



the **ARCHIBULL** PRIZE

# CAREER SNAPSHOT

In the pre-dawn darkness Elizabeth Lobsey is off to work. There are no office hours to keep because there is no office and Liz spends the day in her car and in the paddocks of her cotton growers. As the sun finally rises over fields of fluffy white cotton she snaps a photo and posts it to her co-run Facebook page: "Agros – Tales from the Field".

Into her first paddock of the day she checks the crops and, spying some emerging weeds, discusses herbicide options with the farmer. Liz is trained to know the ins and outs of crops and can advise her clients on anything from insects and weeds to irrigation and plant nutrition.

A ping from her phone alerts Liz to a question posed on the Facebook page and she answers quickly, telling the follower when the cotton harvest is expected to start. She then phones a spray pilot to check his availability for weed control on her first farm, and conveys the information to her grower.

On another farm Liz asks the owners if they would be willing to host a field day, where best practice farming techniques are showcased. Liz is part of the local cotton growers association and also serves on the board of Crop Consultants Australia and is the Next Gen Coordinator for Cotton Australia. One of her passions is empowering young professionals to set goals and directions for their own lives and the future of the cotton industry.

In the afternoon Liz installs moisture probes in a crop, which will allow her to determine the best irrigation profile as the weather warms. She then receives a worried call from one of her bug checkers who has got himself lost while checking cotton for insect pests. She sets him straight and then meets with industry representatives as planning for the annual field day continues.

Finally Liz performs a business analysis for a family at their home before joining them for her favourite part of the day – a cool beverage on the veranda as the sun drops into twilight.

This is Liz's career in agriculture. What will yours be?



## ELIZABETH LOBSEY

ELIZABETH LOBSLEY IS AN INDEPENDENT COTTON AGRONOMIST ON QUEENSLAND'S DARLING DOWNS AND LENDS HER TIME TO MANY INDUSTRY AND GROWER ASSOCIATIONS.

