



“ YOU NEED TO BE SOMEONE WILLING TO PUT IN THE HARD WORK, TO BE PART OF THE TEAM AND WE WANT PEOPLE THAT CAN START TO BRING IDEAS AROUND HOW THEY WANT TO MAKE THINGS BETTER AS WELL. ”

JAMES TAYLOR

## GET AHEAD AT SILVER FERN FARMS FORGE YOUR OWN PATH

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**JAMES TAYLOR** has worked for Silver Fern Farms for 11 years and has held a range of different roles.

James is a streamline facilitator at the Pacific site in Hastings. He started his career as a process operator working on the floor. He has since been a team leader, supervisor and compliance auditor.

Silver Fern Farms employ more than 6000 staff at 14 processing sites throughout New Zealand – seven each in the North and South Islands. It is New Zealand’s leading marketer, processor and exporter of premium quality lamb, beef, venison and associated products.

“My role as the streamline facilitator is to lead our continuous improvement programme known as STREAMLINE, which we launched back in 2019,” James says.

“We have a set of tools we use to try and improve our processes, so my role is to train our people and to

identify improvements by listening to team members’ ideas on the floor. Overall, the role is all about having a positive impact on the site and the people there.”

In all the roles he has had with Silver Fern Farms what he loves most has been the people he works with.

“When I went to doing audits, I realised I really missed having that team I worked with. It felt like the part that really mattered to me was not there anymore. The role I am in now has a positive impact on the people when we do it well, so being able to connect with the people on the shop floor right through to management is pretty important to me.”

James went to Central Hawke’s Bay College in Waipukurau. In Year 13, he focused on Physics, Chemistry, Maths and Computing. He was working part-time for Silver Fern Farms as a summer job after he left school but decided to give university a go.

“To be fair, I probably went for the wrong reasons. I went because I thought it was the right thing to

do because everyone else was going there. I started doing a Bachelor of Science and early on wondered what I was going to do with the degree.

“So, I realised university wasn’t the right thing for me and thankfully there was a role still there for me at Silver Fern Farms as a process worker. That’s where it all kicked off for me working fulltime.”

The variety of roles James has filled is indicative of the opportunities available for school leavers with different skills.

“You need to be someone willing to put in the hard work, to be part of the team and we want people that can start to bring ideas around how they want to make things better as well.

“Silver Fern Farms is no longer just a freezing works company. There are so many different aspects to the business. We have marketing, sales, technology, livestock and graduate programmes. The opportunities are all there.”

### KEY FACTS



- **JAMES TAYLOR** HAS WORKED AT **SILVER FERN FARMS** FOR 11 YEARS AND HAS HELD A VARIETY OF ROLES ACROSS THE COMPANY.
- HE WORKS AS THE **STREAMLINE FACILITATOR** AND HIS ROLE IS TO LEAD THE **CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME** KNOWN AS **STREAMLINE**, WHICH WAS LAUNCHED IN 2019.
- **JAMES** RECOMMENDS **SILVER FERN FARMS** AS AN EMPLOYER SAYING THAT THERE ARE **MANY OPPORTUNITIES ON OFFER** ACROSS THE **MANY DIFFERENT AREAS OF THE BUSINESS**.



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