watch career stories



Careers to explore:

- Cotton Grower
- Farm Manager
- Harvester Operator
- Agronomist
- Crop Consultant
- Cotton Classer
- Gin Operator
- Irrigation Manager
- Biosecurity Officer
- Machinery Technician
- Water Use Efficiency Officer
- Drone Pilot
- Logistics Manager
- Policy Officer

Pathways to Careers in Cane

Queensland's cane industry covers farming, harvesting, milling, transport, science, sustainability, technology and business - making it one of the state's most diverse agricultural career destinations.

Did you know?

Around 85% of Queensland's raw sugar is exported, generating up to \$2 billion in export earnings annually and supporting more than 33,000 direct and value-chain jobs in regional communities.

Scan to watch career stories



Careers to explore:

- Cane Grower
- Farm Manager
- Harvester Operator
- Agronomist
- Field Officer
- Mill Operator
- Biosecurity Officer
- GIS Specialist
- Drone Pilot
- Sustainability Officer
- Finance Officer
- Sugar Trader



Pathways to Careers in Horticulture and the Nursery industry

From field to florist, glasshouse to garden centre - horticulture spans fresh produce, protected cropping, pest management, irrigation science, supply chain logistics and the nursery sector.

Did you know?

Horticulture is one of the most technologically advanced sectors in agriculture, using precision irrigation, drone monitoring and integrated pest management.

Scan to watch career stories



Careers to explore:

Horticulture Grower
Farm Manager
Agronomist
Production Supervisor
Protected Cropping Grower
Irrigation Manager
Pest Management Officer
Quality Assurance Manager
Nursery Supervisor
Extension Officer
Landscape Designer
Agricultural Scientist

Growing a Career in Forestry

From plantation to paper, chainsaw to computer - forestry spans environmental science, harvesting operations, timber processing, engineering, carbon storage and research.

Did you know?

The forest and wood products industry produces sustainable materials used every day in housing, furniture, paper and packaging - with careers in management, conservation, technology and manufacturing.

Scan to watch career stories



Careers to explore:

Forester
Forest Manager
Harvesting Forester
Forestry Researcher
Environmental Forester
Wood Scientist
Carbon Storage Specialist
GIS Officer
Arborist
Fire Protection Officer
Ecologist
Timber Sales Assistant



Pathways to Careers in Aquaculture

From barramundi farms to prawn hatcheries, research labs to fish processing - aquaculture is Australia's fastest growing primary industry, producing more than \$3 billion annually.

Did you know?

You don't need to grow up near the coast to work in aquaculture. Roles span marine science, environmental engineering, veterinary science, IT, logistics and policy.

Scan to watch career stories



Careers to explore:

- Hatchery Technician
- Farm Hand
- Production Manager
- Water Quality Officer
- Marine Biologist
- Environmental Engineer
- Biosecurity Officer
- Seafood Processing Worker
- Quality Assurance Manager
- Aquaculture Researcher
- Sustainability Officer
- Policy Officer

Pathways to Careers in Dairy

More than milk - dairy brings together people, animals, technology and purpose. The industry spans farm production, herd management, robotic milking systems, food science, veterinary care and agribusiness.

Did you know?

Dairy offers one of agriculture's clearest career progression pathways - from farm hand to herd manager to farm owner - with training and formal qualifications available at every stage.

Scan to watch career stories



Careers to explore:

- Farm Hand
- Herd Manager
- Farm Manager
- Dairy Technician
- Robotic Systems Operator
- Livestock Nutritionist
- Large Animal Veterinarian
- Dairy Scientist
- Cheese Maker
- Food Technologist
- Extension Officer
- Agribusiness Manager



Pathways to Careers in Livestock

Beef, sheep, goat and beyond - Queensland runs more cattle than any other Australian state, and the industry spans mustering and breeding through to genetics, veterinary care, feedlot operations, processing and export trade.

Did you know?

Australia's red meat and livestock industry directly employs more than 180,000 people across the full supply chain - from remote pastoral stations to precision feedlots supplying markets across Asia and the Middle East.

Scan to watch career stories



Careers to explore:

- Station Hand
- Jackaroo/Jillaroo
- Livestock Coordinator
- Station Manager
- Animal Nutritionist
- Large Animal Veterinarian
- Wool Classer
- Livestock Auctioneer
- Meat Inspector
- Commodity Trader
- Ag-Tech Specialist
- Agribusiness Manager

How can you make decisions about your career?

This magazine is designed to support students, parents/carers, and teachers to work through career decision making.



Top tips for quality career in decision making

1. Understand your strengths, skills, values and interests so you can choose careers to suit YOU.
2. Explore the thousands of careers available to ensure you have all the information.
3. See what matches up using tools like the ones below so you can know what you have to choose from.

Scan the QR codes below to help you in your decision making.



My Future Career Information Service



Your Career Quiz



Training.com.au Career Quiz



Career Harvest Careers in Ag

