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

By Warwick Long

### ***3: Rebecca Dunsmuir, Recently graduated, Bendigo, Victoria and now an agribusiness banker***

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?***

**Rebecca Dunsmuir:** “Having grown up on a sheep farm my entire life it's in my blood. I followed dad around the farm like a bad smell for years, but I love the people and the drive of the industry. I wanted to work in an industry that is going to constantly challenge me, an industry that is ever changing. I wanted to help farmers boost their businesses on the farm and boost their finances and financial knowledge. They are all exceptional at what they do, but with additional knowledge, come big achievements.”

“At the time I had no idea of the range of job opportunities, but I soon learnt that once I started university. But I loved finance and I loved agriculture, so although I wasn't sure if I would enjoy it at uni, from a science base instead of hands-on level, that's why I chose to study agriculture and absolutely loved it once I began.”

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

**Rebecca Dunsmuir:** “I have just started an agribusiness banking graduate program in Bendigo. I absolutely love it so far, as I can assist farmers to grow, sustain and enhance their business. I get to work in a rural setting, out and about most days, and use my passion for finance. The possibilities excite me.”

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

**Rebecca Dunsmuir:** “[Agriculture is viewed] in a very 'uncool', slow paced, 'old person's' based industry. It's known for producing food, but that's about it. The depth of opportunity, world leading technology, world class production, sustainability, complexity and mental challenge to achieve satisfaction is not known. I get overwhelmed with it at times, it's ridiculous!”

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

**Rebecca Dunsmuir:** “We are never going to be the food bowl of Asia, but we can produce quality food for Asia and Australia. This would boost exports. We need to get 'brand Australia' in front of Australians, and youth.

“It's an industry that needs to be seen as exciting and growing and then we may attract youth. Youth in agriculture is a huge problem, both at a science level and hands on farm based level.”

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