

Week 8 – agriculture students

6 September

In two months, 28 students will graduate from the Advanced Diploma of Agriculture course at Longerenong. This week, BCG asked five of these students the following question:

What excites you about agriculture?



Adrian Pyke – Welshpool

Adrian Pyke's family run a 45ha beef property at Welshpool in Gippsland.

Agriculture: "What excites me about agriculture is the variety. I love the summertime sitting in the tractor to all hours of the morning wrapping silage. I love the winter mornings in the saleyards watching the steam coming off the cattle, there's nothing more exciting than nearly getting bowled over in the yards trying to draft cattle. There's nothing better than the end of season break up in the local pub talking about who baled the most

bales for the season.

As a young bloke coming into agriculture the whole thing excites me. It's such a varied industry full of interesting people all wanting to tell a story and I just want to have a go at everything that the agricultural industry has. I just LOVE it."



Kara Murphy – Preston

Kara Murphy is from Preston in Melbourne.

Agriculture: "I get asked all the time why I chose to get involved in agriculture; why would a city girl want to go out in the middle of nowhere?"

These people, city people themselves, do not realise what lies beyond the security of their back fence. They see a farmer struggling on the TV, yet do they know why? They're going to produce the next generation, yet these children think that milk comes from the carton and roast lamb can't be that

cute bundle they see at the tourist parks, can it? I've seen the stark contrast between people from the city and country; country folk appreciate the small things, like rain.

Agriculture exposes you to what life is all about: the struggles, the triumphs and good times spent with friends."



Alistair Bailey – Hamilton

Alistair Bailey comes from a 700ha sheep and cattle property, 20km west of Hamilton.

Agriculture: "I don't think you can explain what excites a person about agriculture; it's just a craving for the fresh air and open spaces, it's in the blood.

Every day covers such a diverse range of tasks from driving heavy machinery to helping animals give birth.

I've never found, working in agriculture that you watch the clock waiting for the day to end. This is because of the challenging work and the great friendly people you are surrounded by.

What drives me into a career in agriculture is the challenge of leasing, setting up and operating my property in the way I want to so I can enjoy every day that comes along."



Chris Mummery – Durham Ox

Chris Mummery and his family have mixed properties at Durham Ox and Puckapunyal. They produce wheat, barley, prime lambs and wool on their 1250ha.

Agriculture: “Rain excites me as it makes the countryside look magnificent. It makes the old man happy which makes me happy as it stops him whinging. To me being able to grow better than average crops and being able to feed stock with what the land produces is fantastic. It is great when it does rain, it makes it easy on the farmers mentally, physically and

financially. But life was not meant to be easy. Farming is a challenge! You can’t learn things over night! You’re always learning new skills within all of the agricultural enterprises. You can never get bored as there are so many things you can do and learn.”



Robert Funk – Dunkeld

Robert Funk is from a 600ha family farm 5km east of Dunkeld in the Western District. The Funks produce fine wool (18 micron) from Merinos.

Agriculture: “What’s soft and fluffy and you can cuddle up to? It’s wool. Most people think the wool industry is cactus, but it is just coming into a league of its own. With the way things are going, wool has so many benefits; it is a clean green product, synthetics are becoming too expensive to produce and with so many people turning to prime lambs there will soon

be a greater demand for wool.

And since a have decided to stick with wool I’m sure the future is bright and exiting so I cant wait to be riding on the sheep’s back again, just like the old days.”