

# Reading activities: Young women give their opinions about their place in agriculture's future

## ***Four young women give their opinions about their place in agriculture's future***

You are going to read interviews with four young Australian women. Three are students of Agriculture, and one is a recent graduate. In the interviews, they all answer the same four questions:

- 1. Why did you choose to study agriculture?***
- 2. Where do you want to work and what do you want to achieve?***
- 3. How do you think agriculture is viewed in wider society?***
- 4. What issues is the industry facing that you think need to be addressed?***

### *Before reading*

- (i) On a piece of paper, note down how *you* would answer these questions in English. What kind of vocabulary would be useful? These are the kinds of questions you might be asked in a job interview!
- (ii) How do you think an Australian woman would answer these questions? Would her answers be similar to or different from yours?

### *While reading*

Now read each of the four interviews in turn. As you read each interview, note down your answers to the following questions. If you find them difficult, note down your answers and take a break between readings.

### ***Understanding the interviews***

- (a) Read the responses of the four women to the first question. How do they express their feelings about the study of agriculture? Which expressions are repeated in each answer? What aspect of agriculture do they particularly respond to?
- (b) Read the responses of the four women to the second question. How do they express their hopes and desires for the future? In what ways do their hopes and plans differ?
- (c) Read the responses of the four women to the third question. List the **positive** and **negative** views of agriculture that they mention. Which are more frequent – positive or negative views? Do you think Brazilian society views agriculture in a similar or different way?
- (d) Read the responses of the four women to the final question. Which issues does Brazilian agriculture share with Australian agriculture? List the top five issues in order of importance. How do you think these issues can be addressed?

### ***Building a vocabulary list***

Some of the expressions in each interview might be unfamiliar. Note down any words or phrases that you think you really need to learn. Look them up in the online **Macmillan Dictionary** on moodle. If the word or phrase is a technical expression (like *agronomy*) you might need to look it up in the **National Agricultural Library's Agricultural Thesaurus and Glossary**, also on moodle.

Check the some of the following words and phrases that have already been added to the *Your Vocabulary List* section of moodle.

- *paddock*
- *vertical integration*
- *supply chain*
- *glass half full (empty)*
- *hands-on*

Note that the moodle glossary gives (1) a definition and (2) keywords that say something about the context in which the word or phrase is used.

Using the *Add a new entry* box, choose some of the other words that you have looked up and add them to Your Vocabulary List on moodle. This will help you and others to record and review your own database of useful vocabulary. Choose to add only those expressions that you think are particularly interesting or useful. Remember to add keywords that give some help about contexts in which to use them.