

# A LOVE OF ANIMALS AND THE LAND

## GET INTO THE SCIENCE BEHIND FARMING

writer **SARA CARBERY** // photographer **PETER McDERMOTT**

**There's a lot more to farming than meets the eye.**

"Farming is a business, driven by a biological system," says farm business manager, Alice Allsop. "Understanding animal, plant and soil science is fundamental.

"On top of that you need to have some accounting knowledge and most of all enjoy working with people who love the land."

Alice holds a Bachelor of Agricultural Science with First Class Honours from Lincoln University. This three-year degree (four years with honours) integrates real-world examples into learning through case studies, field trips and tours.

Students are also required to undertake 28 weeks of industry-based work experience, spending at least 10 weeks on a dairy farm, and another 10 weeks on a sheep/beef farm.

"I loved it," says Alice of her time at Lincoln. "I met some of life's best friends and got to visit other people's farms all around New Zealand. I loved learning about farming."

After Lincoln, Alice went on to study a Post-Graduate Diploma in Animal Breeding and Management at the University of Sydney and for the past four years she has been working for Rimanui Farms. Her role as farm business manager involves working with the company's farm managers on financial planning/budgeting, strategic planning, people management and monitoring farm operations.

"It is a great role because I get to work close to the action and be part of the decision making."

Before joining Rimanui Farms, Alice worked for Landcorp Farming as a database administrator and, following that, as an animal breeding specialist at Focus Genetics.

"I have always loved the outdoors and animals," says the 32-year-old. "Combining this with the

science behind farming has been the perfect career for me."

In her final year at Otumoetai College in Tauranga, Alice took English, Statistics, Biology, Chemistry and Photography. Photography aside, all these subjects have proven useful for her study and career, including Statistics which Alice found challenging at school.

"Stats at high school didn't seem that useful and was a challenge but once I got to uni I realised the

power of statistics in science and ended up doing it to level three."

During her time at Lincoln, Alice was awarded a Beef + Lamb New Zealand scholarship.

As well as providing financial support, Alice says it was reassuring to know Beef + Lamb was backing her (and other undergraduates who gained scholarships) to pursue a future in New Zealand agriculture.



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**ALICE ALLSOP**

### KEY FACTS



- **ALICE ALLSOP** HAS A **BACHELOR OF AGRICULTURAL SCIENCE WITH FIRST CLASS HONOURS** FROM **LINCOLN UNIVERSITY** AND A **POST-GRADUATE DIPLOMA IN ANIMAL BREEDING AND MANAGEMENT** FROM THE **UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY**.
- SHE WORKS AS A **FARM BUSINESS MANAGER** FOR **RIMANUI FARMS**.
- **ALICE** WAS AWARDED A **BEEF + LAMB NEW ZEALAND SCHOLARSHIP** WHILE STUDYING AT **LINCOLN UNIVERSITY**.



For more information on studying **Agricultural Science** through **Lincoln University**, visit [www.lincoln.ac.nz](http://www.lincoln.ac.nz)

For more information on careers in **agriculture**, visit [www.growingnz.org.nz](http://www.growingnz.org.nz)