



Horizon scholarship broadens experience for Emily



BY THE TIME Emily Buddle completes her Bachelor of Agriculture Science at the University of Adelaide at the end of 2013 she will already have an impressive resume of Australia-wide work experience and leadership training, thanks to the Horizon Scholarship program.

Emily believes Australian agriculture will have a huge role in feeding the growing world population and plans to contribute to that by helping the livestock industry in particular to increase the efficiency of its production.

“I’ve known for a long time that I wanted a career in agriculture – in animal production, or in education, teaching children about livestock and animal husbandry,” she said.

“One of the greatest challenges for the industry is getting more young people interested in and excited about agriculture. At the moment there are about 10 jobs for every agricultural science graduate.”

“Agriculture is the world’s most essential industry; in the end, we all need to eat. But we will have learn how to feed more people with the same amount of land, or less land, as urbanisation spreads,” she said.

Raised in Adelaide, Emily credits her grandfather Ian Cox, a long-time staff member for agribusiness

Elders, as the major inspiration for her decision to pursue a career in agriculture – that, and her love of livestock. Her parents supported her choice of secondary school Urrbrae Agricultural High School in Adelaide, where she selected every agricultural subject she could, and finished dux of agriculture in Year 12.

Emily was involved in the school’s stud beef cattle breeding initiative, and steer competition at the Royal Adelaide Show. “I also volunteered to help show Limousin stud animals at the South Australian Junior Heifer Expo to build my experience,” she said.

With her interest in livestock and enthusiasm for the future of the industry, Emily was a natural match for the Meat and Livestock Australia sponsored Horizon Scholarship, provided through the Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation.

The scholarship provides a \$5000-a-year bursary for the duration of her Bachelor of Agricultural Science at the University of Adelaide.

It has also helped her to make connections with students from other regions and with industry leaders. Personal development opportunities have included industry roundtable events, where Horizon scholars have the opportunity to develop confidence expressing their views on the future of the industry. A two-day workshop for Horizon scholars in Canberra included resume writing and the use of social networks to promote the industry, and to stay in touch with industry issues.

With the help of the bursary, Emily has travelled to a variety of work placements – in Queensland, the ACT, NSW, Tasmania and SA.

Some of the work placements, such as two weeks at a 40,000-head cattle feedlot in Dalby, Queensland, were organised directly through the Horizon program.

“The feedlot was really interesting,” Emily said of the eye-opening experience. “We don’t have any operations of that size in SA.” ●

The Horizon Scholarship is open to students entering their first year of university and studying a degree related to agriculture, such as agricultural science, rural science, livestock/animal science, veterinary science or agribusiness.

Applications close on 1 February 2013 and scholarship recipients are announced in late March 2013. Application forms can be downloaded from the RIRDC website – or by contacting RIRDC on 02 6271 4100.

Sponsors of the Horizon Scholarship are Woolworths, Quality Silage Systems, the Australian Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, the Australian Egg Corporation, Australian Pork Limited, the Cotton Research and Development Corporation, the Grains Research and Development Corporation, the Grape and Wine Research and Development Corporation, Horticulture Australia Limited, Meat and Livestock Australia, the Sugar Research and Development Corporation and the Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation.

