FROM PASTURE TO PLATE

writer **PETER WHITE**
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A VARIETY OF PATHWAYS TO CHOOSE FROM

HANNAH CROWLEY loves working as a Health and Safety Advisor for Silver Fern Farms, based at the Finegand site in Balclutha. In many respects, it is her absolute dream job.

"I really enjoy the work environment. I find it fascinating and everything that ties in with it from environmental, to health and safety, to quality and production, but also all the people," says Hannah.

The 23-year-old started working part-time at Silver Fern Farms just over four years ago while she was doing a Bachelor of Arts degree, majoring in English and Geography, from the University of Otago.

Those roles at the Waitane and Finegand plants set in motion a desire to work for Silver Fern Farms that has never left her. She wanted to work with people and make a difference to people's safety.

"I also enjoy problem-solving so to be given projects to go away by myself and work through was a really cool opportunity. I really thrived in that environment."

Hannah has been in her current role since last November.

"My role is quite versatile. I like that I am constantly being able to work out on site as well as in the office. No two days are ever really the same. You are constantly challenged.

"I really enjoy getting out talking face-to-face with people about how we can make improvements. A lot of my work is also looking at all the health and safety documentation and helping to come up with proactive solutions to issues that arise."

Hannah also works on instant response and investigations, ensuring that systems are working, and behaviours are correct.

"I like walking around departments, talking to the leaders and seeing if there is anything I can help with, and just monitoring all our health and safety controls as well."

Gaining her Diploma in Health and Safety is Hannah's next goal. She has completed one year of the two-year course – all straight A's so far!

Hannah attended St Peter's College in Gore. In Year 13 she took Religious Education, English, Statistics, Chemistry and Biology.

She would love school leavers to consider working for Silver Fern Farms, who operate 14 processing sites and four regional hubs across New Zealand.

Her advice is to look at the opportunities and the pathways that you can progress through. She says it is important to delve into whatever interests you and don't get stuck on just one option.

"Silver Fern Farms has so many internal pathways to progress your career. The opportunities in my mind are just endless, from project planners to engineers, electricians, process workers and butcher.

"There is so much room for progression and not just in one area as well. Many of the people I work with day-to-day started with jobs working on the chain but are now leading production teams or helping support streamline initiatives.

"I am working with people from training co-ordinators to project planners – there is a whole range of scope for jobs and growth within the industry. There are so many different pathways to grow into."

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KEY FACTS

- **HANNAH CROWLEY** WORKS AS A **HEALTH AND SAFETY ADVISOR** FOR **SILVER FERN FARMS**, BASED AT THE **FINEGAND SITE** IN **BALCLUTHA**.
- SHE **STARTED WORKING PART-TIME** FOR **THE COMPANY** WHILE **STUDYING** TOWARDS A **BACHELOR OF ARTS DEGREE** MAJORING IN **ENGLISH AND GEOGRAPHY**, AT THE **UNIVERSITY OF OTAGO**.
- **HANNAH** IS **HALFWAY THROUGH** A **TWO-YEAR DIPLOMA IN HEALTH AND SAFETY**.

ONLINE

For more information on the ***career opportunities*** *with* **Silver Fern Farms**, *visit* ***https://careers.silverfernfarms.com/nz/en/careers***