

A CAREER WITH A LIFESTYLE

FARMING NEEDS YOUNG WORKERS

writer **SARA CARBERY**
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Growing up on a farm gave **SARAH WILSON** a front-row seat to observe what a career in farming might look like.

After completing Year 13 at Wanganui Girls' College, Sarah enrolled with Telford where she studied for a Certificate in Agriculture in her first year and a Diploma in Agriculture in her second. "I liked the idea of being outside learning practical skills," she says.

During this time, Sarah lived on Telford's campus in Balclutha, which extends over 850 hectares of farmland and includes halls of residence, workshops, classrooms and livestock units.

"The highlights were the close friends I made along the way — because we all were studying agriculture, we all had similar interests, which made it easy to get along with others."

Sarah says the tutors also became friends and she still contacts them for a catch-up or advice.

Since graduating last year, Sarah (21) has worked on a sheep and beef farm near Lawrence in Otago — a job she got on the recommendation of one of her tutors.

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SARAH WILSON

She says all the skills and knowledge she acquired at Telford — stock work, fencing, tractor work and more — are being put to good use.

"I enjoy most aspects of my job but in particular I like how every day is different. One day I might be working with cattle, the next sheep, and the next I could be fencing or who knows what.

"I also love being able to have my own dogs and having the satisfaction of training them myself and seeing them grow and become better."

While there are always challenges in farming, "such as days when it's cold and raining but you still have to be outside... or the dogs misbehave, or the stock misbehaves", Sarah says these are always outweighed by the positives.

In her final year of school, Sarah studied English, Statistics, Biology, Chemistry, Sport Science and Art.

The most useful subjects have been Statistics — "as there is always maths involved in farming, such as lambing percentages [and] growth rates"



— and Biology, which "pretty much relates to everything within farming, from genetics to plant health".

She also found "bits of Chemistry" useful when learning about agrichemicals and soil nutrients.

If you're looking at a career in farming, Sarah says to "go for it".

"It's a great career path that comes with a great lifestyle. There are also so many job opportunities as farming is a massive sector within New Zealand and has a shortage of young workers coming in."

After working her way up the country gaining experience on different farms, Sarah's plan is to take over the family farm near Taumarunui.

A faculty of the Southern Institute of Technology, Telford offers real-life, practical training under the supervision of experienced tutors and farm managers.

KEY FACTS



- SARAH WILSON LIVED AT TELFORD'S BALCLUTHA CAMPUS — AN 850-HECTARE FARM — AND GAINED A **CERTIFICATE IN AGRICULTURE** IN HER FIRST YEAR AND A **DIPLOMA IN AGRICULTURE** IN HER SECOND.
- SHE HAS FOUND **BIOLOGY, STATISTICS** AND ASPECTS OF **CHEMISTRY** TO BE THE MOST USEFUL **NCEA SUBJECTS** THROUGHOUT HER STUDIES AND IN HER JOB.
- SARAH HAS AMBITIONS TO WORK ON **DIFFERENT FARMS** AND **GAIN EXPERIENCE ALL ACROSS NEW ZEALAND.**



For more information on studying toward a career in the agriculture industry through the Southern Institute of Technology, visit www.sit.ac.nz/telford

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