

## Member Profile

*Future Farmers Network (FFN) would like to thank all its members for their support and membership. Recognising and showcasing its members is important to FFN and why each edition of the FFN Newsletter features a Member Profile.*

**FFN member:** Casey Dahl, QLD

**Job/Role:** Agricultural Science Student  
and Agriculture Advocate

**Company/Organisation:**  
The University of Queensland

**Location:** Brisbane, but hopefully  
Central Queensland soon!

**What is your involvement in the agriculture industry?**

Agriculture has always been a part of my life. Growing up on the family beef breeding property near Baralaba in Central Queensland, meant that being involved in agriculture wasn't really an option, it was just the way it was. Despite considering numerous non-agriculture related career paths throughout high school, soon enough I realised that my passion was in agriculture.



With that in mind I decided to study a Bachelor of Agricultural Science, which I have now nearly completed. Throughout my degree I have tried to focus my studies on beef cattle and reproduction. I hope to soon take the knowledge and skills I've learnt at University out into the beef industry, with my area of interest being the northern beef industry.

I also have a role as an Agricultural Advocate through a program called Art4Agriculture, within which I act as a Meat & Livestock Australia Cattle and Sheep representative. This program has provided me with the skills to effectively communicate with people in urban areas about the positive story that is Australian agriculture.

**What is the best part of your job/role?**

As I'm not quite out in the work force yet it's a bit hard to say, however I am looking forward to being able to facilitate the introduction and use of new technology and concepts into rural areas. I hope that I can play a role in assisting producers to tackle the challenges that lie ahead, and to maintain profitable and productive businesses.

The best part of being an Agricultural Advocate is being able to share with people in urban areas my passion for agriculture and to engage with them about where their food and fibre comes from. In doing so we help to counteract the negative portrayal of our industries by certain activist groups, and consequently reinstate consumer confidence in our production systems. When done right it's a win-win situation.



**Identify three (3) key challenges facing young Australian farmers/agribusiness professionals:**

1. *Getting started* – for those young people wishing to purchase their own land and start their own business, it is very challenging, which makes it hard to retain or attract young people to that area of the industry.
2. *Weather/Climate* – as it will always be in Australia.
3. *Public Perception* - the public/consumer now has a voice and a very powerful one at that, we can't expect our distance from the urban centre's to protect us anymore, we need to be proactive in getting our positive messages out there.

**Name three (3) things you can't function without:**

My friends and family, my diary/calendar (I'm an obsessive, compulsive organiser), and my phone, texting isn't a skill of mine, but having so much technology at your fingertips is such a useful tool!

**What's one (1) thing people don't know about you?**

If they don't know it, there's probably a good reason haha.

**If you had three (3) pieces of advice for young people considering a career in agriculture what would they be?**

1. Go for it - there are so many, incredibly varied and very rewarding jobs in agriculture.
2. Networking is crucial - the more people you meet, the more opportunities you will get!
3. Get involved in your agricultural communities - if you put in an effort the community will welcome you and respect you.

**What is your 'not to be missed' agricultural event or opportunity in 2015?**

Being a beef girl I'd have to say BEEF 2015, in Rockhampton, May 4<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup>. It will be a great week for all those in the beef industry to network and catch up, while those outside the industry get a glimpse of what the beef industry is all about!

**What are your top three (3) personal/professional goals for 2015?**

1. Finish my degree
2. Find a job in the beef industry
3. Get more involved, I've been at uni for over four years now and I can't wait to get back into the industry!

**In five (5) words, what is your vision for Australian agriculture?**

A dynamic and thriving industry.

**Why are you an FFN member?**

Being an FFN member offers a lot of opportunities. Being able to network and socialise with other young people across agriculture sectors allows for important connections to be made and a much wider understanding of other industries to be developed. FFN also offers support to increase our knowledge and skills through facilitating training and other educational events.