

INDUSTRY ADVOCATE PROFILE

Your name: Sam Flight

Name of your business/where you work: Tasmanian Institute of Agriculture

What is your occupation? Dairy Development and Extension Officer

How long have you been with the business? 5 years and counting

Tell us briefly about your background and education? I studied at Wynyard High School, then went onto Hellyer College and ended up completing a Bachelor of Agriculture in Hobart at the University of Tasmania and my Honours Degree in Milk Urea Nitrogen as a tool in the Tasmanian Dairy Industry.

What types of activities do you undertake as part of your occupation? I get to go out on farm and run discussion groups with farmers and other field day activities helping to get research out to the farmer groups, it is a lot about networking and helping farmers with pasture management. I also do work in the business side and collect farms physical and financial information. I am also currently working on a national irrigation program involved in improving irrigation practices on farms through discussion groups. There is great variety in my role and I am never stuck doing one thing.

Tell us about the 'lurks and perks' of your job, do you have a car, laptop, ability to travel? Travel is a real perk of the job. I have been to New Zealand twice with my role and one trip including talking at a conference as well as fun activities such as jet boat riding at Huka Falls. The lurks would have to be office days by luckily for me I can influence this and keep it to a minimum where possible.

What do you enjoy most about what you do and why? I love my role because I get to deal with farmers daily and they are the most genuine people, I have made some really great friends out of this. Dairy farmers have acted as great mentors for me in developing my career and knowledge.

What are your aspirations for the future? My aspirations for the future would be to have my own farm one day, big or small I would be happy either way.

How is your occupation connected with the dairy industry? Do you connect with other industries?

Yes my occupation is largely dairy and dealing with dairy farmers but we do collaborate across industries as in the current irrigation project that I am involved in where we are working with cotton, horticulture, rice and grain sectors. I also find beef farmers attending my pasture focused discussion groups as pasture management is just as relevant to them as it is to us.



Tell us something that you wish to share about the dairy industry? Dairy was Australia's 4th largest rural industry behind the beef and wheat industries in terms of farmgate value in the 18-19 year with approximately 46, 200 people directly employed on diary farms and by dairy companies, refer to InFocus 2019.