

A PASSION FOR FARMING

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FONTERRA GRADUATE PROGRAMMES

“The primary sector is an ever-changing space in New Zealand and is the backbone of our economy. There are a lot of challenges in the primary industry but there are equally, if not more, opportunities, so it is a really exciting space to be involved in,” says FLYNN FINLAYSON.

The 22-year-old is part of the Fonterra Agribusiness Graduate Programme, which provides opportunities to experience a wide range of exciting positions across Fonterra.

The programme is made up of a series of practical placements over a two-year period, in areas like sales (milk supply), environment and sustainability, agronomy, analytics and on-farm consultancy. The four, six-month placements, are designed to build understanding of the dairy industry through experience on the job – and to develop the skills and knowledge to build an agribusiness career.

“It is an exciting prospect to be part of the programme. Fonterra is New Zealand’s biggest company and has got an international reach and recognition,” says Flynn.

“That in itself provides a lot of opportunity to look outside New Zealand and see what impact we can have on the global stage. There are so many aspects of Fonterra, from research and development, right through to working on-farm with farmers.

“I am excited to develop the ability to communicate complex, big picture ideas to farmers in the field, at their place of work.”

Flynn began his first six-month rotation in February, as part of the On-Farm Excellence team within Farm Source Te Rapa – a subsidiary of Fonterra.

“I’m supporting the delivery of The Co-operative Difference, which is like incentive payments to dairy farmers. It is all about looking towards the future.

“It is not a requirement for farmers but we encourage everyone to be a part of it, to get ahead of potential regulations coming in, or shifts in consumer preference. There is a big drive for sustainability around the world at the moment, so we are just trying to be on top of any potential change that might come about.”

The other part of Flynn’s role is supporting Fonterra’s field teams, who are out talking to farmers.

“What I am trying to get out of this rotation is a technical understanding of Fonterra, why there is

a drive for change, and how Fonterra got to the point where they are as leaders in the industry.”

Flynn has a Bachelor of Science (BSc) and Bachelor of Arts (BA) conjoint degree from the University of Auckland.

“It was a unique combination of majors that is helping me to make informed decisions and come up with tailored solutions for real world challenges.”

In Year 13 at John Paul College in Rotorua, Flynn took Geography, Economics, Biology, Maths and Statistics, Religious Studies and Chemistry. He enjoyed spending time on the family farm so agriculture was always part of his life.

“I had some background outside of my studies in the primary industries so thought it was an awesome space to look into – and so far, it has worked out alright.”

His advice to school leavers – take the opportunities as they come, and try to keep as many doors open as possible, even after you work out what you want to do.



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FLYNN FINLAYSON



KEY FACTS



- **FLYNN FINLAYSON IS PART OF THE FONTERRA AGRIBUSINESS GRADUATE PROGRAMME.**
- **HE HAS A BACHELOR OF SCIENCE (BSc) AND BACHELOR OF ARTS (BA) CONJOINT DEGREE FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF AUCKLAND.**
- **FLYNN TOOK GEOGRAPHY, ECONOMICS, BIOLOGY, MATHS AND STATISTICS, RELIGIOUS STUDIES AND CHEMISTRY IN YEAR 13 AT JOHN PAUL COLLEGE IN ROTORUA.**

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