

Why You Should Consider a Job in Agriculture

With the current economic climate revolving around Covid 19 is there an opportunity to make a career jump or transition. Agriculture so far has got through covid19 relatively unscathed compared to the tourism and food services industries like restaurants and café. Are there opportunities for you in the agricultural industry that may not be available in others.

The thing about working in agriculture and more specifically on a farm is the vast amount of different skills you are exposed to. If you have a learning mindset and are willing to put your hand to anything, the opportunities are endless. A farmer can wear a multitude of different hats. Skills that are required to be a mechanic, welder, animal nutritionist, agronomist, finance manager, HR manager, analyst, builder and plumber are all utilised on farms. The list of skills goes on.

If you are someone that is not sure what the future holds from a career perspective I would highly recommend working on a farm. The ability to experience so many different skills could help you to determine what it is you want to do next. You might find you have an aptitude for fixing machinery which may lead to a career as a diesel mechanic. The change from sitting in traffic commuting to and from the office to working outside could lead to the feeling of freedom and clarity.

If you like dealing with animals, then this is definitely something you should consider. Your daily interactions with animals will be a constant of your role. I know so many farmers that treat their animals better than they treat themselves. While farming is a business there is also a genuine care for the animals they have often reared from birth and will know their individual personality intimately. If I had a dollar for every time I was standing in a paddock of cows and one comes up and gives me a nudge and the farmer say "oh that is Bessie, she is a bit of a pet, just give her a scratch!" I would be a rich man. There could also be a business sideline helping your friends with stress relief from cow cuddles.

If you want to drive machinery there is not only jobs on farm but also with associated businesses such as contractors, fertiliser, and stockfeed suppliers. On farm you will see a variety of machinery from tractors and their associated implements, trucks to telehandlers, motorbikes and side by sides through to pumps and electrical motors of all descriptions. A milking shed these days has an abundance of technology from automatic cup removers to auto drafting of cattle. Computer systems identifying individual animals and monitoring animal health are becoming common place.

The ability to access training and upskill while working is one of the real strengths in agriculture. While there is the ability to study a fulltime Agricultural science degree for roles such as an agronomist or animal nutritionist, there is also massive opportunities to do short courses on a vast array of different skills. Training can involve short courses on entry level skills like cups on cups off. This may lead to progression in the industry where you may consider completing a Diploma of Agriculture which involves approximately 1 day of study per week for 2 years.

Farming does have long hours, but this also leads to flexibility in employment as farmers are sometimes looking to fill specific hours or tasks such as afternoon milkings or seasonal tasks such as calf rearing that are not full time. A calf rearing role might suit someone with young kids in primary school where they have some time during the day but also don't want to be tied to a permanent role. Employment in agriculture has the ability to be flexible.

Being out on farm can also have its benefits, where else can you get a free mud mask in this current situation! All in all, there are a multitude of opportunities that are available in agriculture and on farm if you are willing to consider and explore them.