

RISING TO THE CHALLENGE

AMBITIOUS FUTURE LEADER writer PETER WHITE photographer EMMILY HARMER



“IT IS HUMBLING TO BE ABLE TO PLAY A VITAL ROLE FOR THE FUTURE, AND TO TRY AND ENSURE THE SUCCESS OF THE DAIRY INDUSTRY AS WE GO THROUGH SOME CHALLENGING ECONOMIC TIMES.”

HARRY FINCH

Harry attends weekly modules that cover everything from managing people, cows and grass to banking basics and industry fundamentals. In addition, the graduates are given the opportunity to network with some of the best professionals in the industry.

“It is going to extend the depth of our knowledge about every day on-farm practices and the nitty gritty aspects of owning a business. Also, the networking we receive is so important as it connects us with some very valuable people. Hopefully, the programme will fast track us into management and give us the tools to successfully progress within the industry, and in time enable us to build equity within a farm and be able to do that in a relatively fast time period.”

Harry is employed as a farm assistant in Ashburton. He is proud to be working in one of the most important sectors of the New Zealand economy.

“It is massive to be a part of dairying in New Zealand. It is an ever-changing industry, and we are constantly being faced with political and consumer challenges. It is humbling to be able to play a vital role for the future, and to try and ensure the success of the dairy industry as we go through some challenging economic times.

“I want to progress and grow, and possibly one day be an influential part of the industry.”

In Year 13 at St Bede’s College in Christchurch, Harry took Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Agriculture and Mathematics, which were the subjects he liked most through school.

A career in agriculture became a favoured option for him after he visited a farm in north Canterbury and was offered some holiday work shepherding. After leaving school, he completed a Bachelor of Science at Massey University.

Harry’s advice to school leavers – agriculture is not a hard industry to get into and the opportunities it presents are endless, particularly in the dairy sector, but you have to work hard at it.

“We need people who are motivated to succeed, are passionate in what they are doing and are determined to progress their career. There is no doubt you could be managing a farm or running your own business within a few years out of school – it is an exciting industry.”

“I’m loving what I am doing, plus I have been given all the opportunities to achieve my goals,” says HARRY FINCH. The 21-year-old is one of seven graduates selected for this year’s intake of the Grassroots Dairy Graduate Management Programme.

“It is a great new initiative that pairs up recent university graduates with high performing, reputable farmers in the Canterbury region.

Ultimately, the idea of the programme is to attract, develop and retain more university graduates into the industry,” says Harry.

“Currently, the dairy industry faces a labour shortage, so this programme is vital in the aspect that it will inject more ambitious people into the industry who are ultimately keen to tackle the challenges of owning and/or running a business within the dairy sector.”

KEY FACTS



- HARRY FINCH HAS A BACHELOR OF SCIENCE FROM MASSEY UNIVERSITY.
- HE WORKS AS A FARM ASSISTANT IN ASHBURTON AND THIS YEAR, HE WILL BE PARTICIPATING IN THE GRASSROOTS DAIRY GRADUATE MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME.
- HARRY STUDIED BIOLOGY, CHEMISTRY, PHYSICS, AGRICULTURE AND MATHEMATICS IN YEAR 13.



For more information on the Grassroots Dairy Management Graduate Programme, visit www.godairy.co.nz

For more information on career options within the dairy sector, visit www.dairynz.co.nz/people/dairy-careers

For more information on study options available at Massey University, visit www.massey.ac.nz