

FLEXIBILITY AND VARIETY

YOUNG FARMER HAS NO REGRETS

writer **PETER WHITE** // photo **ALAN STEVENS**

“The possibilities in farming are endless,” says BAILEY LONERGAN. “There are lots of opportunities in dairy to progress with the right attitude and the right employer.”

The 24-year-old is a farm manager with Clover Sun Ltd in the Horotiu area, close to Hamilton.

“Every day on the farm is different. In the spring, it is busy and I can be doing anything – from in the office working out intakes, supplementary feeding decisions and animal health records, to setting up fences, feeding calves and tractor work.

“Being able to wake up at your place of work is great and getting up early and milking the cows is really rewarding. You are doing something that matters and contributes significantly to our economy.

“I really enjoy my role because it involves a lot of thinking and planning. There is always plenty to do on the farm, but being able to pick what I do and make my own schedule is priceless. Having that flexibility is awesome.”

Bailey decided farming was for him after spending time on a local farm during Year 11 at St John's College in Hamilton. The Gateway programme was a turning point for him.

“I didn't know what I wanted to do until I started Gateway, working on a farm one-day a week, which is where I met my current boss. He has been fully supportive of me learning and growing.”

Bailey studied English, Horticulture, Media Studies, Outdoor Education and Science in Year 13 at St John's.

With the connections made through Gateway, he worked for a year on the farm he did his work experience on, before starting a Bachelor of AgriScience at Massey.

In his final year, he received a DairyNZ scholarship that helped greatly with study costs and living costs.

“The big thing was the workshops that we had, which were really good for meeting people. They gave us really good advice on how to survive in the workplace and dealing with the change from student life to going out into a fulltime role.”

Bailey has been involved with New Zealand Young Farmers since he started at Massey.

Last year, he took over as chairperson of North Waikato Young Farmers.

“This is a busy but super important role. Being able to plan stuff for other members to enjoy is really rewarding and we have heaps of things planned for the future.”

Bailey's advice to school leavers – don't put too much pressure on yourself.

“You need to have a goal that you want to achieve in the future and something to work towards. I knew this was the industry for me and I just got stuck in and worked hard when I started.

“There can be competitive salaries in farming, especially getting into management levels. Combined with accommodation on the farm, this can help you grow equity and use it to get into a higher role like contract milking and share milking.”



“THERE IS ALWAYS PLENTY TO DO ON A FARM, BUT BEING ABLE TO PICK WHAT I DO AND MAKE MY OWN SCHEDULE IS PRICELESS.”

BAILEY LONERGAN

KEY FACTS



- **BAILEY LONERGAN** WORKS AS A **FARM MANAGER** WITH **CLOVER SUN LTD**. THE **GATEWAY PROGRAMME** AT HIS HIGH SCHOOL WAS INSTRUMENTAL IN HIS DECISION TO EMBARK ON A CAREER IN FARMING.
- HE HAS A **BACHELOR OF AGRISCIENCE** FROM **MASSEY UNIVERSITY**, AND WAS ASSISTED BY A **DAIRYNZ SCHOLARSHIP**.
- **BAILEY** IS INVOLVED WITH **NEW ZEALAND YOUNG FARMERS** AND IS THE **CHAIRPERSON** OF **NORTH WAIKATO YOUNG FARMERS**.



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