



the **ARCHIBULL** PRIZE

CAREER SNAPSHOT



SHARNA HOLMAN

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IS A DEVELOPMENT
EXTENSION OFFICER
FOR THE QUEENSLAND
GOVERNMENT, SHARING
SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH AND
KNOWLEDGE WITH COTTON
GROWERS.

It's going to be over 40° in Emerald today, a temperature Sharna Holman thrives in, and she is out of bed and off to work early. Her first stop is at a field trial where she is monitoring *Helicoverpa* moths coming from BT cotton and refuge pigeon pea crops. She has caught a moth in a tent trap and rings Mary, one of the researchers she is working with, to let her know she will be sending it down to Narrabri for resistance testing.

Arriving at her office Sharna dials into a CottonInfo teleconference. In these meetings the CottonInfo extension team provide an update on what is happening in their respective regions and what they have been doing. Sharna discusses her field trial and a grower workshop she is planning for later in the season.

After lunch Sharna heads out to a grower's farm and takes plant samples to see how the crop has progressed over the past week. She takes the samples to the laboratory where she weighs the plants, measures the leaf area and counts the number of fruit, which will turn into cotton, on each plant.

Back in the office she starts working on a crop protection article, sharing the latest research the industry has with growers so they can implement practices to help manage disease. She then joins local women to organise a regional workshop on banking and human resources for Wincott, Women in Cotton, which will provide an opportunity for rural women to further develop their personal and professional skills.

From industry and government representatives to farm managers and field hands, Sharna loves working in the cotton industry to ensure scientific research does not stay in journals but is freely available for all growers to use.

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

