

Weekly Career News

Term 2

Wednesday 22 June 2016

FOCUS ON CAREERS IN AGRICULTURE

Agriculture isn't just farming-

It is focussed on "the entire food chain, managing the environment and minimising the impact of human endeavours on natural resources".

About 50% of all jobs in the agriculture industry are in capital cities. These jobs include environmental management, research, development, agribusiness and education.

The demand for agricultural science graduates is growing. Enrolments in agricultural courses rose between 15 – 20% nationwide in 2014 demonstrating an increased interest in the industry.

There is also an ongoing demand for agricultural science graduates with economics and management training, source- <http://bit.ly/1FGtcP0>

With four jobs for every graduate, 1 in 6 jobs in agribusiness and a starting salary on average of \$60 000, studying agriculture is a very attractive option for students, source- <http://bit.ly/Lu8cFR>

Experts are needed in the areas of:

- Sustainable farming practices
- Land management
- Land conservation
- Climate change practices
- Food security
- Agricultural research and policymaking.

Students can specialise in areas such as:

- Economics
- Marketing
- Animal and plant biotechnology
- Catchment management
- Climate change impacts
- Crop management and production
- Plant and soil science
- Nutrition and feed production
- Sustainable production and consumption
- Water management, and
- Rural business practices

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Courses: The following are examples of agriculture courses you can study:

- **La Trobe University:** You can study Agriculture and Technology, Agricultural Sciences, and a double degree in Agricultural Sciences and Commerce, <http://bit.ly/1FGtcP0>
- **University of Melbourne:** You can study the Bachelor of Agriculture, <http://bit.ly/1BWdaib>
- **University of Tasmania:** You can study Agriculture and Business, Agricultural Science, and Agriculture, <http://bit.ly/1cleoa4>
- **Charles Sturt University:** You can study Agriculture, Agricultural Science, Agricultural Business Management, and Ecological Agricultural Systems etc., <http://bit.ly/1MkDAj6>
- **University of New England:** You can study Agribusiness, Agricultural and Resource Economics, Agriculture, Agrifood Systems, Animal Science and Rural Science, <http://bit.ly/1KSOTzc>

Resources

- Career Harvest, <http://bit.ly/1f0m8jW>
- Agrifood Careers, <http://bit.ly/1MEcG6D>
- Download the Science: Taking you places resource, which has a focus on primary industries- <http://bit.ly/1Hm0jfk>



CAREER HARVEST
An Initiative of Australian Council
of Deans of Agriculture

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Meet Shaun Darmody

2nd year Bachelor of Agriculture Business Management, Charles Sturt University, Wagga Wagga

Subjects studied in the VCE- English Language, Mathematical Methods, Further Mathematics, Physics, and VET Engineering.

Why did you want to study agriculture? I completed the VCE in 2013 then took a year off and worked on a sheep and beef property in North East Victoria. It wasn't until later during my gap year I realised I wanted to study agriculture and make it my career. Until that moment it was a passion for me that I did in my recreational time.

Like all Ag students say 'we do it because it's in our blood'. So I am currently studying what I love and am making a future out of something I love doing. Does it get much better?

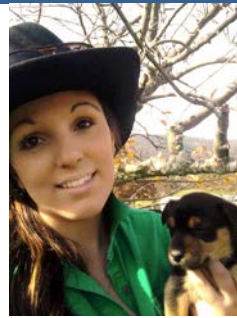
What is your course like? Charles Sturt University in Wagga Wagga is a fantastic place to be studying agriculture. There are endless amounts of opportunities in the local area; this means lots of field days out to talk to farmers and those involved in the industry. It also allows students to undertake placements throughout their studies.

Why should young people consider studying agriculture/agribusiness: As I like to say, if farming stops, the world stops. Agriculture is the backbone of the country. For that reason it is an exciting industry to get involved in. It is rapidly changing and young people are the ones who need to be aiding the innovations in the industry.

Below: A picture of Shaun's family property



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Meet Monica Ley

Bachelor of Agricultural Science, Charles Sturt University, Wagga Wagga

Subjects studied in the VCE- English Language, Media, French, Further Mathematics, Outdoor and Environmental Studies.

Why did you want to study agriculture? Why not? I am a fourth generation farmer who could not spend a day working indoors to save my life. It's all I've wanted to be since I was around five years old and I haven't dreamt of doing anything else.

Creating new life is also a beautiful thing, both animals and plants. Going into agriculture during my VCE years and in tertiary education also is a way of being able to care for the environment and be sustainable at the same time.

What is your course like? It's challenging but broad in terms of being able to specialise in a particular sector of the agricultural industry, covering both management and finance, livestock and pastures, cropping, and weed and pest control.

What subjects and experiences have you enjoyed the most? I have enjoyed the more practical subjects such as crops, pastures and weeds, with a high focus on plant identification and what affects growth and yields. Having little to no experience in anything other than livestock and machinery when coming to university, I enjoyed expanding my knowledge on agriculture as a whole. I have enjoyed the experiences of networking through career expos, attending conferences and networking through being on committees for events such as the Women in Ag Day.

Why should young people consider studying agriculture/agribusiness: With a rapidly increasing population, farmers will still need to feed and clothe the world. Studying agriculture can also open up many more doors. You don't just have to be a farmer. Career opportunities include property development, management, finance, research, agronomy, extension, consultancy, teaching and many others.

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Meet Jaimi Brown

Bachelor of Agriculture
Business Management,
Charles Sturt University.

Agribusiness Analyst,
National Australia Bank

Subjects studied in the VCE- English, Mathematical Methods, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Product Design and Technology.

Why did you want to study agriculture? Because it promotes a healthy life work balance whilst working in small rural communities with lots of networking opportunities. I believed in studying a degree that could not only help myself forge a career but also help people in communities. Without agriculture, we wouldn't have food and fibre to feed, live and grow. I believed and still believe agriculture in Australia still has a lot of growth in it. It is no longer about the mining boom in Australia- it is the agricultural boom.

What was your course like? I loved my course. Whilst my class was small with 10-15 people in each subject, you engaged in proper discussions. Lecturers were so supportive and had an open door policy, they were always there to bounce ideas off and guide you in your learning. I was fortunate enough to travel with the University to China, and study the agricultural industries and techniques in a developing country.

The theoretical knowledge I absorbed helped me to gain an understanding of the development we as a country have made in agricultural techniques. But, the cultural experience I received was invaluable. We are continuing to grow our agricultural trade with China and I now understand all the difficulties we experience as exporters to such a closed economy like China.

I engaged in livestock management, plant growth, cropping, finance & economics and human resource subjects. The education I received in my degree made me a well rounded graduate. It also provided me with all the necessary skills and knowledge to succeed in any career within the agricultural industry.



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What is your graduate position like? I began a journey into the agribusiness world with a position as an Agribusiness Analyst with the National Australia Bank's agribusiness department. My day consists of talking to farmers about financial lending and deposit products, going to farms to discuss future opportunities for the client, seeing clients at livestock sales and general administration roles.

Why should young people consider studying agriculture/ agribusiness: There are so many opportunities within the agricultural industry to travel and see the world whilst being employed. You have the opportunity to study a degree that will continue to feed and clothe the world. Business, finance and science students can all forge successful well-paying careers in agriculture. Agriculture is no longer just about a farmer burning diesel in the paddock.

It is about innovation growth and strategy to reduce carbon emission, feed the world and ensure we maintain a natural environment. The agricultural industry has evolved so much that you can work anywhere in Australia and the world, from a paddock, to the office to the science lab all in one day.

The agricultural industry has been at the forefront of adaptation and technological innovation, so it is quite an exciting industry to be apart of. Anyone considering a degree in business, finance or science should consider a career in agriculture. You could be the next face of agriculture in Australia.



Meet Luke Visser

Bachelor of Agriculture
University of Melbourne

Agronomist
Murray Goulburn Co
Operative Co.

Subjects studied in the VCE- English, Mathematical Methods, Specialist Mathematics, French, Chemistry, Outdoor Education and Environmental Studies.

Why did you want to study agriculture? I was pretty unsure exactly what I wanted to do. I had always worked on farms while I was at school and was always interested in the industry but I think the main thing was I didn't want an office job but still wanted to do something where I'd use my brain.

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What was your course like? I enjoyed the spread of practical and theory based work. However, one of the best things about the course was the small circle of people and therefore the social aspect.

What is your graduate position like? I work for Murray Goulburn Co-Operative Co. as an agronomist. I enjoy being out and about talking to farmers and helping them solve problems in their paddocks on a day-to-day basis and helping them to achieve their goals and improve productivity.

On a typical day, I visit a number of farmers to look at paddocks and find solutions to crop/pasture selection and weed/insect/disease identification. Basically my role is to try and get dairy farmers to grow as much grass as efficiently as possible to best achieve productivity.

Why should young people consider studying agriculture/agribusiness? The industry is growing short of younger people. There is an incredibly broad range of careers possible after graduating and there is a huge potential to swap and change between pathways. For example, within the company I work for alone there are Field Officers, Agronomists and Nutritionists and it's not uncommon to switch between.

After studying agriculture, you can go anywhere from big offices in the cities, to scientific research, to on-farm advisory roles to farm management itself. It is very important to think of the industry as being far greater than farming alone.

UPCOMING EVENTS

JUNE

- **25: High School Workshops**, JMC Academy, Melbourne, <http://bit.ly/1jYfuD9>
- **25: Open Day**, Endeavour College of Natural Health, <http://bit.ly/1qWRL93>
- **27: Science in the City**, RMIT, Melbourne, <http://bit.ly/1TFccBv>
- **28: Experience Australian Catholic University**, Ballarat campus, <http://bit.ly/1LKqIHV>
- **29 - 30: Career Discovery: Fashion and Textiles**, RMIT, <http://tinyurl.com/k8qazee>

UPCOMING EVENTS

Communications, <http://tinyurl.com/llo4tbx>

- **30: Year 10 Independence Day**, Monash University, <http://bit.ly/1XiYFn3>
- **30: Charles Sturt University MyDay**, Allied Health, Albury-Wodonga campus, <http://bit.ly/1O0rg6G>

JULY

- **2, 9: High School Workshops**, JMC Academy, Melbourne, <http://bit.ly/1jYfuD9>
- **2 – 3: Indigenous Leadership Excellence and Achievement Program (I-LEAP)**, University of Melbourne, <http://bit.ly/1Yn1WBj>
- **4 – 9: Victorian Indigenous Engineering Winter School**, University of Melbourne, <http://bit.ly/1r9c5oK>
- **4 – 8: Medical Laboratory Visits**, RMIT, Melbourne, <http://bit.ly/1RIzwwj>
- **4 – 9: Victorian Indigenous Engineering Winter School**, <http://bit.ly/1r9c5oK>
- **5: Experience Australian Catholic University**, Melbourne and Canberra campuses, <http://bit.ly/1LKqIHV>
- **5 - 7: Computer Games Boot Camp**, Monash University, Clayton, <https://cgbc.monash.edu/>
- **6, 7, 8: Experience La Trobe University**, Bendigo (6), Melbourne (7), Mildura (8), <http://bit.ly/1RIlhxz>
- **6: RMIT Experience Days: Property & Project Management and Design**, <http://tinyurl.com/llo4tbx>
- **20, 22, 23: Nursing and Midwifery Information Sessions**, Deakin University: Melbourne and Geelong (20, 23) and Warrnambool (22) campuses, <http://bit.ly/23zLBdN>
- **20, 27: Health Sciences Information Sessions**, Deakin University, Geelong (20), Melbourne (27), more information to come.