

PRIMARY INDUSTRIES



For more information, check out
www.waikatofarmerstrust.org.nz

The Waikato Farmers Trust is a charitable trust with a real passion for farming and the agribusiness community in Waikato. The trust's goal is to help rural communities grow and thrive by offering scholarships, funding and sponsorship to individuals, organisations and other charities to benefit the rural and agribusiness communities.

Waikato is at the heart of New Zealand agribusiness, with a vast range of careers in the region related to farming. Employers involved in agribusiness include any company or enterprise related to cultivating and processing food and other agricultural products.

BECOMING A FARM CONSULTANT



Type of person

- Good listening and communication skills
- Analytical
- Supportive
- Excellent people skills



Useful School Subjects

- English
- Maths
- Economics
- Business studies
- Agribusiness

Relevant Qualifications

- Diploma in Agribusiness Management
- Bachelor of Business

To find out more about this sector, profiles of young people like you in the industry, and career tools and tips...

scan here



Q & A

BRAYDON SCHRODER
 FARM CONSULTANT AND SUPERVISOR



The FutureForce® Crew sat down with Braydon to chat about his role...

→ WHAT FIRST GOT YOU INTERESTED IN AGRIBUSINESS AND HOW DID YOU FIRST GET INTO WORK?

I remember in Year 9 I wanted to be a pilot but I've always been interested in agriculture too and in Year 10 something changed. I was born and raised on a dairy farm with a passion for animals and agribusiness. I'm quite financially focused too – I like money – so I became interested in the profitability and sustainability of farming. When I was still at school I started approaching rural bank managers and others working in agribusiness and they were always happy to take me out on site with them.

→ WHAT DO YOU LOVE ABOUT YOUR JOB?

I love being outside and I love supporting farmers. I love seeing results. The best thing is seeing people grow and succeed and a farm really pumping.

→ WHAT HAVE YOU LEARNT ON THE JOB?

It's not all about what you know. A lot of it is about networking and good relationships. So having good relationship skills is really important. We work with a very broad range of people, so it's important to be able to get along with them.

→ WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE SOMEONE INTERESTED IN WORKING IN THIS SECTOR?

The best advice would be to get out and about and experience everything you can. Most professionals are only too happy to take you out for a day to show you what they do. That's what I did and it really helped give me the focus and direction I needed, and also helped me choose the right subjects. It's a great idea to connect with the industries you are interested in while you are still at school, and get work experience. Also, for scholarships – there are a lot of university and other scholarships in this sector. If you're clever you can get through uni with hardly any costs.

BRAYDON SCHRODER FARM CONSULTANT AND SUPERVISOR



→ WHAT SORT OF PERSON MAKE A GOOD FARM CONSULTANT?

You don't need anything specific, but you do need to be an excellent listener and you need to be supportive. A good farm consultant has excellent analytical and people skills. You need to have a good knowledge base too, but if there's something you don't know you can always check with your colleagues or do your research. When I came out of uni I thought you needed to know everything to be a rural professional – you needed to be the expert. But there's no harm in saying, "I don't know, but I am going to find out!"

Rural professional roles typically require a tertiary degree at minimum and almost always will require a CV to get a job. Having a CV is also important for scholarships.

→ HOW DO YOU MANAGE WORK-LIFE BALANCE AND STRESS?

Personally, I love planning. That's who I am. I have a very organised calendar to live by and for me that's key. I even put in my personal time because it's important to make that a priority.

Otherwise if I didn't schedule personal time I would end up working non stop because I enjoy it so much!

→ WHAT DOES A DAY ON THE JOB LOOK LIKE FOR YOU?

This job is so diverse and changes from day to day and week to week. I typically spend two to three days on farm visits and two days in the office catching up on paper work and reporting.

Once a month, I visit the farms I supervise to inspect everything with farm staff and complete all tasks that a farm owner would typically do to ensure the staff have the resources and plans in place to be successful and happy in their roles whilst reporting to the owners.

Ensuring communication between parties and a safe and healthy work place culture are fundamental in this role. Making sure staff are happy and working well together is important, and there is a focus on staff education too.

A DAY ON THE JOB

BRAYDON'S TASKS AT WORK INCLUDE...

- » Feed and financial budgeting and monitoring
- » Providing advice to farm staff and farm owners
- » Managing and supporting staff
- » Land use analysis
- » Feasibility studies
- » Environmental sustainability
- » Farm modelling
- » Assisting with consents
- » Systems modelling
- » Business analysis
- » Risk management
- » Planning
- » Reviews
- » Farm recruitment
- » Facilitating discussion groups

