

PIG FARMERS IN DEMAND

HIGH JOB SATISFACTION

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When Karl Stanley's grandfather and great uncle returned from World War II, they were proud to purchase one of the farmland blocks set aside for returning soldiers. Today, Karl is proudly upholding those values – farming high quality pork on the land near Opunake in Taranaki.

"We love working with our pigs, they are just such interesting and rewarding animals to be around," says Karl.

"We believe happy pigs – with high standards of health and welfare and very good nutrition – are the key to producing outstanding pork. Our pigs are fed entirely on wheat, barley and corn and the result is a consistently high quality product."

Regan Driever joined Stanley Brothers Pig Farm two years ago straight from school – having enjoyed a stint of work experience at the farm. He has not taken long to shine – last year he was the joint winner of the 2023 Stockperson of the Year award. Previous winners were Karl and farm manager Leon.

Regan, 19, has achieved his NZQA Level 3 qualification in Pig Husbandry and plans to study for his Level 4 next year.

"It is important to get those extra qualifications – to up my skill level and go further in life," says Regan.

Pigs are unique animals to farm. Regan loves working with them and particularly likes their different personalities.

"I enjoy how intelligent they are – they are pretty cool animals. Never a dull moment with them. They are very smart and very inquisitive. They like to touch and wreck everything – they have their own personalities and are all different."

Stanley Brothers Pig Farm has about 4,800 pigs, with Regan one of six fulltime workers. He says they have the pigs for 142 days before they are trucked out – with 250 piglets born every week.

One of his key roles is to run the mill that produces the feed for all the pigs.

"We are all grain feed here so we have a mixture which goes through a disc mill run by computer. I just have to type in what recipe I want made."

Regan enjoyed Biology, Horticulture, Agriculture and Agribusiness at Hawera High School – before leaving halfway through Year 12 to start fulltime at Stanley Brothers Pig Farm.

"I approached them and asked if I could get some work experience. I really enjoyed it – and they seemed to like me – so they offered me a job. They said I had to finish off my Level 2 units and then I went straight into the job.

"I grew up on a dairy farm so I knew about animal welfare but for someone who hasn't had that experience with animals, pig farming is a good entry-level for school leavers – particularly with the on-farm training plus getting Level 3 and Level 4 qualifications.

"I see it as a long-term career – I'd encourage any young people interested in the sector to apply for work experience and see what they think."

NZ PORK



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REGAN DRIEVER

KEY FACTS



- **REGAN DRIEVER** STARTED WORKING AT **STANLEY BROTHERS PIG FARM** TWO YEARS AGO, STRAIGHT FROM LEAVING **HAWERA HIGH SCHOOL**.
- HE IS THE **JOINT WINNER** OF THE **2023 STOCKPERSON OF THE YEAR AWARD** – ACHIEVED THROUGH HIS **NZQA LEVEL 3 QUALIFICATION IN PIG HUSBANDRY**.
- **REGAN** IS ONE OF **SIX FULLTIME WORKERS** FARMING ABOUT **4,800 PIGS** AT **STANLEY BROTHERS PIG FARM**. HE SAYS **PIGS ARE VERY SMART AND INQUISITIVE ANIMALS**, WITH THEIR OWN PERSONALITIES.



For more information on careers in pig farming, visit www.nzpork.co.nz
For more information on studying pork production through Primary ITO, visit www.primaryito.ac.nz