



**RAS NSW Ag Education**  
*Career opportunities in  
the agriculture sector*



Royal Agricultural Society of NSW

# Context

## Our Vision is for;

- A community that **understands and values sustainable Australian agriculture** and award-quality produce.

## Our Mission is to;

Forge the **future of agriculture** by;

- **Improving the quality** of agricultural produce and animal breeds through **competitions;**
- **Engaging, educating** and entertaining our community on the value of **sustainable agriculture and quality produce through events which support agricultural excellence and innovation.**



Royal Agricultural Society of NSW



## Phase 1 2022 - 2023

*To “normalise” Agriculture in all communities in NSW through school programs. To also support educators in their understanding / integration of Ag into NESA subjects.*

- Research has shown that most teenagers want to be ‘normal’ and that working in agriculture is considered ‘not normal’ (Youth Insight, 2017).
- Barber and Pratley (2016) showed that **35% of secondary students rank family / home** as their main source of agricultural encouragement/information, second only to **school / teacher**. Highlighting the need for a broader public facing education about Agriculture.



Royal Agricultural Society of NSW

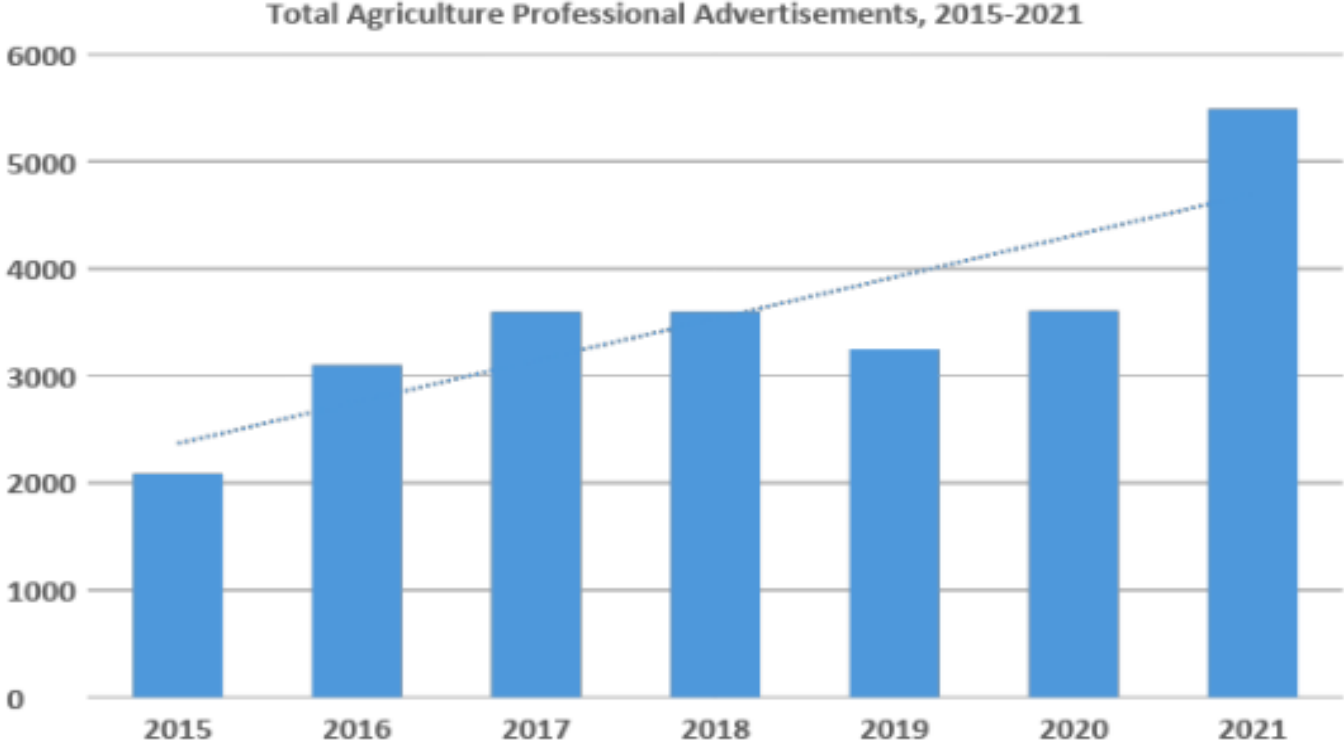


*What are the career opportunities in the agriculture sector?*



# A steady increase...however...

## Job adverts in agriculture 2015-2021



>52% increase  
in 2021

(PRATLEY, 2021)

# Current school context

- Australia has experienced a drop of 40% in students completing the Agriculture NSW HSC course between 1990 - 2018.
- NSW account for 32% of the Australian population, it accounts for 58% of Year 12 Agriculture Graduates (Randall, 2019).
- The biggest reason for students joining the agriculture sector is an 'agriculture background and family influence' (Barber, 2015). Considering 90% of Australians live in Urban areas, the lack of this background and family knowledge of agriculture poses a risk to the future of the agriculture sector.



# Supply and demand discussion with our students....



**4115** ADVERTS AND  
INCREASING



**1133** IN CITIES  
**2982** IN REGIONS



**<1000** GRADUATES

## Summary – Agribusiness jobs, 2021

**4115** adverts

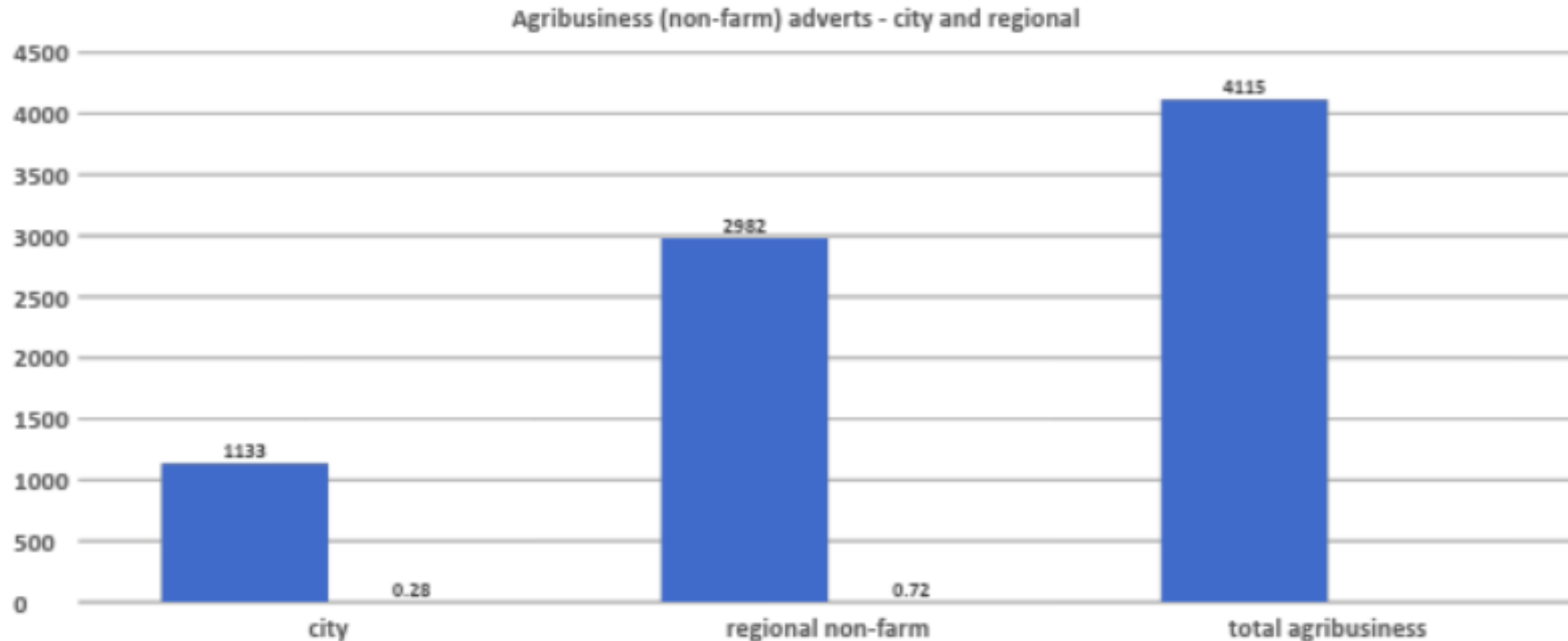
**1133** in cities

**2982** in regions

(PRATLEY, 2021)

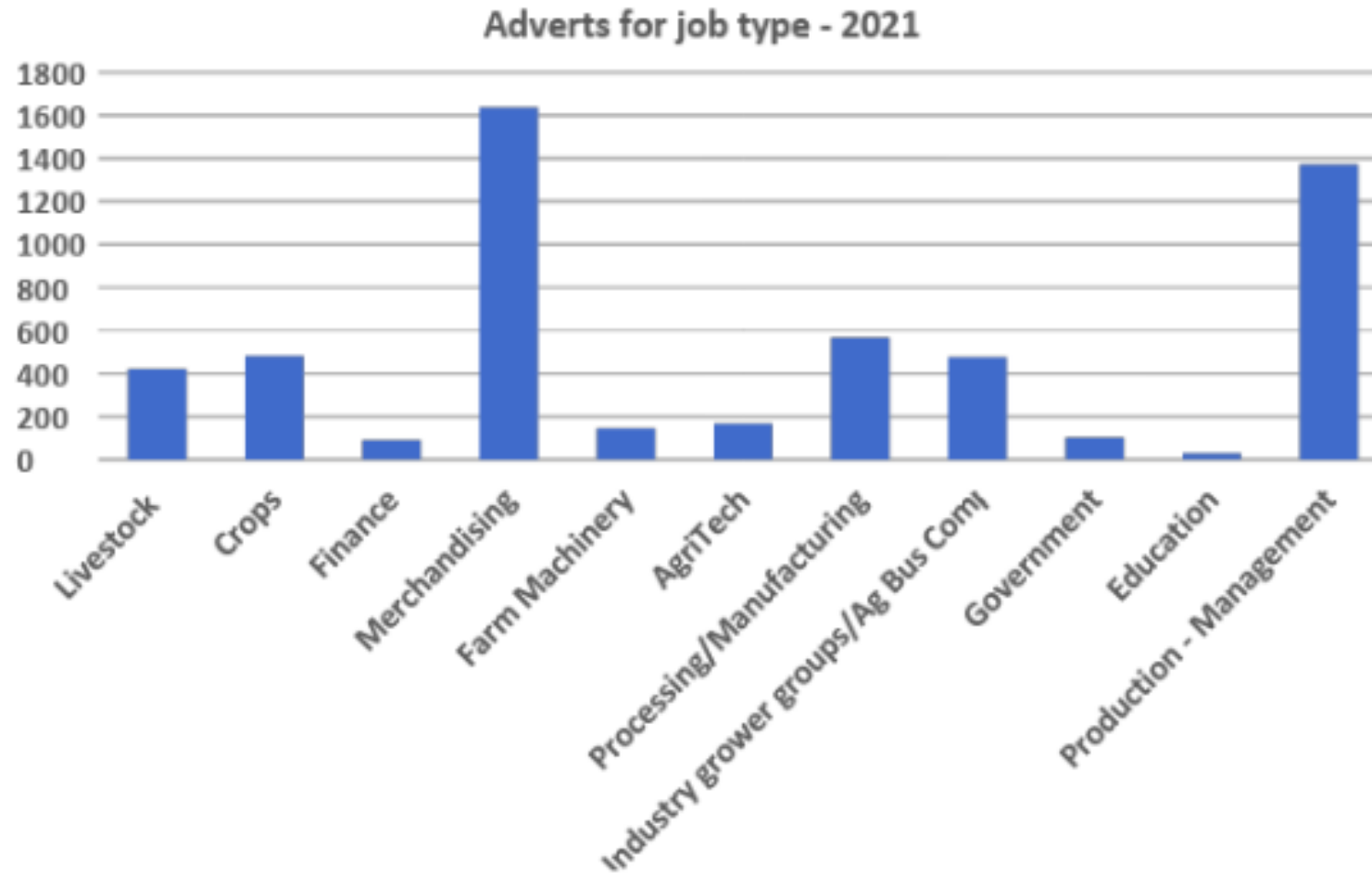
# Urban and Rural placement

## Agribusiness job adverts: city v regional non-farm

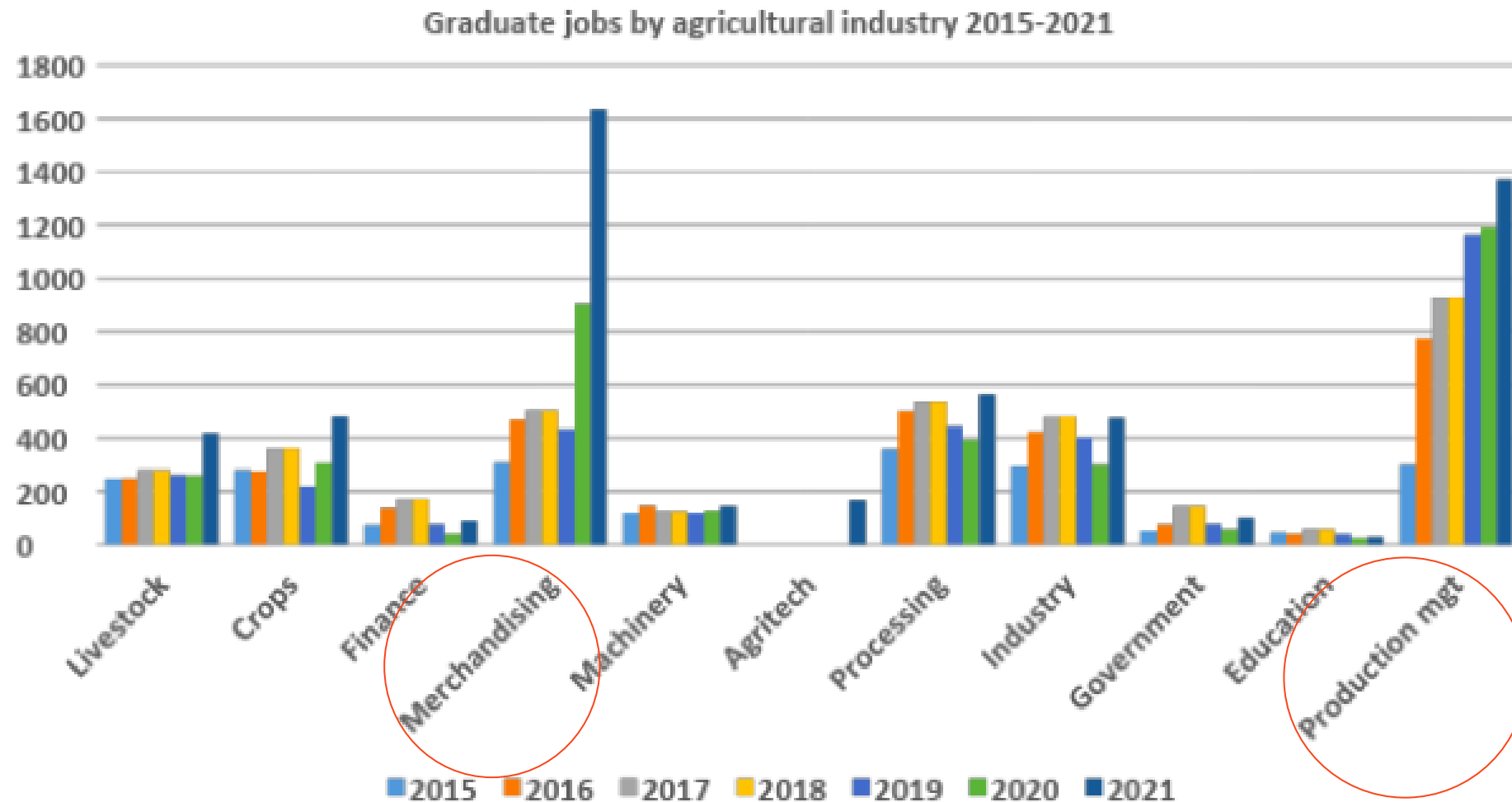




# Graduate jobs by agricultural industry, 2021



# Graduate jobs by agricultural industry, 2015-2021



*How do we guide students  
to career opportunities in  
the agriculture sector?*



# RAS Ag Innovation in Schools Award:



outbackmag.com.au/category/education/



## Acclaim for school's wheat feat

May 16th, 2023 | Categories: [Education](#), [Stories](#) | Tags: [Issue #149...](#)

Hermidale Public School's 85ha wheat-growing feat sees it wi...

[Read More >](#)





# Farm Days

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Royal Agricultural Society of NSW 2022-23



Royal Agricultural Society of NSW



## Circle what you are giving feedback on

Tell us how the day was to help us improve Farm Days!  
Place a  that shows where you are at the moment understanding this topic.

### KEY:



Still do not understand yet



I understand with some extra help



It improved my understanding and now confidently work by myself



I now understand and could explain it others

Comments:

WANT to

be a

beef

farmer



Dairy



Fibre



Animal Nursery



Honey & Pollination



Meat & Livestock

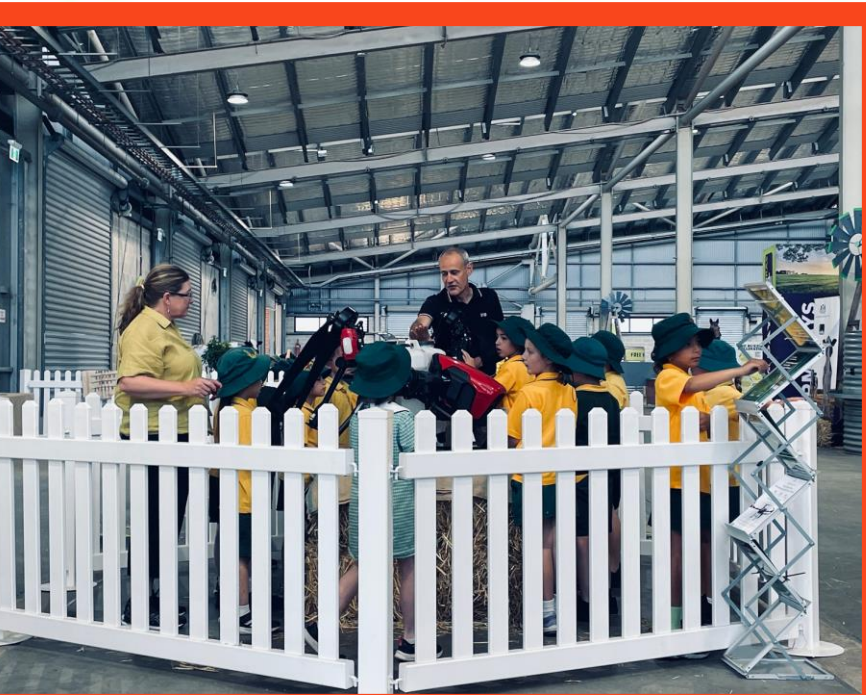


Farm Day Overall

*"Thank you for a hands-on day that allowed for our students to have a true deeper understanding of Agriculture and the critical role it plays in their lives"*

**Year 5 Teacher**





Circle  
giv

improve Farm Days!  
Understanding this topic.

Comments:

I really enjoyed the  
ag tech and I hope  
one day I could fly  
one ✓



I understand with some extra help



It improved my understanding and  
now confidently work by myself



I now understand and could  
explain it others



Animal Nursery



Honey &  
Pollination



Ag Tech



Farm Day Overall

Rural Agricultural System of NSW





# AG in a BOX

Royal Agricultural Society of NSW 2022



Royal Agricultural Society of NSW




Royal Agricultural Society of NSW

# Ag in a Box

Perfect Pollination  
Stage 3  
Teacher Resource

Royal Agricultural Society of NSW  
Sydney Showground  
Sydney Olympic Park  
www.rasnsw.com.au






Royal Agricultural Society of NSW

*Ag in a Box*

Mushroom  
Madness  
Stage 3  
Teacher Resource

Royal Agricultural Society of NSW  
Sydney Showground  
Sydney Olympic Park  
www.rasnsw.com.au





Royal Agricultural Society of NSW

*Ag in a Box*

Tomato Time  
Stage 3  
Teacher Resource


Royal Agricultural Society of NSW  
Sydney Showground  
Sydney Olympic Park  
www.rasnsw.com.au

Royal Agricultural Society of NSW

*Ag in a Box*

Mushroom  
Madness  
Stage 4  
Teacher Resource

Royal Agricultural Society of NSW

*Ag in a Box*

Tomato Time  
Stage 4  
Teacher Resource

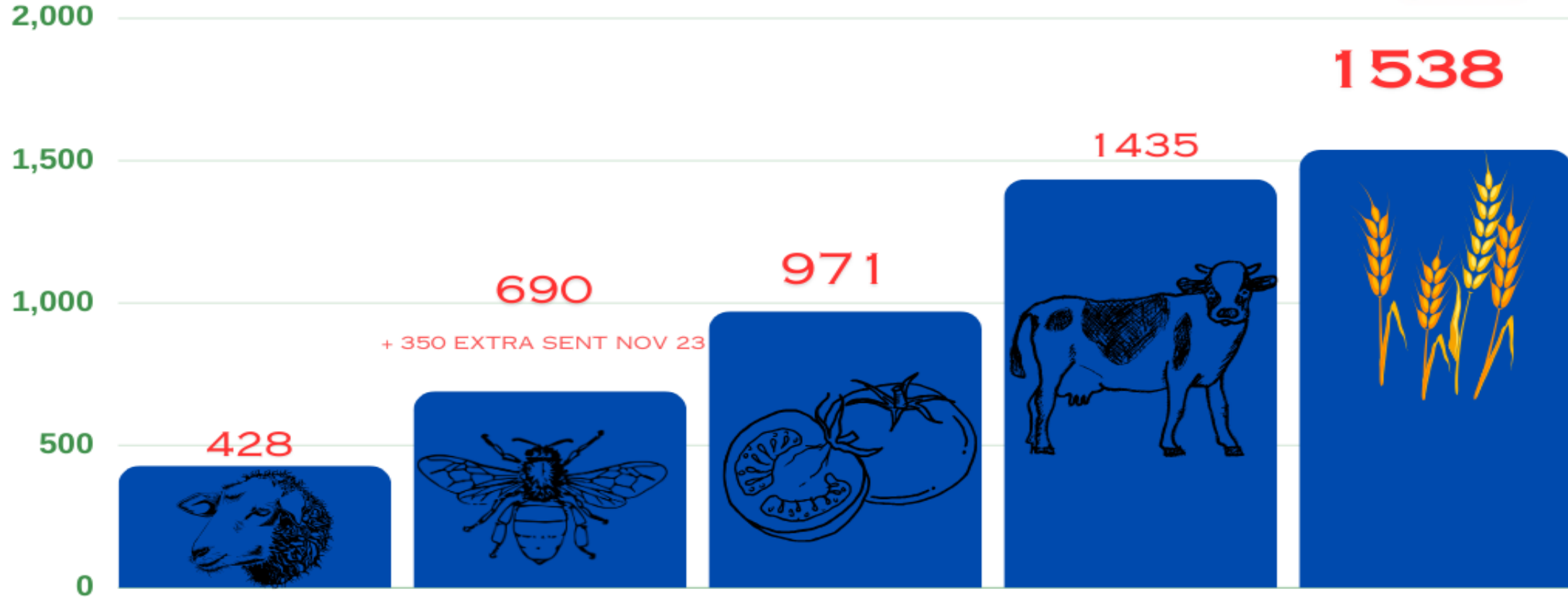


# Ag in a Box

Total of 5 412



**1538 x**  
*approx 50*  
*students.*



*= 77 000*  
*students*

Box 1 Wicked Wool

Box 2 Perfect Pollination

Box 3 Healthy Horticulture

Box 4 Delicious Dairy

Box 5 Golden Grains



The booklet cover features a woman in a white lab coat smiling while holding a glowing digital interface. The interface displays various agricultural icons: a plant, a water drop, a pH level, and a leaf. The background of the cover is a greenhouse filled with green plants.

 **AgVision**

Wednesday 28th June 2023  
SYDNEY SHOWGROUND  
SYDNEY OLYMPIC PARK

AG Vision 2023 Presenter Booklet

  
Royal Agricultural Society of NSW



 **Ag Vision**  
CULTIVATING CAREERS IN AGRICULTURE



## Communications - Building networks with people Agriculture

**Brooke Cowan** *Industry Liaison Officer – Sheep & Goat Traceability*

**Company** NSW Department of Primary Industries

**Job Description** Working across all sectors of the sheep and goat industries including processors, saleyards and producers, to assist them with the implementation of electronic identification on their property.

**Qualification** Bachelor of Animal Science. Master of Teaching (Secondary). Post Graduate Certificate in Agriculture majoring in Sheep & Wool Production. Cert II in Agriculture & Horticulture. Cert IV in Training and Assessment.

**Where Can Your Industry Take You** There are endless employment opportunities in primary industries regardless of your qualifications and experience. Likewise a successful background working in the primary industries sector can lead to many other exciting and unexpected career pathways.



## Cotton - Careers in Cotton

**Jenny Hughes** *Education Manager*

**Company** Cotton Australia

**Job Description** I work with all educators to provide resources, excursions, and incursions to support teachers and students' knowledge and understanding of the Australia Cotton Industry with an aim to inspire our next generation workforce and responsible consumers of natural fibres. I also take the lead for our educational displays at Easter Show and Brisbane's EKKA, manage our scholarship programs and education partnerships.

**Qualification** Bachelor of Education (Primary).

**Where Can Your Industry Take You** The Australian cotton industry offers employment in a vast array of skilled and unskilled areas of the agribusiness sector. Career opportunities include, but are not limited to agronomist, journalist, market analyst, machinery operator, irrigation manager, educator or researcher.

**Quote of Advice** *Work in an industry that you are passionate about. Be enthusiastic and empathetic.*



## Cropping - Molecular Biology

**Josie Clark** *PhD Candidate, molecular biologist, agronomist – gene editing in cereal crops*

**Company** Founder & CEO Ability Agriculture Foundation Ltd

**Job Description** Bachelor of Science Hons Class I: GAICD, PhD Candidate, CEO, NGIN Ambassador, NSW ACT 2022 Rural Woman of the Year.

**Qualification** PhD Candidate Gene editing for sustainable agriculture: gene editing cereal crops for greater chloride tolerance & nitrogen use efficiency.

**Where Can Your Industry Take You** To Mexico! Literally! I've had a lot of fun getting to travel across the world & collaborating with other scientists across agricultural science from large scale cropping to research into agriculture in developing countries. My next destinations are China in July to collaborate with a lab over there gene editing rice & to Tanzania in September to attend the Global Food Forum.

**Quote of Advice** *Don't be afraid to challenge yourself even if it may be outside of your comfort zone. Work experience was one of the best things I did to realise I enjoyed working in agriculture.*



## Edible Insects

**Skye Blackburn** *Founder & CEO*

**Company** Founder & CEO

**Job Description** Being the founder of my company means I have very varied jobs within my company. From developing new food products, to running educational workshops, developing robotics and AI to help in our farm. No day is ever the same.

**Qualification** Food Science and Entomology.

**Where Can Your Industry Take You** Insect protein farming is a new industry but is growing rapidly, so you will see lots of new and exciting jobs being created just for insect protein farming.



# Exploring New Opportunities

“Excellent event which inspired students, giving them a perspective on future employment direction”

Teacher Attendee  
AgVision



“My students came back to school feeling very positive about careers in Ag. This was really encouraging for me as a teacher!”

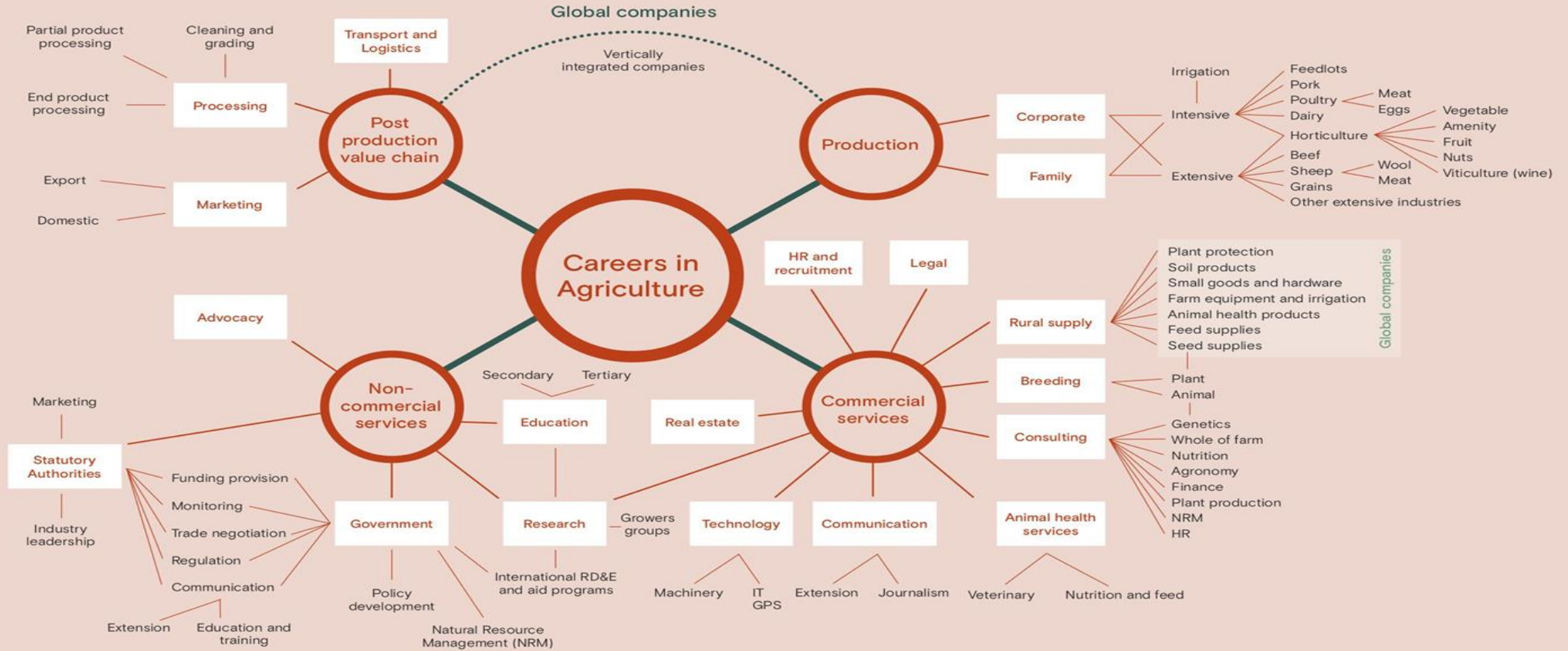
Teacher Attendee  
AgVision

# Change the perception.....

Focus on Agriculture



# Careers in Agriculture




# 1) Work Placements

**Spinifex Recruiting** can help you find that amazing gap year or start your career opportunity

|                          |                               |                            |                               |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Leadership opportunities | Machinery Operators           | Station Hands / Farm Hands | Pen Riders                    |
| Admin / Office           | Feedlot / Livestock Positions | Grain Handler              | Junior Stock & Station Agents |

We place candidates across Australia



**Contact us**

Anna 0427 644 527 [anna.b@spinifexrecruiting.com.au](mailto:anna.b@spinifexrecruiting.com.au)

Claudia 0407 900 886 [claudia.j@spinifexrecruiting.com.au](mailto:claudia.j@spinifexrecruiting.com.au)

Your pathway into the Ag Industry

**Spinifex**  
Recruiting  
in Agriculture



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- Station Hands
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# 1) Work Placements cntd

**AG CAREER START**  
LEARN. GROW. FARM.



## FOSTERING TOMORROW'S FARMERS

AgCAREERSTART is a future-focused industry program that engages with the next generation of agricultural workers. It is a great opportunity for the industry to attract a new cohort of young Australians to experience farm life and all it has to offer as a career pathway.

Over 10 – 12 months, you will provide an on-farm job for a school leaver, or young Australian under 25. In your role as host, you will encourage your employee to become immersed in the local community and gain an appreciation of the opportunities within the agriculture sector.

As part of the program, the participants receive a \$4,500 Training and Engagement Bursary to complete industry training of their choice, attend industry events, and a dedicated support team will assist in their transition to farm and their future career prospects.

Host farmers must have a focus on HR and safety and be committed to offering a positive and rewarding experience for a young Australian. All host farms will receive a \$2,000 per participant Farm Safety Incentive payment from AgCAREERSTART.

**APPLICATIONS NOW OPEN!**

(Applications for 2024 close 15th October, 2023)

### TO BE A PART OF THE PROGRAM YOU MUST:

- Be able to offer a safe and positive experience for a young Australian
- Have the capacity to teach and support someone who might have limited experience in agriculture
- Be able to offer full-time paid employment for a period of 10 – 12 months in 2024\*
- Offer flexibility to your participant so they can undertake training and attend industry events
- Provide accommodation, or assist in finding accommodation off farm

\*Participants must be paid at – or above – award wages. All host farms must provide a signed employment

**AG CAREER START**  
LEARN. GROW. FARM.



# THE GAP YEAR WITH A DIFFERENCE.

LEARN ALL ABOUT THE AgCAREERSTART 10-12 MONTH GAP YEAR PROGRAM AND HOW IT CAN SET YOU ON THE PATH TO A CAREER IN AGRICULTURE.



**APPLICATIONS CLOSE OCTOBER 15, 2023**

Scan the QR code to find out more.



### FORESTRY FARM

Enjoy being surrounded by nature? Like the idea of working in a forest environment? Have you thought about a forestry career? Did you know that timber is a truly renewable resource? Australia's managed forestry plantations store over 12 billion tonnes of carbon.

How have previous participants spent their Training and Engagement Bursary?

- Aerial courses
- Chainsaw courses
- Chemical Handling Certificate
- Tractor Operations course
- Special Machinery Operations course
- Attending events such as National Landcare Conference, Safety Conferences and other off-site discussion days

Where can a career in forestry take you?

- Forest Manager
- Wood Buyer
- Sawyer
- Production Manager
- Forestry Executive Officer

### A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A FORESTRY WORKER:

**APPLICATIONS CLOSE OCTOBER 15, 2023**

7:00am Alarm goes off - coffee and breakfast.

8:00am All staff meeting to discuss safety and assign the day's tasks.

8:30am Walk the forest to mark out and measure trees, clear vegetation, and help with pruning.

12:30pm Lunch time.

1:30pm Off to the nursery to fill pots and help with planting seedlings.

2:30pm Time to test those computer skills with data entry and mapping for tomorrow's tree marking.

4:30pm Day is done.

Want to find out more? VISIT THE WEBSITE!

### AQUACULTURE FARM

Do you enjoy being by the water? Fascinated about sustainability and the marine environment? Maybe a career in aquaculture is for you. Aquaculture involves the breeding, raising and harvesting of seafood, fish and aquatic plants.

How have past participants spent their Training and Engagement Bursary?

- Boat licence training
- Advanced fishing course
- Internship/training
- Attending events such as National Seafood Conference, discussion days, field trips, networking courses

Where could a career in aquaculture take you?

- Hatchery Manager
- Water Quality Supervisor
- Fish Health Manager
- Marine Executive Officer
- Logistics Manager

# 2) Graduate Programs (Rabo Bank)

## Rabo Graduate Program

- ✓ Create a meaningful career path with a global agri leader
- ✓ Opportunities for regional and international travel
- ✓ Offering career development with support for you to grow
- ✓ Be part of our inclusive and flexible work culture



## Rabo Graduate Program



## Rabo Graduate Program



Applications Open in July Each Year

<https://www.rabobank.com.au/careers/graduate-program/>

[graduates.au@rabobank.com](mailto:graduates.au@rabobank.com)

## 2) Graduate Programs (Regional and Agribusiness Banking at CommBank)



### Our Graduate, Intern and Analyst Programs

Join our Talent Community

**Applications for our 2024 Graduate Program are now open and close at 11:55pm (Syd/Melb time) on 26 April 2023. For all successful candidates the program will start in February 2024.**



### ***Regional and Agribusiness Banking at CommBank is Australia wide outside the capital cities.***

- The Grad program is for 15 months and consists of 3 core rotations (6 month, 3 month, 3 month) and the choice of either a final 3 month rotation or to roll off into a permanent role at 12 months.
- Grads and interns have a dedicated Program Manager and coordinator (who looks after all Business Banking grads and their learning) as well as a dedicated Group Wide Graduate learning team who bring the grads together for 3 conferences throughout the first 12 months and run monthly development workshops. They will also have a grad buddy, someone who has completed the program before them and can help to answer their questions with firsthand knowledge of the program.
- CBA look for grads who are passionate about regional communities and the economic success of rural Australia. Connection to community is a must! You don't have to have grown up in the country, but you do need to have an understanding of the unique issues faced by customers on the land or with their core business outside of capital cities.

National code: AHC30116

## Certificate III in Agriculture

Ask a question

Find a location to enrol



# 3) VET options.....

## Course outcomes

Gain practical experience and develop specialist skills that give you an advantage in the job market.

- Experience in using the latest farming technology and equipment
- Exposure to shearing sheds, livestock and machinery (depending on your campus location)
- A broad understanding of multiple farming disciplines
- A strong pathway to further agriculture study



# Undergraduate Certificate in Agricultural Studies

...y v regional



## 4) Undergraduate Certificates

### Course highlights

✓ **Step into uni study**

You can apply for entry to the Undergraduate Certificate in Agricultural Studies with a high school certificate, a Certificate III (or higher), a Tertiary Preparation Certificate or relevant work experience.

✓ **Take the first step to your bachelor's degree**

The course provides a pathway into the [Associate Degree in Farm Production](#), the [Bachelor of Agricultural Science](#), the [Bachelor of Agriculture](#) or the [Bachelor of Agricultural Business Management](#). You study four subjects from those degrees – so when you transition into one of them, you'll receive credit for the subjects you've already completed in your certificate.

# 5) Tertiary

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## The University of Sydney Institute of Agriculture

[About](#)   [Our research](#)   [Outreach and engagement](#)   [News](#)

2 in Australia  
and 32 in  
world

Our agricultural science  
rankings success

### Undergraduate courses

[Bachelor of Science / Bachelor of Advanced Studies  
\(Agriculture\)](#)

[Bachelor of Science / Bachelor of Advanced Studies  
\(Food and Agribusiness\)](#)

### Postgraduate coursework

[Master of Agriculture and Environment](#)

[Graduate Diploma in Agriculture and Environment](#)

[Graduate Certificate in Agriculture and Environment](#)

### Postgraduate research

[Doctor of Philosophy \(Science\) \(PhD\)](#)

[Master of Philosophy \(Science\) \(MPhil\)](#)



# 5) Tertiary continued

## Study at UNE

- Study at UNE
- Bespoke courses
- Faculty of Science, Agriculture, Business and Law
- Environmental & Rural Science Study Areas
- Business & Finance Study Areas
- Health Study Areas
- Law & Criminology Study Areas
- Science & Technology Study Areas
- Bachelor of Agribusiness
- Bachelor of Agricultural and Resource Economics
- Bachelor of Agriculture
- Bachelor of Agriculture Bachelor of Business
- Bachelor of Agriculture Bachelor of Laws
- Bachelor of Animal Science
- Bachelor of Arts
- Bachelor of Arts Bachelor of Business
- Bachelor of Arts Bachelor of Science
- Bachelor of Biomedical Science
- Bachelor of Clinical Exercise Physiology
- Bachelor of Community Services
- Bachelor of Education Secondary Stem
- Bachelor of Environmental Science
- Bachelor of Environmental Science Bachelor of Laws
- Bachelor of Exercise and Sports Science
- Bachelor of Geoscience
- Bachelor of Medical Science and Doctor of Medicine
- Bachelor of Nursing
- Bachelor of Pharmacy with Honours
- Bachelor of Psychological Science
- Bachelor of Science
- Bachelor of Science Bachelor of Laws
- Bachelor of Scientific Studies
- Bachelor of Social Work
- Bachelor of Sustainability
- Bachelor of Zoology
- Diploma in Agricultural Studies
- Diploma in Community Welfare and Wellbeing
- Diploma in Science
- Undergraduate Certificate in Arts
- Undergraduate Certificate in Agricultural Studies
- Undergraduate Certificate in Animal Studies
- Undergraduate Certificate in Cotton Production
- Undergraduate Certificate in Environmental Studies
- Undergraduate Certificate in Health and Social Care
- Undergraduate Certificate in Life and Earth Studies
- Undergraduate Certificate in Professional Development
- Undergraduate Certificate in Youth and Community Work

**une**  
University of  
New England

Future fit **your life**

# Questions?



**DUNCAN KENDALL**  
Head of Education



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