



GROW YOUR *Future*

DISCOVER THE **CAREERS** SHAPING
THE FUTURE OF AGRICULTURE IN FNQ



SUSTAINABILITY ∴ INNOVATION ∴ OPPORTUNITY ∴ TECHNOLOGY ∴ COMMUNITY



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DISCLAIMER: This publication has been developed to provide general information about career opportunities within the agriculture industry in Far North Queensland. While every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of information at the time of publication, details relating to courses, qualifications, career pathways, job titles and industry requirements may change over time. Readers are encouraged to seek up-to-date information directly from education providers, industry bodies and employers. The study pathways and career examples included in this publication are not exhaustive and are intended as an insight guide only. Employment outcomes may vary depending on individual circumstances, qualifications, experience and industry demand. Profiles and quotes featured throughout this publication reflect individual experiences and opinions and may not represent all career pathways or outcomes. Images have been used with permission and are for illustrative purposes only. The inclusion of organisations, training providers or external links does not constitute endorsement.

your FUTURE STARTS HERE

THIS BOOK WILL SHOW YOU WHAT'S POSSIBLE

- ✓ The careers
- ✓ The pathways
- ✓ The real people working in the industry
- ✓ The stories behind how they got there and what their day-to-day life actually looks like
- ✓ Why FNQ is the place to live and build your career

BUT MORE IMPORTANTLY, IT WILL SHOW YOU THAT

- > *You* don't have to have it all figured out
- > *You* don't have to follow a straight path

“
Because agriculture isn't just an industry you enter – it's one you grow in

JOIN THE CHANGE.

why FAR NORTH QLD

Far North Queensland is one of the most diverse regions in Australia.

From tropical horticulture, aquaculture, sugarcane, livestock and broadacre crops, the region produces food for local and global markets. It offers not just career opportunities, but a lifestyle – one connected to land, culture, community and environment.

It also offers a lifestyle that's hard to beat with a tropical climate and outdoor living year-round, easy access to beaches, rainforest, the outback and waterfalls, plus a relaxed pace of life with less commute stress than major cities.

Home to iconic places like The Great Barrier Reef and Daintree Rainforest, the region offers a lifestyle many people move here specifically to enjoy.

There is community and connection with welcoming regional towns and adventure on your doorstep – reef trips, camping and fishing, hiking and swimming, eating out and so much more – why would you want to live and work anywhere else.

“

IT'S WHERE...

Innovation meets tradition.

Challenges drive progress.

Your work can make a visible difference. And adventure is in your backyard!



DIVERSE INDUSTRIES



LIFESTYLE



RICH ENVIRONMENT



GLOBAL CONNECTIONS



IT'S A PLACE TO LIVE. WORK. PLAY.

why AGRICULTURE

Agriculture is changing – faster than it ever has before

The way we grow food, manage land, protect water and care for animals is evolving. Technology is advancing. Climate and seasons are shifting. Communities, markets and expectations are changing, and with that change comes opportunity.

Because agriculture today is not what it once was

It is an industry of scientists, engineers, business leaders, environmental stewards, technicians and innovators.

It's about working with the environment – not from it.
It's about producing healthy food while ensuring the land, water and ecosystems it depends on continue to thrive.

And right now, the industry needs new thinking

A PLACE FOR FRESH IDEAS

The next 5-10 years will shape the future of agriculture

The industry needs people who are curious. People who care, people who are willing to question, improve, adapt and lead. Whether that is developing new crop varieties, improving animal welfare, designing smarter systems, building stronger businesses or protecting our cultural resources – there is a place for you in the industry.

**Because agriculture isn't just about food, it's about...
sustainability, innovation, technology, people,
and the future of how we live.**



Feeding a growing world with safe, healthy and sustainable food



Driving innovation through technology, research and smart solutions



Protecting and improving our environment for future generations



Creating jobs, strengthening communities and building economies

YOUR OPPORTUNITIES ARE ENDLESS.

find YOUR PLACE

Whether you love the outdoors, technology, animals, science, business or helping people – there's a place for you in agriculture.

**DIVERSE PEOPLE.
DIVERSE SKILLS.
ONE INDUSTRY.
COUNTLESS OPPORTUNITIES.**



its more THAN JUST A JOB

A career in agriculture can take you further than you expect.

It can challenge you, ground you and connect you to something bigger than yourself.

**IT'S AN INDUSTRY BUILT ON
REAL PEOPLE.
REAL WORK.
REAL IMPACT.**

✓ HANDS ON OR HIGH TECH

✓ OUTDOORS OR LAB BASED

✓ ON FARM, IN BUSINESS, RESEARCH, POLICY

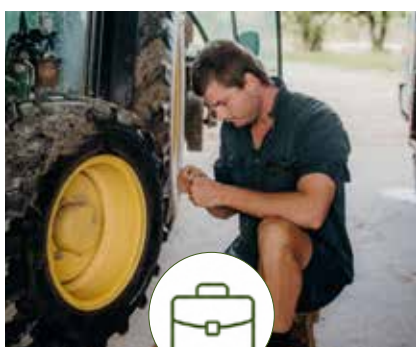
your **PATHWAY**

“There are many ways to build your career in agriculture. Where you start doesn't limit where you can go!”



ON THE LAND

Start with hands-on experience and grow your skills in the field



APPRENTICESHIPS

Earn while you learn and build real world experience



UNIVERSITY

Dive deeper into science, technology, business and more



TAFE & VOCATIONAL

Practical, hands-on training to kickstart your career



SPECIALISED CAREERS

From ag-tech to policy, research and more – possibilities are endless

**EVERY PATH HAS POTENTIAL.
WHERE WILL YOURS TAKE YOU?**

YOUR JOURNEY. YOUR WAY.

AGRICULTURE, ENVIRONMENT & SCIENCE

Immerse yourself into the science behind farming, sustainability and the environment shaping our future

“

From advanced laboratory analysis to data-driven decision making in the field, it's a highly skilled and forward-thinking industry with a wide range of career pathways

– Gerhard

STUDY PATHWAYS

BACHELOR DEGREES

- Bachelor of Agricultural Science
- Bachelor of Environmental Science
- Bachelor of Veterinary Science
- Bachelor of Agriculture
- Bachelor of Environmental Management
- Bachelor of Veterinary Technology
- Bachelor of Agricultural Technology & Management
- Bachelor of Sustainability
- Bachelor of Biomedical Science
- Bachelor of Animal Science
- Bachelor of Marine Science
- Bachelor of Biotechnology
- Bachelor of Science
- Bachelor of Geoscience

DIPLOMAS & CERTIFICATES

- Diploma of Agriculture
- Certificate II–IV in Agriculture
- Certificate III in Agricultural Mechanical Technology
- Diploma of Science
- Diploma of Agribusiness Management
- Certificate III in Horticulture
- Certificate IV in Laboratory Techniques
- Diploma of Conservation & Ecosystem Management
- Certificate III in Nursery Operations
- Agricultural Chemical Skill Set
- Certificate III in Rural Operations
- Certificate II in Aquaculture
- Diploma of Animal Ecology
- Certificate III in Production Horticulture
- Diploma of Science & Technology
- Certificate IV in Pest Management

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Careers in agriculture, environment and science focus on understanding and improving how plants, animals and ecosystems function - combining fieldwork, laboratory science and data-driven decision making to support sustainable food production.

Careers in this space can include:

- Agronomist
- Horticulturist
- Crop or Soil Scientist
- Plant Pathologist
- Animal Scientist
- Veterinarian
- Environmental Scientist
- Sustainability Officer
- Research Scientist
- Laboratory Manager
- Biosecurity Officer
- Quality Coordinator

These roles exist across a range of agricultural industries including horticulture, livestock, dairy, sugarcane, aquaculture and broadacre farming.



MEET RYAN

VETERINARIAN

CENTRAL VETS
Far North Queensland

TRAINING Bachelor of Veterinary Science

PATHWAY Worked on cattle stations → Studied Vet Science → Moved back to FNQ as a vet

BEST PART OF THE JOB Always working with different people and places

BEST THING ABOUT FNQ Strong community, diverse work, and the chance to work across remote and regional areas

RYAN didn't always have a clear plan. He found school challenging and wasn't sure what he wanted to do after graduating, so he headed out to work on cattle stations.

It was there, seeing vets working in remote areas, that sparked his interest in the career. Deciding to give it a go, he studied veterinary science at university, and hasn't looked back since.

Now working as a vet in Far North Queensland, Ryan's days are full of variety, from treating cattle on remote stations to working with horses and small animals.

His journey shows that you don't have to have it all figured out at school. Simply following your interests and giving things a go can lead to an incredibly rewarding career.

“ I don't think there's ever been a better time to try and get involved in ag cause there's jobs everywhere, there's opportunities everywhere, and there's proper careers to get out of it

WATCH
RYAN'S
STORY



MEET YING

LABORATORY MANAGER

LECKER FARMING Mareeba, Far North Queensland

TRAINING Bachelor of Science in Agriculture (Horticulture minor, Landscape Design major)

PATHWAY Studied Agriculture → Hands-on experience, including own business → Career in nursery and laboratory work in Australia

BEST PART OF THE JOB Healthy workplace culture and seeing the results of your work directly in the field

BEST THING ABOUT FNQ Diverse agriculture, multicultural community, and the chance to work on innovative projects in a beautiful environment

YING'S career in horticulture has been shaped by a wide range of experiences that blend practical work with scientific expertise.

After studying Science in Agriculture in Thailand, she gained hands-on experience in multiple roles, including managing her own landscaping business and working on various farms.

These early experiences gave her a strong foundation in plant care, soil management, and problem-solving, preparing her for more advanced scientific work in agriculture.

Since moving to Australia, Ying has applied this mix of practical and technical knowledge to her role on a working papaya farm. She manages a lab where every task, from preparing tissue cultures to running DNA tests, requires precision, focus, and a deep understanding of plant biology.

Her work is at the cutting edge of papaya seedling production. She collaborates with government and university researchers to develop PCR methods for determining seedling sex. This innovation saves growers time, reduces costs, and ensures strong, healthy plants.

Ying's day-to-day work is varied and challenging. She coordinates her team, monitors plant health, and tests new techniques, always balancing practical solutions with scientific rigor. She finds satisfaction in seeing her work translate from the lab to the field, knowing that it directly supports farmers and contributes to food production.

Through her career, Ying demonstrates how diverse experiences in horticulture can build expertise and open opportunities.

Her story highlights how passion, curiosity, and practical skills combine to create a rewarding and impactful career, where science and technology meet the real-world needs of growers and the communities they serve.



“Agriculture is more than tractors and the sun, you can work in science, genetics, engineering, and business

WATCH
YING'S
STORY



“

We're looking at AI technology to detect disease pressure in paddocks, but also technology for operational jobs like robots called burrows for taking fruit from the field to the chariots to pack, and then those same tools to mow as well



WATCH LOUISE'S STORY  

MEET LOUISE

PEST AND DISEASE HORTICULTURIST

COSTA BERRIES
Atherton Tablelands,
Far North Queensland

TRAINING Bachelor of Agricultural Science

PATHWAY Gap year → Studied agriculture → Moved to FNQ with Costa Graduate Program

BEST PART OF THE JOB Working with people and seeing teams collaborate to grow high-quality crops

BEST THING ABOUT FNQ The diversity of crops and agriculture, friendly communities, and unique lifestyle opportunities

AFTER finishing high school, Louise wasn't sure what career path to take.

Growing up around agriculture gave her some exposure, but she didn't know exactly where in the industry she wanted to go.

She planned to take a gap year and travel overseas, but COVID-19 disrupted those plans. Instead, she began studying online and discovered a passion for agriculture.

She transferred to the University of Queensland at Gatton to study agricultural science, choosing horticulture as her major after noticing there were very few students nor women in the field.

During her final year, Louise applied for a range of opportunities and was accepted into the Costa Graduate Program. Graduate programs are a fantastic way to gain exposure, travel to different farming locations, and learn about different areas of the industry.

Through the program, she

rotated across crops and met other graduates, gaining hands-on experience in irrigation, nutrition, pest management, and integrated pest management (IPM).

When offered a role in FNQ, she was drawn to the region's diverse agriculture, the country lifestyle, and the welcoming, close-knit community.

She loved the idea of living and working in a place where she could see the direct impact of her work on crops and people.

Now, as a Pest and Disease Horticulturalist in FNQ, Louise balances office work and fieldwork, monitoring crops, managing chemical applications, and implementing innovative IPM strategies.

Her journey shows that it's okay not to know exactly what you want to do at first, and that being curious, flexible, and open to opportunities, especially graduate programs, can open doors for long successful and rewarding careers in the industry.

MEET DANIEL

BIOSECURITY OFFICER

BIOSECURITY QUEENSLAND Cape York, Far North Queensland

TRAINING Bachelor of Science (Ecology & Plant Science), Honours and postgraduate research

PATHWAY Left school in Year 10 → Travelled and worked in wildlife conservation overseas → Studied science → progressed into biosecurity career

BEST PART OF THE JOB Variety in the role, working outdoors, and building a strong connection to where food comes from

BEST THING ABOUT FNQ Food festivals and gigs, and lots of hidden natural wonders



Job stability in biosecurity will only increase with time. We need to ensure our food systems are secure, because we're going to have more mouths to feed with greater challenges

DANIEL'S journey into biosecurity is anything but conventional. He left school in Year 10 and spent years travelling the world, gaining hands-on experience that would later shape his career.

One of his most memorable roles was working at an animal rescue and conservation centre in Namibia, Africa, where he progressed as far as he could without formal tertiary education.

When he returned to Australia, Daniel sought the quickest route into university to study science, originally hoping to continue working with large mammals in conservation.

During his Bachelor of Science, however, he discovered a passion for fungi, bacteria, plants, and their interactions with insects. He completed his degree majoring in Ecology and Plant Science, followed by an honours year exploring agriculture through a large rice-farming project in northwest Cambodia. Even when COVID-19 disrupted fieldwork, he pivoted to social science research, designing interventions for safe pesticide use among farmers.



WATCH DANIEL'S STORY  

This combination of practical experience, science, and problem-solving helped Daniel springboard into biosecurity. He started as an entry-level surveillance officer in Cairns with Biosecurity Queensland, eventually relocating to Mareeba.

Today, his role is all about protecting Australia's agriculture from pests, diseases, and chemical risks. He conducts farm audits, monitors crops using insect traps and visual inspections, investigates spray drift or chemical residue issues, and responds to emergency biosecurity threats.

The job combines science, compliance, and communication, requiring him to work closely with farmers to ensure produce can safely move across borders and markets.

Daniel's story shows there isn't one path into biosecurity. Curiosity, adaptability, and hands-on experience can be just as important as formal qualifications.

For students considering science or agriculture, his advice is clear: explore every opportunity, embrace variety, and carve your own unique pathway.



MEET GERHARD

SENIOR HORTICULTURIST

QUEENSLAND DEPARTMENT OF PRIMARY INDUSTRIES
Mareeba, Far North Queensland

TRAINING Bachelor of Science in Agriculture (Viticulture & Oenology), Master's in Plant Physiology, PhD in Plant Physiology

PATHWAY PhD → University lecturer and researcher → Senior Horticulturist

BEST PART OF THE JOB Continuously building knowledge and applying science to improve how fruit trees grow, produce, and perform in real-world orchard systems

BEST THING ABOUT FNQ The diversity of horticultural crops, opportunities to work across different production systems, and an outdoor lifestyle in a warm climate



From advanced laboratory analysis to data-driven decision making in the field, it's a highly skilled and forward-thinking industry with a wide range of career pathways

GERHARD is a scientist who uses his skills to support the farming sector. His work combines field, lab, and office-based research.

His days might involve running orchard trials, collecting samples from trees, and measuring processes like photosynthesis.

He also analyses plant compounds in the lab, works with data and statistics, and shares his research findings with the farming sector.

Gerhard is also involved in reviewing scientific papers and student theses, and supervising students to help build the next generation of scientists.

MEET PAUL

DISTRICT MANAGER

SUGAR RESEARCH AUSTRALIA
Gordonvale, Far North Queensland

TRAINING Bachelor of Environmental Management

PATHWAY Travelled and worked in farms and hospitality → Studied Environmental Management → Returned to FNQ to build a career in sugarcane

BEST PART OF THE JOB Moving between office work, field trials and working with growers

BEST THING ABOUT FNQ Unmatched lifestyle, proximity to family and friends, strong sense of community and career opportunities

AS a District Manager, Paul helps improve sugarcane production across several regions.

He leads a team conducting nutrient trials, testing tools like near-infrared devices, and using AI to guide better farming decisions. By blending new technology with hands-on problem-solving, he supports farmers and delivers practical results in the field.

“Agriculture is one of the fields that's been identified as probably going to retain a lot of jobs for longer with AI advancements compared to a lot of industries that are looking at having their workforce cut



WATCH
PAUL'S
STORY



MEET BEC

QUALITY COORDINATOR

AUSTRALIAN NATIVE PRODUCTS
Mareeba, Far North Queensland

TRAINING Bachelor of Environmental Earth Science

PATHWAY Chef → Studied Environmental Earth Science → Practical farm work → Technical production work

BEST PART OF THE JOB Variety and the ability to move between different roles within agriculture

BEST THING ABOUT FNQ Strong community and connection to the agricultural industry, beautiful environment to enjoy work-life balance with an outdoor lifestyle

BECS role sits at the intersection of science and agriculture, ensuring Australian Native Products meets the highest standards for quality, safety, and sustainability.

As Quality Coordinator, she oversees two production sites, managing product testing, certifications, and compliance for both domestic and international markets.

Her work ensures that every lemon myrtle product meets strict global standards, supporting the company's reputation and the wider agricultural industry.

Bec's journey began in hands-on farm and nursery work, alongside studying environmental science. Early experiences, including running her own kitchen-based work and supporting farm operations, gave her practical skills and a deep understanding of plant-based products.

When production and international demand expanded, she transitioned into quality control, using scientific analysis, data, and product testing to protect both consumers and the environment.

On a typical week, Bec coordinates sample testing, assesses product specifications, ensures compliance with organic and international certifications, and provides technical support across the supply chain, from harvest crews to sales teams.

Sustainability is central to her role: the farms she works with use integrated pest management, robust soil nutrition programs, and maintain biodiversity, all while minimising chemical use.

The company is the first in Australia certified under the Rainforest Alliance and Union for Ethical Biotrade for herbs and spices.

Bec loves the diversity and impact of her work, combining lab-based science with real-world farming.

Her story is a great example of how quality assurance and sustainability are critical to modern agriculture, and that a science-driven career can thrive while supporting farmers, consumers, and the long-term health of the industry.



WATCH
BEC'S
STORY



“ There are so many career paths and professions that tie into agriculture, and it is a constantly evolving industry leaving room for career progression and evolution as you find the right role for you – you will never be bored



BUSINESS, FINANCE & AGRIBUSINESS

Explore the business behind agriculture – from farm operations and finance to supply chains, markets and global trade

“

Agriculture offers long term career stability, progression, and variety, as well as the opportunity to make a real impact

– Tayla

STUDY PATHWAYS

BACHELOR DEGREES

- Bachelor of Agribusiness
- Bachelor of Commerce
- Bachelor of Marketing / Digital Marketing
- Bachelor of Business
- Bachelor of Economics
- Bachelor of Business Information Systems
- Bachelor of Business Management
- Bachelor of Accounting & Finance
- Bachelor of Supply Chain & Logistics
- Bachelor of International Business
- Bachelor of Human Resource Management

DIPLOMAS & CERTIFICATES

- Diploma of Agribusiness Management
- Certificate IV in Accounting & Bookkeeping
- Diploma of Marketing
- Certificate III in Business
- Diploma of Accounting
- Diploma of Project Management
- Diploma of Business
- Certificate IV in Work Health & Safety
- Diploma of Business / Diploma of Leadership & Management
- Certificate IV in Human Resources
- Diploma of Human Resource Management
- Certificate IV in Entrepreneurship and New Business
- Certificate IV in Workplace Skills
- Human Resources Foundations Skill Set
- Diploma of Business / Diploma of Marketing and Communication
- Certificate IV in Leadership & Management

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Careers in business, finance and agribusiness focus on running and supporting agricultural businesses, from managing farm operations and people to overseeing finances, supply chains, compliance and market development.

Careers in this space can include:

- Farm Manager
- Operations Manager
- Agribusiness Manager
- Production Manager
- Agribusiness Banker
- Accountant
- Business Analyst
- Market Analyst
- Supply Chain Manager
- Logistics Coordinator
- Export or Market Development
- Agribusiness Consultant
- Business Administrator
- Human Resources Officer
- Work Health & Safety Officer
- Quality Assurance Officer

These roles exist across a range of agricultural industries including horticulture, livestock, dairy, sugarcane, aquaculture and broadacre farming.



MEET DAVID

GENERAL MANAGER

ROCK RIDGE FARMING
Atherton Tablelands, Far North Queensland

TRAINING On the job training

PATHWAY Started farm work during school holidays
→ Deferred university → Progressed from worker to supervisor → Farm management

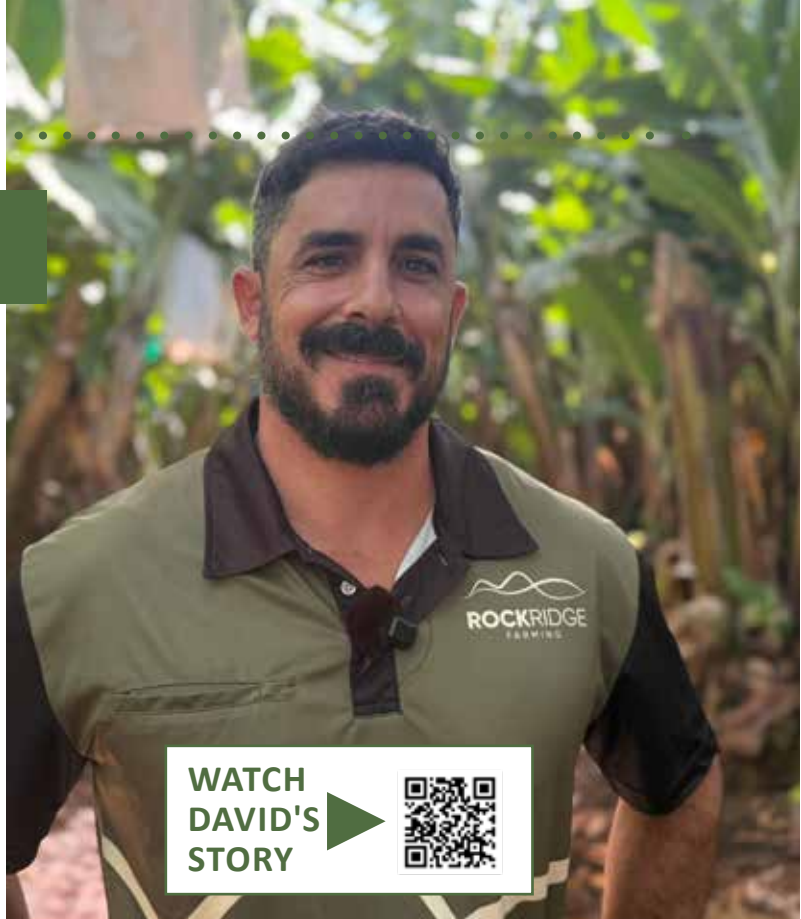
BEST PART OF THE JOB The challenge and reward of producing a high-quality crop, and the satisfaction of seeing the full process from paddock to harvest

BEST THING ABOUT FNQ Diverse landscapes and industries, ideal growing conditions, and strong opportunities across many different types of agriculture

DAVID started on farms during school and worked his way up from entry-level to General Manager of a banana farm.

He now oversees day-to-day operations, solves production challenges, and leads the team.

His career shows that hands-on experience, problem-solving, and dedication can lead to leadership roles, proving agriculture offers real opportunities to grow and make an impact.



“Don't discount farming to just picking or packing – there are opportunities to be involved in the bigger picture”

“The diversity in my qualifications and current roles has been intentional and served me well as I can work in the supply chain for a commercial business or I can go into government, so it really is the best of both worlds”



MEET HAYLEIGH

DOMESTIC MARKET DEVELOPMENT MANAGER

AVOCADOS AUSTRALIA
Based in Brisbane, working with growers across Australia, including Far North Queensland

TRAINING Bachelor of Agribusiness and Applied Science, plus industry programs and work experience

PATHWAY Early exposure to farming → University plus work experience → National role supporting avocado growers

BEST PART OF THE JOB Working closely with growers across the supply chain and helping solve real challenges facing the avocado industry

BEST THING ABOUT FNQ A strong horticulture sector, passionate growers, and the opportunity to build long-term relationships within the industry

HAYLEIGH works with farmers, businesses, and government to support Australia's avocado industry.

Some days she visits farms to understand challenges, other days she works on projects or meets with decision-makers.

Her job is all about solving problems, sharing ideas, and helping farmers succeed, while shaping how food is grown, sold, and enjoyed across the country.



MEET TAYLA

AGRIBUSINESS MANAGER

NAB
Atherton & Mareeba, Far North Queensland

TRAINING On the job training

PATHWAY Bank Teller → Corporate banking → Agribusiness Manager

BEST PART OF THE JOB Working closely with passionate producers and building trusted, long-term relationships while helping them navigate challenges and opportunities

BEST THING ABOUT FNQ A diverse and innovative agricultural sector, strong community connections, and the chance to build a meaningful career while giving back locally

“Agriculture offers long term career stability, progression, and variety, as well as the opportunity to make a real impact

TAYLA started her career as a bank teller in Malanda before moving into corporate banking in Brisbane, building strong finance skills along the way.

She then returned to Far North Queensland as an Agribusiness Manager.

Today, her days include visiting farms, analysing financials, and helping producers manage cash flow, risk, and long-term business decisions across a diverse agricultural region.



MEET VINAY

LOGISTICS COORDINATOR

AUSTRALIAN NATIVE PRODUCTS
Mareeba, Far North Queensland

TRAINING Masters in Strategic Supply Chain Management

PATHWAY University → Retail and warehouse supply chain roles in Sydney → Moved to FNQ for agriculture → Logistics coordinator role in production and export

BEST PART OF THE JOB Being at the source of the supply chain and seeing products move from farm to global markets

BEST THING ABOUT FNQ Peaceful environment, green surroundings, and a healthy outdoor lifestyle

VINAY manages the flow of products from farm to client, coordinating domestic and international orders.

His daily tasks include planning logistics, solving supply chain challenges, and ensuring products meet quality standards while reaching markets efficiently.

His role in the agricultural supply chains is vital for keeping farms, agribusinesses, and food systems running smoothly.

WATCH
VINAY'S
STORY



“Being at the source of the supply chain gives me insight you just can’t get from a city office

MEET LEON

NATIONAL PRODUCTION MANAGER

AUSTRALIAN NATIVE PRODUCTS
Mareeba, Far North Queensland

TRAINING Health and Fitness industry

PATHWAY Business owner in health and fitness industry → Career change to practical farm work → National production manager

BEST PART OF THE JOB The variety of work, fast-paced problem solving and the opportunity to lead large-scale operations that directly support Australian agriculture

BEST THING ABOUT FNQ The combination of open space, strong community culture and an outdoor lifestyle make Far North Queensland a great place to live and work

“The diversity in agriculture is incredible – you’re working to provide for communities both locally and globally



WATCH
LEON'S
STORY



AS National Production Manager, Leon oversees production operations across multiple facilities to meet domestic and international demand. His role includes reviewing production performance, managing workflows, solving operational challenges and driving continuous improvement to support efficiency, quality and growth.

Agriculture offers a diverse and rewarding career opportunity with genuine responsibility and growth potential, even for people without a traditional farming background.

MEET JADE

OPERATIONS SUPERVISOR / AGRONOMIST

ROCK RIDGE FARMING
Atherton Tablelands, Far North Queensland

TRAINING Bachelor of Agricultural Science and Agribusiness

PATHWAY Farm work → University (studied externally on the job) → Progressed into Operations Supervisor role

BEST PART OF THE JOB The variety of work and the ability to work both in the office and out in the paddock, with no two days ever the same

BEST THING ABOUT FNQ Strong community, lifestyle, and the opportunity to build a career in agriculture while living in a region with a great environment

JADE discovered her passion for agriculture by trying out different roles and gaining hands-on experience.

She now works in a role that combines problem-solving, teamwork, science and people across the business.

Her career shows that agriculture offers a variety of pathways, and the best way to find your fit is to get involved and explore different opportunities.



WATCH
JADE'S
STORY



“There’s no typical day, every week is different, and that’s what keeps it exciting”

“

Working in agriculture opens many opportunistic doors for pathways in technology, innovation, sustainability, science and much more – from little things, big things grow!



MEET HAILEY

FARM MANAGER

CHEELONGA FARMING
Millaa Millaa, Far North Queensland

TRAINING On the job training

PATHWAY Born and raised on 5th generation dairy farm → Hands on experience, industry training → Farm Manager role

BEST PART OF THE JOB The variety of work, continuous learning, and the opportunity to develop a wide range of practical and professional skills across technical, people-focused, and forward-thinking areas of the industry

BEST THING ABOUT FNQ Strong community connections, diverse lifestyle opportunities, and a vibrant, supportive agricultural network

HAILEY'S career has grown through hands-on learning, industry training, and experience gained across different regions.

As Farm Manager, her days combine working with livestock, leading a team, and tackling practical challenges.

For Hailey, it's about learning from the animals and the environment every day, staying busy, and taking real pride in producing something meaningful.

ENGINEERING & TECHNOLOGY

Step into the engineering and technology driving the future of farming



“

Combining cutting-edge technology with hands-on fieldwork, using science to solve real-world challenges in Agriculture

– Liam

STUDY PATHWAYS

BACHELOR DEGREES

- Bachelor of Engineering (Agricultural, Civil, Mechanical, Environmental)
- Bachelor of Information Technology
- Bachelor of Spatial / Geospatial Science (GIS)
- Bachelor of Engineering Technology
- Bachelor of Computer Science
- Bachelor of Digital Design
- Bachelor of Industrial Design
- Bachelor of Data Science
- Bachelor of Games & Interactive Environments (Ag simulation / training)
- Bachelor of Mechatronics Engineering
- Bachelor of Cyber Security
- Bachelor of Aviation

DIPLOMAS & CERTIFICATES

- Certificate II–IV in Engineering
- Certificate IV in Instrumentation & Control
- Certificate III–IV in Information Technology
- Diploma / Advanced Diploma of Engineering
- Diploma of Electronics & Communications Engineering
- Diploma of Information Technology
- Advanced Diploma of Engineering Technology
- Diploma of Applied Technologies
- Diploma of Information & Communications Technology
- Associate Degree in Civil Engineering
- Certificate II in Autonomous Technologies
- Diploma / Certificate IV in Cyber Security
- Certificate II in Sustainable Energy
- Remote Pilot Licence (RePL – Drone)

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Engineering and technology roles in agriculture focus on designing, building and improving the systems that keep industry running efficiently, from irrigation and machinery to robotics, automation, data and digital platforms.

Careers in this space can include:

- Agricultural Engineer
- Irrigation / Water Systems Engineer
- Automation Technician
- Robotics Technician
- Precision Agriculture Specialist
- Drone Pilot
- Data Analyst
- GIS Specialist
- Digital Systems Coordinator

These roles exist across a range of agricultural industries including horticulture, livestock, dairy, sugarcane, aquaculture and broadacre farming.



MEET LIAM

NEAR INFRA-RED SUPPORT ENGINEER

SUGAR RESEARCH AUSTRALIA
Gordonvale, Far North Queensland

TRAINING Bachelor of Chemical Engineering

PATHWAY Studied Chemistry and Engineering → Learned sugarcane systems on the job → Expanded into field and lab technology support

BEST PART OF THE JOB Combining cutting-edge technology with hands-on fieldwork, using science to solve real-world challenges in sugarcane production

BEST THING ABOUT FNQ Lifestyle, climate, and access to outdoor activities like reef fishing, swimming, and walking tracks, plus working alongside knowledgeable, friendly colleagues

LIAM'S path shows how chemical engineering can lead to innovation in agriculture.

At Sugar Research Australia, he blends lab analysis, coding, and fieldwork – predicting sugar content, testing instruments, and solving practical problems.

He loves the variety, moving between data analysis and paddock experiments, making it ideal for students who enjoy science, maths, and hands-on technology in modern farming.

“You get to combine engineering, tech and hands-on work, and actually see how it improves crops and processes

WATCH
LIAM'S
STORY



MEET KARA-GLENN

DIGITAL AGRICULTURE INNOVATION CONSULTANT

TROPICAL NORTH QUEENSLAND DROUGHT HUB & JAMES COOK UNIVERSITY
Cairns to Innisfail, Far North Queensland

TRAINING Double Degree in Business and Media Communications

PATHWAY Grew up on family banana farm → Studied business and media → Ag innovation and technology career

BEST PART OF THE JOB Being at the cutting edge of what's happening in ag, blending tradition with innovation

BEST THING ABOUT FNQ Diversity of industries, cultures and opportunities

KARA-GLENN Glenworth grew up on a banana farm in Innisfail, Far North Queensland, but her career journey took a winding path before bringing her back to agriculture.

After finishing school, she studied a double degree in Business and Media and Communication in Brisbane, exploring internships in the food and services industry.

She gained experience in high-end restaurants and even managed food and beverage operations at a Darwin casino. Despite these detours, her connection to food and agriculture remained strong, and after starting a family, she returned home and stepped into agtech, working with the Australian AgTech Association.

Today, Kara-Glenn is the Digital Agriculture Innovation Consultant with the Tropical North Queensland Drought Hub and James Cook University.

Her work sits at the cutting edge of technology and research, helping farmers across FNQ tackle real-world challenges through digital innovation. No two days are the same. She might start the morning on a cane farm, spend the afternoon at the university analysing data, or travel across the region running workshops or testing new technologies.

Kara-Glenn loves that her role combines the tradition of agriculture with innovation. She gets to see tangible results from her work, whether implementing new digital tools or supporting farmers directly.

She also values being part of a progressive, evolving industry, especially as a woman pushing the boundaries of what's possible in agriculture.

Technology and innovation are driving the agriculture sector at great pace. The skills and experience you build now can open doors to roles that might not even exist today.

With creativity, curiosity, and a willingness to explore, you can step into a career that shapes the future of farming, where technology, innovation, and problem-solving drive real impact.



WATCH
KARA-GLENN'S
STORY



“The possibilities are endless. Who knows what this industry will look like in 5-10 years. Jump in headfirst knowing the job you might have might not exist yet

MANAGING DIRECTOR



AGRICULTURAL ROBOTICS
Queensland, working closely with farmers in Far North Queensland

TRAINING PhD in Psychology (Behavioural Research), AHPRA registered, on the job training

PATHWAY Psychology and behavioural research → Transition during COVID → Ag-tech Managing Director

BEST PART OF THE JOB Working alongside growers, engineers, and teams to solve real on-farm challenges, and seeing technology deliver practical, meaningful improvements

BEST THING ABOUT FNQ A diverse and productive agricultural region with strong opportunities to create impact, build local capability, and support future-focused careers

AMANDA didn't follow a traditional path into agriculture, starting in psychology before shifting careers during COVID and discovering ag-tech.

Now Managing Director of Agricultural Robotics, she leads innovation that supports growers.

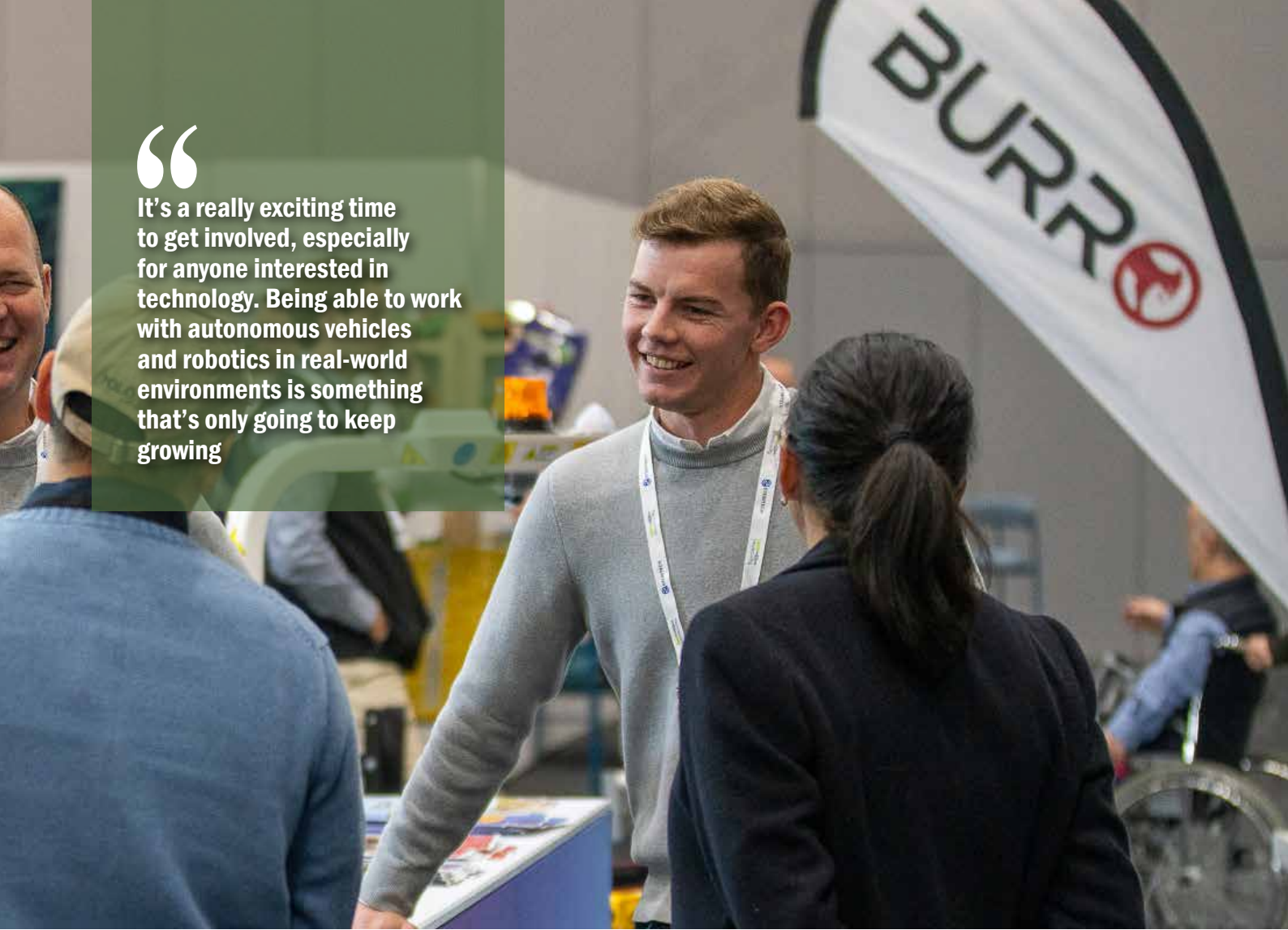
Her days span strategy, working with engineers, and time in the field with farmers, making robots to support modern farming systems.

“Agriculture today is not just about farming – it’s about combining science, technology, and human insight to create more sustainable and productive systems



“

It's a really exciting time to get involved, especially for anyone interested in technology. Being able to work with autonomous vehicles and robotics in real-world environments is something that's only going to keep growing



MEET JAMAL

SALES & CUSTOMER SERVICE SPECIALIST

AGRI AUTOMATION AUSTRALIA
Based in South Australia, working across Far North Queensland

TRAINING On the job training and industry experience

PATHWAY Finished school → Gained hands-on experience in agriculture and ag tech → Developed expertise in robotics and automation systems

BEST PART OF THE JOB Working at the forefront of new technology and helping growers adopt robotics that are already transforming the way farms operate

BEST THING ABOUT FNQ Diverse, high-value cropping systems and growers who are open to innovation, making it an exciting region to work in ag tech

JAMAL is part of a new wave of agriculture where robotics, data, and automation are transforming how farms operate. After finishing school, he spent around 18 months working in another industry before moving into Agri Automation, a family-linked business specialising in automation for high-value crops like berries, table grapes, and citrus.

Growing up connected to agriculture, Jamal naturally gravitated toward a role that combined his interest in technology with the evolving needs of modern farming.

In his current role as a Sales and Customer Service Specialist, Jamal works directly with growers to deploy autonomous platforms such as Burro robots and GoTrack tractors.

His work blends office and field tasks, from calculating return on investment for growers considering robotics, to installing and commissioning systems, training staff, and running on-farm demonstrations. He travels extensively, supporting operations of all sizes and helping farmers improve efficiency while reducing labour reliance.

Jamal's career shows that you don't need a formal qualification to enter this high-tech corner of agriculture. By getting hands-on experience, problem-solving in real-world conditions, and learning directly from growers, he has developed expertise in robotics, automation, and precision farming.

What Jamal enjoys most is being part of an industry that's already innovating. Robotics and automation aren't just future concepts – they're actively shaping operations across Australia today.

For students interested in technology, STEM, and hands-on work, Jamal's experience shows that agriculture offers dynamic career pathways where you can make a tangible impact and help shape the farms of tomorrow.

EDUCATION & TRAINING

Teach, train and support the people who power agriculture – from classrooms to communities and industry

“

What many people don't realise is how advanced agriculture has become. Technology, sustainability, environmental management and data analytics are deeply integrated into modern farming

– Dayna



STUDY PATHWAYS

BACHELOR DEGREES

- Bachelor of Education (Primary / Secondary)
- Bachelor of Community Development
- Bachelor of Communications (for outreach roles)
- Bachelor of Agricultural Science (+ teaching pathway)
- Bachelor of Social Science
- Bachelor of Vocational Education & Training

DIPLOMAS & CERTIFICATES

- Certificate IV in Training & Assessment
- Diploma of Training Design & Development
- Certificate IV in Leadership & Management
- Diploma of Vocational Education & Training
- Diploma of Community Services
- Certificate IV in Work Health & Safety

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Careers in education and training focus on building skills, sharing knowledge and supporting the people who power agriculture, from schools and training organisations to industry programs and community services.

Careers in this space can include:

- Agriculture Teacher, Trainer & Assessor
- Outreach Educator
- Training Coordinator
- Careers Advisor
- Workforce Development Officer
- AgTech Trainer

These roles exist across a range of agricultural industries including horticulture, livestock, dairy, sugarcane, aquaculture and broadacre farming



MEET JASMIN

OPERATIONS MANAGER

REAL SKILLS AG TRAINING Sunshine Coast, with strong connection to Far North Queensland

TRAINING Bachelor of Theatre and Film and on the job training

PATHWAY Tertiary study in arts → Helped in family ag business → Fell in love with ag industry → Manages farm safety and training programs

BEST PART OF THE JOB Job satisfaction, travel and variety. Feeling like work really matters, whether I'm working in a boardroom, shed, politician meeting room or at home with my dog at my feet

BEST THING ABOUT FNQ A progressive and positive culture in agriculture with crop diversity like nowhere else in Australia, mixed with a unique natural environment makes it a fascinating place to work

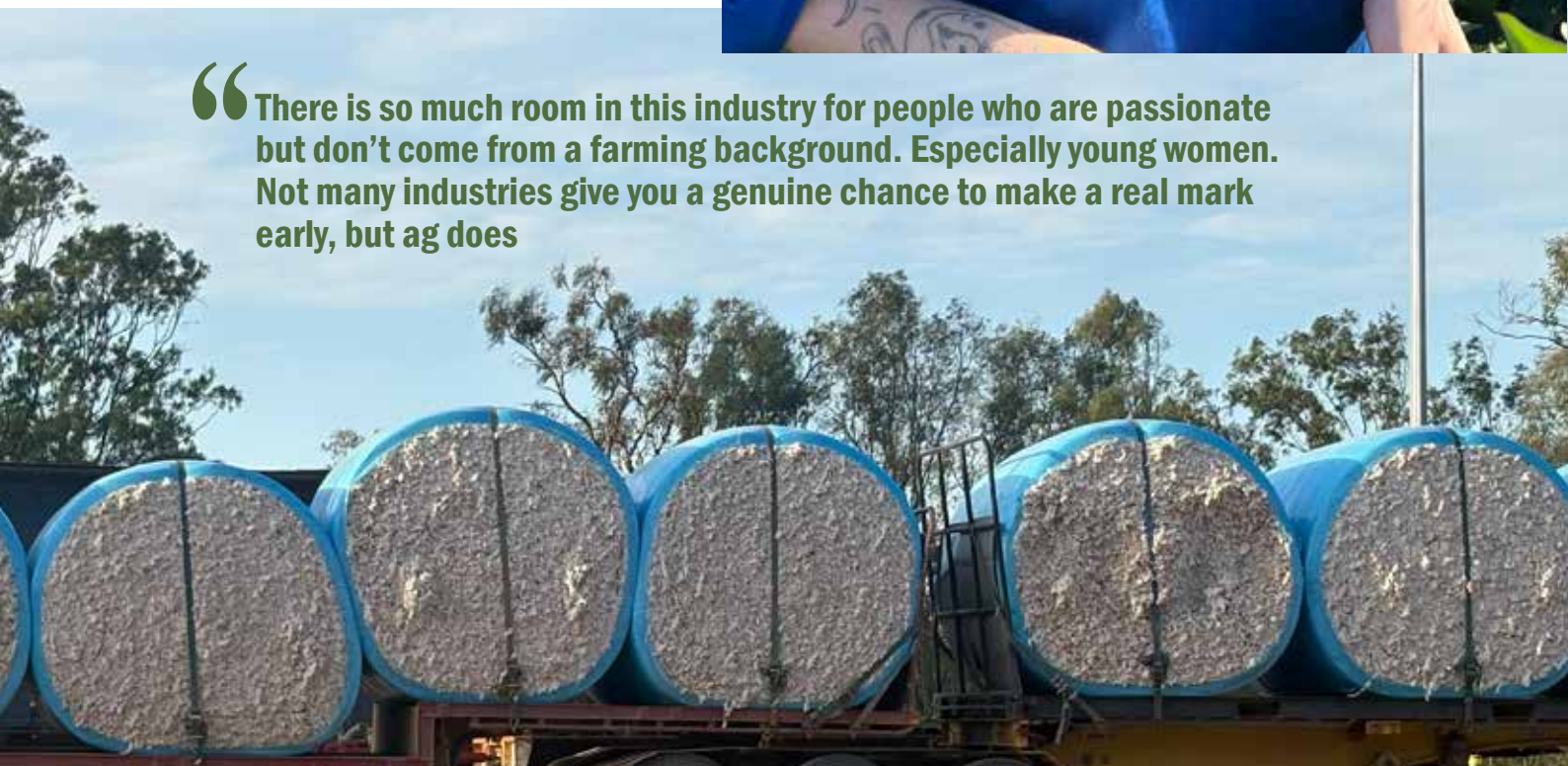
JASMIN never expected to work in agriculture, growing up on a farm but pursuing film and theatre instead.

After travelling and reconnecting with the land, she discovered new pathways in the industry.

She went on to lead the SmartAg Queensland Project and now works creating training content, visiting farms, and supporting growers – showing there are many ways to build a meaningful career in agriculture.



“There is so much room in this industry for people who are passionate but don't come from a farming background. Especially young women. Not many industries give you a genuine chance to make a real mark early, but ag does



DRONE OPERATOR & RPAS INSTRUCTOR

AGRICULTURAL DRONE OPERATIONS & TRAINING Far North Queensland

TRAINING Remote Pilot Licence (RePL), Remote Operator's Certificate (ReOC), Bachelor of Science (Regenerative Agriculture), Certificate IV in Training and Assessment

PATHWAY Tertiary study → Found passion for drones → Commercial Drone Pilot and private business owner → Drone Instructor

BEST PART OF THE JOB Combining technology, aviation and agriculture to solve real problems, while working closely with farmers and seeing the direct impact on their crops

BEST THING ABOUT FNQ Diverse farming systems, strong agricultural community, and the chance to build a career while staying connected to land and lifestyle

“
Agriculture is no longer just physical labour – it is strategic, scientific and constantly evolving. Being able to combine technology with practical farming knowledge is what excites me most about the future of the industry

DAYNA'S career sits at the intersection of agriculture, technology, and aviation – a pathway that didn't exist in the same way just a few years ago.

Growing up on a farm gave her a strong foundation, but it was her willingness to explore new interests that shaped where she is today. What began as an interest in engineering evolved when she discovered drone technology, opening the door to a career that blends technical skills with real-world impact.

Through experience across machinery, agronomy, and drone operations, Dayna found her niche in precision agriculture. Today, her work includes mapping crops, analysing data, operating spray drones, and training others, helping farmers make more informed decisions and improve efficiency. Her role is both hands-on and analytical, combining fieldwork with technology and communication.

Agriculture a highly advanced industry driven by data,

sustainability, and innovation. Dayna's work reflects this shift, using cutting-edge tools to solve real problems and support modern farming systems.

Across every role she's had, problem-solving and trust have remained constant. Working closely with farmers and training new operators requires strong communication, reliability, and the ability to turn complex technology into practical solutions. It's a career built not just on technical skills, but on relationships and adaptability.

Her journey shows that you don't need to have everything figured out from the start. By staying open to new opportunities and following her interests, she built a career that didn't exist a generation ago.

For students interested in STEM, aviation, or technology, agriculture offers exciting, fast-evolving pathways where you can keep learning and shape the future of the industry.



LAW, POLICY & GOVERNANCE

Be part of the decisions that shape the future of farming, industry and global trade



“

There are so many parts of agriculture, you won't ever get bored, it's an industry you can just keep learning in. There will always be a job in agriculture because people will always need to eat

– Chloe

STUDY PATHWAYS

BACHELOR DEGREES

- Bachelor of Laws
- Bachelor of Policy / Public Policy
- Bachelor of International / Global Studies
- Bachelor of Legal & Justice Studies
- Bachelor of Business
- Bachelor of Environmental Science
- Bachelor of Criminology / Justice

DIPLOMAS & CERTIFICATES

- Diploma of Legal Studies
- Certificate IV in Government
- Certificate IV in Work Health & Safety
- Diploma of Paralegal Studies
- Diploma of Government
- Certificate IV in Justice Studies

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

From biosecurity and environmental protection to trade and government policy, these roles ensure agriculture remains sustainable, competitive and protected. Careers in law, policy and governance focus on shaping how agriculture operates, from legal frameworks and business structures to government policy, biosecurity, trade and compliance.

Careers in this space can include:

- Solicitor
- Paralegal
- Policy Officer
- Government Relations Officer
- Trade & Market Access Advisor
- Compliance Officer
- Environmental Protection Officer
- Advocacy Advisor

These roles exist across a range of agricultural industries including horticulture, livestock, dairy, sugarcane, aquaculture and broadacre farming.



“

You'll find me usually at home on meetings with various advocacy groups, reading about policy or creating briefing papers or resources.

Every month I'll be traveling around Australia visiting key growing regions, chatting to growers, going to conferences, and speaking to politicians in Canberra



GOVERNMENT RELATIONS OFFICER

MEET CHLOE

CITRUS AUSTRALIA

Based remotely in Melbourne, working across Australia

TRAINING Bachelor of Science, majoring in agroecology

PATHWAY Studied abroad → Found interest in ag policy through a friend → National industry role

BEST PART OF THE JOB Having a national impact and helping support growers and the wider agriculture industry

BEST THING ABOUT FNQ Every year Citrus Australia organises a grower forum in FNQ to speak about key projects, new technology, and core issues. During our trip we spend a few days going out to growers' properties, seeing their orchards and pack sheds and talking about their challenges

CHLOE says she “very much stumbled” into agricultural policy, but quickly discovered an industry that is high tech, innovative, full of good people, and deeply satisfying.

One week she's travelling to growing regions and meeting growers, the next she's speaking with politicians in Canberra or creating solutions for national workforce challenges.

Chloe's role is one of the many important careers working behind the scenes – influencing policy, solving big problems, and helping shape the future of Australian agriculture.

SOLICITOR

NORTHPOINT LAW
Mareeba, Far North Queensland

TRAINING Bachelor of Law

PATHWAY Grew up in Mareeba → Studied Law → Returned to FNQ to work as a solicitor

BEST PART OF THE JOB The variety of legal work and the ability to support people through important life and business decisions, making a real difference in regional communities

BEST THING ABOUT FNQ Strong sense of community, connection to clients, and the opportunity to build a meaningful career while staying close to home

SARAH'S career shows agriculture relies on professional services beyond the farm.

As a solicitor in Mareeba, she supports farmers and agribusinesses with legal work that keeps operations running across generations.

Her work includes rural conveyancing and property transactions, easements for water and access, boundary disputes, business structures, contracts, dispute resolution, and succession planning, helping farming families protect assets and plan for the future.

“
Supporting farmers through things like contracts, succession planning, and disputes is a really rewarding part of the job



MARKETING, MEDIA & COMMUNICATIONS

Tell the story of agriculture
from paddock to plate, across
digital, media and global
markets

“

I love food, I love being outdoors and getting my hands dirty, but unfortunately, I don't think I'd be a very good farmer. However, I know that agriculture is so important for the health of our society and our regional centres, so I'm thankful to be able to use my skills in writing, photography, and design to contribute in some way to this amazing industry

– Katherine



STUDY PATHWAYS

BACHELOR DEGREES

- Bachelor of Marketing
- Bachelor of Communications
- Bachelor of Journalism
- Bachelor of Digital Media
- Bachelor of Design / Communication Design
- Bachelor of Creative Arts
- Bachelor of Film & Screen Media
- Bachelor of Public Relations
- Bachelor of Media & Communications
- Bachelor of International Communications
- Bachelor of Business (Marketing / Communications major)

DIPLOMAS & CERTIFICATES

- Diploma of Marketing
- Certificate IV in Marketing & Communication
- Diploma of Creative Industries
- Diploma of Digital Media
- Marketing and Communication Foundations Skill Set
- Diploma of Social Media Marketing
- Diploma of Graphic Design
- AI for Marketing and Content
- Diploma of Photography and Digital Imaging
- Diploma of Screen & Media
- Certificate III in Screen & Media
- Certificate III in Design / Graphic Design

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Careers in marketing, media and communications focus on sharing the stories of agriculture, connecting growers, industry and consumers through content, branding, media and digital platforms.

Careers in this space can include:

- Marketing Officer
- Communications Specialist
- Content Producer
- Photographer / Videographer
- Graphic Designer
- Journalist
- Social Media Coordinator
- Market Development Manager

These roles exist across a range of agricultural industries including horticulture, livestock, dairy, sugarcane, aquaculture and broadacre farming.



PROJECT COMMUNICATIONS

“With agriculture evolving rapidly, the demand for skilled communicators is only increasing, creating exciting opportunities to use your creativity in a sector that is essential, innovative, and full of stories worth telling



MEET KATHERINE

QUEENSLAND FRUIT AND VEGETABLE GROWERS

Based in Brisbane, working across Far North Queensland

TRAINING PhD in Media and Communications

PATHWAY Studied media and communications → Worked in research and teaching at university → Completed PhD focused on food culture → Transitioned into agriculture communications → Built a career telling grower stories and supporting industry projects

BEST PART OF THE JOB Meeting growers and sharing their stories, while learning about the innovation, challenges, and people behind the food we eat

BEST THING ABOUT FNQ Diversity of crops, strong farming communities, and the opportunity to connect with growers across a wide and unique agricultural region

KATHERINE shows that you can use creative skills to have a meaningful role in agriculture.

With a background in media, communications, and a PhD researching food culture, Katherine now works as a Project Communications and Design Officer with Queensland Fruit & Vegetable Growers.

Based in Brisbane, she travels regularly across Far North Queensland, visiting growers in Mareeba, the Atherton Tablelands, Innisfail, and Mission Beach to capture and share their stories.

Her role is all about making sure the right messages reach the right people. She writes articles, produces case studies, takes photographs, and creates social media content that highlights on-farm innovation, sustainability practices, and community achievements.

Katherine documents projects from start to finish, turning



real-world experiences into engaging content that informs, inspires, and connects people across the industry.

Katherine's journey highlights how critical communication is in agriculture. Storytelling, digital media, and content creation help bridge the gap between industry, communities, and the wider public.

For students who enjoy writing, photography, design, or social media, agriculture offers a dynamic career path where creativity supports learning, engagement, and growth in regional communities.

Her story shows that curiosity, strong relationships, and the ability to share knowledge effectively are highly valued skills.

With agriculture evolving rapidly, the demand for skilled communicators is only increasing, creating exciting opportunities to use your creativity in a sector that is essential, innovative, and full of stories worth telling.



MEET SOPHIE

RURAL REPORTER

ABC – AUSTRALIAN BROADCASTING ASSOCIATION
Cairns, Far North Queensland

TRAINING Bachelor of Journalism

PATHWAY Worked on farms → Studied journalism → traineeship with ABC → ABC Rural Reporter

BEST PART OF THE JOB Meeting people, being on the road, and telling the stories that matter to regional communities

BEST THING ABOUT FNQ Unmatched diversity of industries, incredible landscapes, and the chance to tell stories you won't find anywhere else



There are so many different options when it comes to working in agriculture, if there is a particular role or company you think you might be interested in, reach out to those already in the field. Learn how they got into the position they are in now

SOPHIE Johnson always knew she loved agriculture – but she also loved asking questions, telling stories, and connecting with people.

Growing up on a small cattle block near Toowoomba sparked her interest in the land, while her natural curiosity led her toward journalism.

At university in Brisbane, Sophie quickly realised her passion sat at the intersection of both worlds.

While others explored a range of topics, she found herself consistently drawn back to rural and agricultural stories.

Determined to carve out a path, she reached out directly to the Queensland Country Hour team, building connections and gaining insight into the industry before she'd even graduated.

After securing a rural traineeship with the ABC, Sophie's career took her across Queensland and Western Australia. But Far North Queensland was always the goal.

Now based in Cairns, she spends her days travelling between farms, saleyards, and regional communities, capturing the voices and stories that shape agriculture in the north.

No two days look the same. One moment she's interviewing growers in the paddock, the next she's producing stories for broadcast or presenting the Rural Report at dawn.

It's fast-paced, people-focused, and constantly evolving, which is exactly what drew her to the role in the first place.

For Sophie, agriculture isn't just an industry, it's a story worth telling.

TRADES & TECHNICAL SKILLS

Build, fix and power the machinery, systems and infrastructure that keep agriculture running

“

There's a big variety of work in ag,
especially coming from a
trade background

– Julian

STUDY PATHWAYS

DIPLOMAS & CERTIFICATES

- Certificate II in Automotive Vocational Preparation
- Certificate II in Electrotechnology
- Certificate III in Civil Construction & Plant Operations
- Certificate II in Automotive Diesel Engine Technology
- Certificate III in Electrotechnology Electrician
- Certificate IV in Plumbing & Services
- Certificate III in Agricultural Mechanical Technology
- Certificate III in Electrical Fitting
- Certificate IV in Building & Construction
- Certificate III in Heavy Commercial Vehicle Mechanical Technology
- Certificate III in Air Conditioning & Refrigeration
- Diploma of Building & Construction
- Certificate III in Light Vehicle Mechanical Technology
- Certificate III in Engineering – Mechanical Trade
- Certificate III in Engineering – Fabrication Trade

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Careers in trades and technical skills focus on building, maintaining and operating the machinery, infrastructure and systems that keep agriculture running, from farm equipment and electrical systems to irrigation, fabrication and processing.

Careers in this space can include:

- Diesel Fitter
- Agricultural Mechanic
- Heavy Vehicle Mechanic
- Maintenance Technician
- Mobile Plant Technician
- Electrician (Rural/Farm)
- Irrigation Technician
- Refrigeration Technician
- Water Infrastructure Technician
- Fitter & Turner
- Boilermaker
- Welder
- Civil Construction or Plant Operator
- Production or Processing Operator
- Packing Shed Manager
- Warehouse or Dispatch Operator

These roles exist across a range of agricultural industries including horticulture, livestock, dairy, sugarcane, aquaculture and broadacre farming.



MEET KING

PACKING SHED MANAGER

LECKER FARMING
Mareeba, Far North Queensland

TRAINING On the job training

PATHWAY Moved to Australia → Farm Work → Packing shed manager

BEST PART OF THE JOB Working with a great team

BEST THING ABOUT FNQ Beautiful environment and climate similar to home country Thailand

KING has a crucial role in making sure every piece of fruit meets quality standards while looking after the team and ensuring smooth operations in the packhouse.

Each day starts by checking the fruit and setting it up for the packing team, inspecting packed fruit and pallets, and moving them into the cold or hot rooms before they head to

customers.

He loves working alongside his colleagues, enjoying the teamwork, mutual respect, and positive energy.

His job highlights the importance of logistics and people side of a farming business.



WATCH
KING'S
STORY



MEET DAVID

OPERATIONS MANAGER

ROCK RIDGE FARMING
Atherton Tablelands, Far North Queensland

TRAINING Diesel Fitter

PATHWAY Grew up on family farm → Apprenticeship → Returned to farm and progressed into Operations Manager

BEST PART OF THE JOB The variety of work and being outdoors every day, along with the satisfaction of planting, growing, and harvesting crops

BEST THING ABOUT FNQ The natural environment and ideal farming conditions, including rich soil, plenty of rain, and access to the reef and rainforest

DAVID grew up on a farm and always knew agriculture was his path.

He completed a school-based diesel fitting apprenticeship, gaining practical, in-demand skills that set the foundation for his career.

Returning to the farm, he worked his way into an Operations Manager role, showing how a trade can open doors and create strong opportunities to grow in agriculture.



WATCH
DAVID'S
STORY



WATCH
JULIAN'S
STORY



“
There's a big variety of
work in ag, especially
coming from a trade
background



MEET JULIAN

MAINTENANCE TECHNICIAN

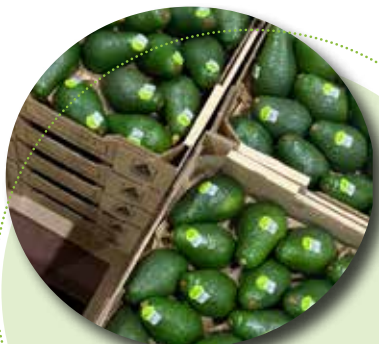
ROCK RIDGE FARMING
Atherton Tablelands, Far North Queensland

TRAINING Auto Electrical Apprenticeship

PATHWAY Apprenticeship → Worked in electrical industry for 10 years → Transitioned into agriculture industry

BEST PART OF THE JOB Working across different farms and machinery, constantly solving new problems and building skills beyond his original trade

BEST THING ABOUT FNQ Strong community, lifestyle, and the opportunity to build a career in agriculture while living in a region with a great environment



BEHIND every successful farm is a network of skilled tradespeople keeping everything running. Without them, machinery stops, operations stall, and production can't continue. While trades are often overlooked in conversations about agriculture, they are absolutely critical to its success.

Julian didn't set out to work in agriculture. He began his career as an auto electrician, starting his apprenticeship in Cairns before moving to Mareeba to complete his training. He then spent around ten years in the trade, building strong technical skills while working both in the workshop and out on jobs.

Over time, the routine of workshop-based work began to feel repetitive, and Julian started looking for a new challenge. An opportunity came up to join Rock Ridge Farming, and he decided to give it a go, bringing his trade skills into a completely different environment.

Since making the move, his career has evolved significantly. What started as auto electrical work has expanded into general farm maintenance, including mechanical repairs, troubleshooting machinery, and supporting packing shed operations.

Working across multiple farms, Julian is now exposed to a wide range of equipment, from tractors and cherry pickers to packing machinery - constantly building his knowledge and skillset.

His role is highly varied, often requiring him to move between sites and respond to different challenges throughout the day. This shift from a single workshop to a dynamic, field-based role has allowed him to grow beyond his original trade, developing a broader understanding of agricultural machinery and operations.

INDUSTRY SUPPORT, EXTENSION & ADVOCACY

Be the link between farmers,
industry and government
– sharing knowledge, building
connections and driving progress

“

No two days are the same. The best part of being
an Extension Officer is the grower relationships
and the industry relationships

– Ilanah

STUDY PATHWAYS

BACHELOR DEGREES

- Bachelor of Agricultural Science
- Bachelor of Environmental Science
- Bachelor of Community Development / Community Services
- Bachelor of Agribusiness
- Bachelor of Communication / Media
- Bachelor of Social Work
- Bachelor of Business
- Bachelor of Political Science / International Relations

DIPLOMAS & CERTIFICATES

- Diploma of Agribusiness Management
- Certificate IV in Training & Assessment Certificate
- Diploma of Community Services
- IV in Leadership & Management
- Certificate IV in Work Health & Safety
- Certificate IV in Mental Health Peer Work
- Diploma of Leadership & Management
- Diploma of Counselling
- Certificate IV in Government
- Certificate IV in Mental Health Peer Work

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Careers in industry support, extension and advocacy focus on connecting farmers with knowledge, resources and networks, helping translate research into practice, supporting businesses, and representing the needs of agriculture across industry and government.

Careers in this space can include:

- Extension Officer
- Industry Development Officer
- Farm Business Advisor
- Grower Liaison Officer
- Community Engagement Officer
- Rural Financial Counsellor
- Program Coordinator
- Policy & Advocacy Advisor
- Communications Officer

These roles exist across a range of agricultural industries including horticulture, livestock, dairy, sugarcane, aquaculture and broadacre farming.





MEET ILANAH

EXTENSION OFFICER

CANEGROWERS

Innisfail, Far North Queensland

TRAINING Bachelor of Rural Science

PATHWAY Grew up in a farming family → University → Extension officer

BEST PART OF THE JOB Building strong relationships with growers and working directly with them to improve farm productivity and practices

BEST THING ABOUT FNQ A strong agricultural community, great lifestyle, and the opportunity to make a real impact in the industry

“No two days are the same. The best part of being an Extension Officer is the grower relationships and the industry relationships

ILANAH studied Rural Science and built her skills through hands-on experience.

She now works with sugarcane growers, helping solve real farm problems, improve crops and soils, and boost overall farm performance.

Her role blends fieldwork, science, and working with people, showing that a career in agriculture can be practical, varied, and make a real difference.

MEET KASMIN

FARM BUSINESS PLANNING OFFICER & BUSINESS COACH



FARM BUSINESS PLANNING NORTH QUEENSLAND & INNER BOSS
Far North Queensland

TRAINING Diploma of Financial Planning, Certificate IV in Small Business Management and on the job training

PATHWAY Mixture of business and admin roles → Study and on the job training → Business owner and Business planning officer

BEST PART OF THE JOB Working across both the people and business sides of agriculture, helping farmers navigate complex decisions while building meaningful connections with diverse and innovative producers

BEST THING ABOUT FNQ A unique and complex agricultural environment, strong community values, and a region filled with practical, innovative people who are always willing to support each other

KASMIN didn't have a clear plan for her career, instead, she said yes to opportunities and followed her interests wherever they led.

She started in financial planning and insurance, then moved through business administration roles in local government and small business.

Along the way, she gained qualifications in financial planning and small business management and built strong governance and project experience through years of committee and volunteer work.

She also developed a deep interest in human behaviour, continuing to study coaching and social behaviour tools, while gaining hands-on experience through her family's small beef property in FNQ. This gave her practical understanding of soils, pasture, land management, and farm economics.

Today, Kasmin brings all of this together as a Farm Business Planning Officer, working with farmers to develop plans across production, natural resources, business, and people. She also runs Inner Boss, supporting people to better understand themselves and others.

Her journey shows that no experience is wasted, and that diverse career paths can become a real strength in agriculture.



“ I never could have dreamt of the opportunities I’ve had working in agriculture

WATCH EBONY'S STORY



MEET EBONY.....

INDUSTRY OFFICER

FARMOUR
Mareeba, Far North Queensland

TRAINING Bachelor of Environmental and Marine Geosciences, Post Graduate Certificate in Plant Protection

PATHWAY University → Government Graduate Program → Peak Industry Body roles → Started own business

BEST PART OF THE JOB Having clients that become friends, connecting with inspiring people, and helping local farmers succeed

BEST THING ABOUT FNQ Two hour drive from anywhere – reef, rainforest, bush, international airport

EBONY career pathway into agriculture is a great example of how diverse and flexible the industry can be.

Although she didn't grow up on a farm, her connection to agriculture started with her grandparents, and her interest in science and the outdoors led her in that direction.

Because agriculture wasn't available to study locally, Ebony chose a Bachelor of Environmental and Marine Geosciences.

During her studies, she gained valuable hands-on experience through work placements with local agronomy services and the Department of Primary Industries.

This practical exposure helped confirm her passion for agriculture and opened her eyes to the wide range of career opportunities in the sector.

Her work experience led to casual employment while finishing her degree, and eventually into a government graduate program as a Development Horticulturist based in Mareeba.

Over five years, Ebony built strong technical skills and industry knowledge, working on pest and disease trials, national breeding programs, and delivering workshops to growers on improving production efficiency.

Looking to expand her impact, Ebony transitioned into roles with peak industry bodies, including Citrus Australia and the Australian Mango Growers Association. There, she focused on sustainability initiatives and disaster recovery, supporting farmers on a broader, more business orientated scale.

In 2024, Ebony took the next step in her career by starting her own business, Farmour. Today, she combines her experience across science, government, and industry to deliver services that directly support farmers and industry groups to strengthen agriculture in Far North Queensland.

MEET CLAIRE

PROGRAM COORDINATOR

NATIONAL FARMERS' FEDERATION
Based in Townsville, working across
Australia and Far North Queensland

TRAINING Bachelor of Agricultural Science (Animal Science) and Agribusiness

PATHWAY Grew up on a banana farm → Joined the military after school → University → Took opportunities within youth programs → Program Coordinator

BEST PART OF THE JOB Connecting with people across the industry and helping young Australians find their place in agriculture

BEST THING ABOUT FNQ Strong community, incredible lifestyle, and a diverse agriculture industry that keeps people connected

CLAIRE'S career shows that agriculture is full of variety and opportunity. Growing up on a banana farm in the Cassowary Coast of Far North Queensland, she always loved Ag Science and the practical side of farming.

After a brief stint in the military, she pursued a dual degree in Agricultural Science (Animal Science) and Agribusiness at the University of Queensland, gaining experience across different sectors and commodities.

Her career path solidified after attending Beef Australia in 2025, where she discovered the importance of connecting young people to agriculture. That led to her current role as Program Coordinator with the National Farmers' Federation.

A typical day for Claire is never the same. Some days she is at her desk, writing emails, creating program content, or coordinating events.

Other days involve traveling across the country, meeting producers, attending field days, expos, and conferences, and building relationships within the agriculture network. She might spend a morning on a farm, then an afternoon presenting a workshop, and finish the day planning the next program activity.

This diversity keeps her engaged and allows her to use a wide range of skills – communication, organisation, and relationship-building, all while seeing firsthand the challenges and successes of producers.

Claire's advice for students and those considering agriculture is to get involved wherever possible. Whether it's farm experience, attending industry events, or volunteering in programs, opportunities to learn and explore are everywhere.

Agriculture careers are diverse, hands-on, and meaningful, with room for a wide range of interests and talents.



“Whether you have a degree or don't, have come from an agricultural background or not – there is a place for you. The beauty of agriculture is anywhere along the supply chain, there is a role out there for everyone





WATCH DAVID'S STORY  

MEET DAVID

DEVELOPMENT HORTICULTURIST

QUEENSLAND DEPARTMENT OF PRIMARY INDUSTRIES
Mareeba, Far North Queensland

TRAINING Bachelor of Agricultural Science (Plant Science), Honours in Macadamia propagation

PATHWAY Grew up on family farm → University → Graduate research and commercial agronomist jobs → Government extension officer

BEST PART OF THE JOB Being hands-on in the paddock, connecting growers with research, and using science to solve real-world agricultural problems

BEST THING ABOUT FNQ Open spaces, close-knit community, outdoor lifestyle, and proximity to reef and hinterland

“
I think Far north Queensland is the best place in Australia to live. I can understand why my grandfather decided to move here from the other side of the world

DAVID helps growers solve production challenges and apply new techniques, blending science with practical solutions. His work spans field visits, lab research, and farm workshops, connecting scientists and farmers.

His career highlights curiosity, problem-solving, and impact, and he's proud to be back in FNQ, contributing to local agriculture where his journey began.



“This publication celebrates the diverse people, careers and opportunities shaping the future of agriculture in Far North Queensland

QAWN

The Queensland Agriculture Workforce Network (QAWN) assists producers and agribusinesses to attract, train and retain a sustainable workforce.

This free service is available to agribusinesses with operations in Queensland, regardless of commodity or organisation membership.

QAWN is funded by the Department of Primary Industries and hosted by FNQ Growers.

FNQ GROWERS

FNQ Growers is the peak representative body for horticultural growers across Far North Queensland spanning from Lakeland in the north, south to Rollingstone and west to Georgetown.

Built on the philosophy of 'By Growers, For Growers', FNQ Growers works alongside industry to advocate for the sustainability, profitability and future of agriculture across the region. Representing one of Australia's most diverse agricultural landscapes, the organisation supports growers and regional communities through workforce development, industry engagement, training, advocacy and strategic partnerships.

From labour, freight and market access to water, infrastructure and regional resilience, FNQ Growers ensures the voice of Far North Queensland growers is heard where and when it matters most.

This publication celebrates the people, pathways and opportunities shaping the future of agriculture in Far North Queensland – an industry that not only feeds communities, but helps drive the social and economic future of the region.

This publication was made possible through the collaboration, generosity and support of growers, local champions and industry representatives across Far North Queensland.

FNQ Growers proudly acknowledges and thanks all individuals and organisations who contributed their time, stories, images, insights and expertise to help showcase the diverse people, pathways and career opportunities shaping the future of agriculture in the region.

PROJECT COORDINATION & DEVELOPMENT

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Sherri Soncin - Project Support

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PARTICIPATING ORGANISATIONS

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Rock Ridge Farming

Lecker Farming

Australian Native Products

Sugar Research Australia

Tropical North Queensland Drought Resilience Adoption and Innovation Hub

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explore MORE



Agriculture Careers & Pathways

Careers In Agriculture - Career Harvest

> careerharvest.com.au

Farm Jobs QLD

> farmjobsqld.com.au

Queensland Farmers Federation

> qff.org.au

AgriFutures Australia

> agrifutures.com.au



School Programs / Teacher Resources

AgForce School to Industry Partnership Program (SIPP)

> agforceqld.org.au

Agribusiness Gateway to Industry Schools Program

> agribusinessgateway.com.au

Primary Industries Education Foundation Australia (PIEFA)

> piefa.edu.au

AgCAREERSTART

> agcareerstart.com.au



More Career Pathway Publications

AUSVEG

> ausveg.com.au

Australian Bananas Growers

> abgc.org.au

Citrus Australia

> citrusaustralia.com.au

Cotton Australia

> cottonaustralia.com.au

CANEGROWERS

> canegrowers.com.au

Advancing Beef Leaders

> [Unspoken Wisdom From The Bush](#)



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Queensland
Agriculture
Workforce
Network
Far North Queensland



Queensland
Government

This project is being delivered as part of the Queensland Agriculture Workforce Network (QAWN),
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