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## MY STORY

### WHY DID YOU CHOOSE THIS CAREER PATH?

In my mind's eye I can see a little girl sitting on a tractor looking at the cows in the field. Sounds lovely, but that wasn't me. To be honest, I grew up in the city and I did not know a thing about farming or agriculture. My outlook on life changed when it became time for me to decide what to study. I always had a strive to make a difference in the world. Throughout my matric year I weighed different options against one another, trying to find the one industry that would allow me to succeed in this dream of mine. Thinking about it carefully I discovered the one industry that is critical for the survival of all human-beings is agriculture. With that, I decided to pursue a career in the field of agriculture. My choice helped me to combine my love for nature with my passion to have an impact on people's livelihoods. Everyone on earth needs nutritious food more than once a day, and being a part of the agricultural industry gives me a chance to contribute indirectly (or directly) to each one of those needs.

### WHAT DO YOU DO?

I am an agriculturist for a fertiliser company. My duties include supporting our sales team with technical information regarding crop nutrition as well as making fertiliser, lime and/or gypsum recommendation for our clients. I am also responsible for our precision farming department where I assist in the process to combine soil samples, laboratory analysis, GIS-points and recommendation to provide our clients with maps for variable application of lime and fertiliser.

What type of person / personality would enjoy this kind of career?

A person that loves nature, animals, minerals or soil. I don't want to call it an environmentalist, but you should be able to learn, to love and appreciate nature.

## SOME ADVICE

Passion and resilience are the secrets to success. Follow your passion – find your "why" in life. Most people tend to make a success out of their careers when they truly love what they do. Looking back at 2020 and the challenges that the Covid-19 pandemic brought to the world, we can eliminate a few sectors that are necessary for survival.



What part of this career do you personally find most satisfying?

There is something special about a farmer that gets excited about his soil, crops or animals. The ultimate feeling is when I see a smile and satisfaction on the same farmer's face due to recommendations that were designed specifically for him/her.

**"AGRICULTURE IS A LIVING SCIENCE"**

### WHAT PARTICULAR SKILLS, TALENTS AND QUALITIES ARE ESSENTIAL TO BE EFFECTIVE IN YOUR POSITION / CAREER?

One should be curious and be the owner of a never-ending imagination. You must be willing to ask questions and learn from people who have more experience than you. In other words, you should be willing to be a lifelong learner. One must be flexible, adaptable and a team player.

**IS THERE A FUTURE in this career?**

Within agriculture, the opportunities are endless and the industry is evolving at a fast rate as technology change and improve. When I think about agriculture, I can picture self-propelled sprayers and tractors, drones, satellite imagery, irrigation systems with probes that are connected to the internet and GIS-point that turn soil samples into colorful maps.

## HIGHLIGHTS

1. I am incredibly passionate about the sector that I work in, but my main highlight was finding a job and a company to work for where I can live my passion.
2. The Department of Agriculture took me on a research trip to Western Australia.
3. I won the prize for the best presented presentation in crop science for presenters under the age of forty.