

MY PASSION FOR AGRICULTURE

Samuel Carpenter
The Henry Lawson High School

My Interests

1. All aspects of rural and agricultural life
2. Caring for animals
3. All things outdoors: bushwalking, bird watching, etc.

What I am good at?

1. Agriculture
2. Science
3. Geography

I will be studying Primary Industries and Design and Technology in Year 11.



MY FUTURE IN AGRICULTURE

Where am I now?

I am currently studying in Year 10 at The Henry Lawson High School. This year I have had the opportunity to attend RYCOTT and RYCAGG agronomy camps run by Rotary for youth in agriculture. I have also attended the Monsanto Cotton field day at Forbes. I work part time at the Grenfell Lachlan Fertilizers Rural branch which is owned by Delta Agribusiness. I also partake in seasonal work of driving tractors on neighbouring properties along with lending a hand when animal husbandry practices are performed. Through my work I have been involved in growing a variety of crops such as: wheat, barley, oats, sorghum, Monola and canola. For my Year 10 major science assignment I conducted a trial plot on which fertilizers improved the growth rate of wheat.

The steps on my journey

Remain being employed in the agricultural sector → gain the skills and experience needed in the agricultural industry through part time employment → complete the HSC and gain an ATAR → TAFE Riverina Institute for a Certificate or Diploma in Agriculture → Study and obtain a Bachelor of Agriculture at Charles Sturt University at Wagga Wagga → Obtain an Agronomy cadetship with a leading agribusiness company.

Where I want to be?

Ultimately my aim is to gain the necessary experience and qualifications to be an agronomist and then to become a property manager for a large corporation.



Samuel Carpenter

“No two seasons are the same. No two days are the same. No two soils are the same. No two paddocks are the same and no two farmers are the same”.

It is the role of an Agronomist to ensure that the grower is making a profit no matter what challenges are thrown their way.

How I would envision a day in the life of an agronomist to be working for a leading agricultural company such as Delta Agribusiness.

I start my day off in the office; a farmer has come in for a meeting and requested assistance in planning their paddocks for what they should sow for the next season. The first thing we do is sit down and discuss the paddocks’ history and whether it was a success. I have entered every detail into my farm mapping computer system and then we decide on a time frame to conduct soil tests on their farm and check the remaining stubble for any signs of pests, diseases and weeds.

Following the meeting I revisit the farm and use my quad bike to get better access around the paddocks and also utilise my drone. The first thing I do is fly the drone up over the selected paddocks, which allows me to get a bird’s eye view of what the paddocks main features are and if there are any obvious points of interest, such as laying water, yellowing or evidence of disease, or maybe even bare patches of soil with minimal stubble residue which may indicate an area of soil with a negative issue. I would then go to these areas and conduct a physical inspection and test the soil’s physical and chemical characteristics, including pH, nutrient content and soil moisture. Every time I am out in the paddock I am also looking for signs of pests, fungal blooms and weeds. After making the physical inspection of the paddock I return to my office and upload my collected data into my computer system and write a report which has recommendations on which chemicals, fertilisers and type of seed would best suit the paddock, along with their rates and ratios of application

I then email the report to the farmer and after they have reviewed and approved it, on their authority I then meet with the manager of the rural supply company I work for to ensure that the required products and quantities are available for my client when required.

Throughout the season at the request of the client I will physically inspect the crop for weeds and pests along with any signs of disease and check that the crop is maturing and the grain filling adequately at the rate it should be to ensure that the client receives the best yield possible at harvest.

During the day I will conduct another three paddock inspections similar to this first one. My position requires flexibility and a need for ongoing and further training to stay abreast of the technological advances in agronomy and agriculture. I do this through “in-house training” and working and talking with other agronomists as well as external course offered by providers and suppliers to the agricultural sector.

