



written by **PETER WHITE**

# AGRICULTURE STUDIES

## INCORPORATING PRACTICAL FARM WORK

**ROBERT GREGORY BELIEVES THE BACHELOR OF COMMERCE (AGRICULTURE) FROM LINCOLN UNIVERSITY CAN OPEN DOORS TO A WHOLE WORLD OF OPPORTUNITIES FOR GRADUATES.**

"The core of it is all-round farm management and farm financials and all the physical aspects of farming. It is quite cool. I think it is an awesome degree if you want to go farming," the 22-year-old from Gore says.

"I liked that you could tailor it to whatever angle you wanted because they let you mix your papers up as long as they have some cohesion. I had a strong interest in financials so did heaps of finance papers."

The degree has a strong practical aspect, which Robert liked.

"You had to do a combined 36-weeks of practical work over the three years in different farm systems of cropping, sheep and also dairy. I did beef and sheep in North Canterbury and near home, and a cropping place in North Otago.

"It gives you heaps of opportunities to get into different systems so you don't have a single, narrow-minded focus."

Robert added a further year of study to his three-year degree, to qualify with a Master of Management in Agribusiness.

He is grateful for the annual \$5000 scholarship from Beef + Lamb New Zealand for the duration of his undergraduate and postgraduate study, which was dependent on his achieving a B+ average grade.

"The scholarship helps you heaps. They have networking events throughout the year. That was the most important part – getting to know people in the industry.

"In my final year I went to the Beef + Lamb farm council conference last year and it was great to meet so many people for future reference."

Robert says the agriculture degree creates opportunities and not just in farming-related careers.



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**Robert Gregory**

"It opens up more doors than you think. There are roles in banking, any sort of consultancy, fertiliser company reps, all that sort of thing."

Robert attended St Peter's College in Gore. In Year 13 he took English, maths, religious education plus university papers in accounting and economics.

Growing up in rural Southland he was immersed in agriculture from an early age.

"I have always lived in the country and worked on a farm property about five minutes up the road from our place in Gore. They had a 650-hectare sheep and beef and mixed cropping property.

"I worked there part-time from when I was 12 right the way through school. I started off doing odd jobs and then gradually got into tractor work. I like the responsibility they gave me, which you can get with agriculture early on once you prove yourself.

"Being outside and having a real variety of jobs is really good and what I got out of that. I was always doing something different. It was quite fun."

Robert recently finished eight months working as an Intern Analyst on a research project at Craigmore Sustainables, which included doing 19 separate dairy farm budgets.

### KEY FACTS



- **ROBERT GREGORY HAS A BACHELOR OF COMMERCE (AGRICULTURE) AND A MASTER OF MANAGEMENT IN AGRIBUSINESS FROM LINCOLN UNIVERSITY.**
- **HE RECEIVED AN ANNUAL \$5000 SCHOLARSHIP FROM BEEF + LAMB NEW ZEALAND FOR THE DURATION OF HIS UNDERGRADUATE AND POSTGRADUATE STUDY.**



For more information on careers in agriculture, visit [www.getahead.co.nz](http://www.getahead.co.nz)

For more information on scholarships offered by Beef + Lamb New Zealand, visit [www.beeflambnz.com/scholarships](http://www.beeflambnz.com/scholarships)