

THE GROWTH OF SUSTAINABILITY

ENVIRONMENT MEETS AGRICULTURE

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DR ROSHEAN WOODS has a passion for research that supports farmers to be more sustainable and reduces the impact farming has on the environment.

During her PhD study (hence the 'Dr' in front of her name), Roshean conducted experiments to determine how the plants eaten by cows can help reduce the amount of nitrogen that is leached through the soil by the cow's urine.

"My research topic was a perfect fit," she says. "I am passionate about the environment, and this project was tackling an environmental issue by looking at the soil-plant system."

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Prior to her PhD, Roshean undertook a Bachelor of Science with Honours at Lincoln University, majoring in Soil Science and Plant Science. She chose to do a BSc because she enjoyed science subjects at school, and during her first year at university she discovered an interest in soils and plants.

"I found it fascinating that there was so much more to soil than I'd ever dreamed of," she says. "After all, soils grow our food; life would be completely different without them."

In her final year at Timaru Girls' High School, Roshean studied Chemistry, Biology, Physics, Calculus and English, all subjects that have helped in her studies and career.

In the university holidays she made the most of research placements at Lincoln University and

DairyNZ. Between her Honours degree and her PhD Roshean gained valuable experience working on a dairy farm before securing a DairyNZ/AgResearch Science Internship for a year.

"This was a great opportunity for me and confirmed which areas of science I was most interested in," she says.

Now 27, Roshean is a Farm Environment Consultant with AgriMagic, a job that involves working with farmers to help them meet environmental regulations set by regional councils, and ensure their businesses remain sustainable into the future.

"The thing I enjoy the most is working with farmers and seeing how quickly they adapt to become more sustainable once they understand

the key things which are impacting the environment on their property."

Roshean says hers is just one of the many interesting jobs you'll find in the agricultural sector. "Farmers need so many people working with them to run successful farm businesses – consultants, scientists, researchers, fertiliser reps, plant breeders and agronomists – the list goes on."

Her advice is to study something you enjoy, and go with your gut.

"In making some of the biggest decisions – like which university to attend or which job to choose – I followed my heart, not just my head. Sometimes it just feels right."

Roshean also recommends getting in touch with someone who is working in the type of role you're interested in. "See if you can find out more about it, or even better, see if you can spend some time with them."



KEY FACTS



- **ROSHEAN WOODS** HAS A PHD AND A BACHELOR OF SCIENCE WITH HONOURS FROM LINCOLN UNIVERSITY.
- SHE WORKS AS A FARM ENVIRONMENT CONSULTANT FOR AGRIMAGIC, HELPING FARMERS TO HAVE SUSTAINABLE BUSINESSES AND MEET THEIR ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATIONS.
- **ROSHEAN** BELIEVES THERE ARE MANY VARIED AND INTERESTING ROLES AVAILABLE IN THE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR.



For more information on studying a Bachelor of Science through Lincoln University, visit www.lincoln.ac.nz

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