

Edited from

Young women give their opinions about their place in agriculture's future

By Warwick Long

1: Lucy Crowe, Recently graduated, Naracoorte, South Australia

Agriculture students are often told that there are more jobs than graduates for the industry they have decided to study. Those jobs are not just available on farms. The industry offers work in cities, the country, laboratories, offices, paddocks or driving high-tech equipment. So why does the next generation study agriculture, and what do they want to do? This farmer forum speaks to four women at the formative stage of their careers either in university, or just graduated, to get their thoughts on the industry.

1. Why did you choose to study agriculture?

Lucy Crowe: “I chose to study this area as I grew up with animals and production of food in my childhood. There was nothing else that really fired up my passions like agriculture does.”

2. Where do you want to work and what do you want to achieve?

Lucy Crowe: “In the future, I would like to be leading a team in a vertically integrated supply chain focused on the sustainable management of land or livestock.”

3. How do you think agriculture is viewed in wider society?

Lucy Crowe: “Generally agriculture doesn't get a good rap due to the likes of the media, animal activists and people with limited understanding of the industry. This is a major problem as the loudest voice makes the most noise. This can be seen in regards to the live export ban. Years later the ramifications are still being felt by people throughout the supply chain from farms, to transport operators and abattoirs.

“I think that as a woman - there is a large predisposition by some members of the industry still that it should be a male dominated industry. I'm out there to prove them wrong!”

4. What issues is the industry facing that you think need to be addressed?

Lucy Crowe: “We live in a variable climate zone in Australia; we are a land of floods and drought. Long-term drought proofing I believe is an important issue. Producers can't rely on government hand-outs as a way to get through droughts as we have in the past. They must change management of the land. Australian farmland cannot be

managed the same way as we have in the past based on past European farm management.”

Source: <http://www.abc.net.au/news/rural/2015-04-17/ag-students-farmer-forum/6400520>