

CARING FOR ANIMALS IN THE OUTDOORS

FARMING IS THE WAY TO GO

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“IT IS VERY REWARDING, AND YOU GET SO MUCH MORE OUT OF IT THAT YOU DON'T EVEN REALISE UNTIL A FEW YEARS DOWN THE TRACK.”

COURTNEY GLOISTEIN



If you're passionate about animals, 22-year-old COURTNEY GLOISTEIN recommends giving farming a go.

“It is very rewarding, and you get so much more out of it that you don't even realise until a few years down the track,” she says.

“You learn good communication skills, respect, responsibility and you always feel like you have achieved something.”

Courtney was named NZ Pork's 2021 Stockperson of the Year, selected from trainees who have completed their National Certificate in Pork Production (Level 3).

“This has been my biggest achievement,” she says. “I am very proud of it.”

“I didn't stand a chance to get much in the way of qualifications in school because I'm not an academic person; I'm a hands-on learner. That's why I only stayed in school until I was 16.”

After leaving Rangiora High School at the end of Year 11, Courtney worked part-time on sheep farms before starting fulltime work on a pig farm in North Canterbury when she was 18.

She was originally looking for a fulltime job on a sheep farm but when she saw an ad on Trade Me for a pig

farm worker at Kilgour's Farm, she decided to try something new.

She has been working with pigs for four years now, a busy job that sees her feeding and checking on the pigs every morning (her favourite part of the job), laying new straw for bedding, checking water, mixing food and many other jobs.

“I'm always flat out with a variety of tasks to complete.”

Growing up on a small lifestyle block in North Canterbury, Courtney enjoyed helping her parents to hand-raise lambs. She got her first farm job when she was 12, working weekends and school holidays to pay for her horse's food and farrier bills.

“I was contracting tractor work, hay carting, fencing, drilling, harvesting, sheep work,” she says. “From there, word of mouth got out that I was a good help on the farm, and I ended up having a few jobs on the go, helping farmers out on their sheep farms when they needed an extra pair of hands.”

In Year 11, Courtney took Maths, English, Science, Equine Studies, Agriculture and Agriculture Plus. Agriculture taught her a lot about farming she says, and maths skills have also been useful.

“On a farm you are always having to calculate figures somewhere.”

“Farming is hard work but it's so rewarding,” she says. “You come home every day feeling like you have achieved something good.”

“If you love the outdoors and caring for animals, farming is the way to go!”

The pork sector offers many opportunities for people looking to work with livestock, with a combination of on-job and off-job training and strong career paths.

New Zealand has a relatively small but significant pork sector. There are 93 commercial pig farms, with 55 per cent of pigs bred indoors and 42 per cent outdoors, while three per cent are free range.

The commercial herd is of a high health status and operates to high animal welfare and biosecurity standards. The sector has a small environmental footprint, producing just 0.2 per cent of New Zealand's agricultural emissions.

NZ PORK

KEY FACTS



- **COURTNEY GLOISTEIN** IS A PIG FARM WORKER ON **KILGOUR'S FARM, NORTH CANTERBURY.**
- SHE WAS **NZ PORK'S STOCKPERSON OF THE YEAR.** THE AWARD IS GIVEN TO A TRAINEE WHO HAS COMPLETED THEIR **NATIONAL CERTIFICATE IN PORK PRODUCTION (LEVEL 3).**
- **COURTNEY** RECOMMENDS **FARMING** AS A CAREER OPTION SAYING IT IS HARD WORK BUT **VERY REWARDING.**



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