

## I'm Passionate About Agriculture by Michelle Ross

As a young adult in Saskatchewan, choosing a career path was personally a very easy decision. I am pursuing a career in agriculture due to my intense passion for our farm, the amount of incredible opportunity in the sector and because I have an ambitious vision for the future of the industry.

The roots of the passion I have for agriculture stems from my upbringing on a family owned and operated farm. My family farm encompasses 5,000 acres of land in addition to milking around 250 Holstein dairy cows. Having grown up living and working on a family farm, I have developed a deep passion for the food industry, specifically the dairy industry. My parents have both dedicated their lives to the agricultural industry and have opened my eyes to the amazing parts of the sector. My family's long history in the dairy industry leads me to be passionate about continuing the legacy of our farm into the future. Being passionate about our family dairy farm has spurred a desire to produce long lasting, happy cows with good type and production. These aspirations are a major part of the reason why I am pursuing a degree in Animal Science and is also the backbone to my passion in agriculture.

I am driven to choose the agriculture industry for my future due to the issues the industry is facing and the wealth of opportunity available in the sector. There is a growing global demand for food that is safe and environmentally responsible and there are many impending issues surrounding producing food for the world. I am pursuing a career in the agriculture industry because I am passionate about these food security issues and I am determined to provide safe and environmentally friendly food for the growing demands of an exponentially growing population. I know that in pursuing a career in agriculture I will be at the forefront of safety and sustainability all while feeding the world. I am looking forward to a career in the agricultural sector where I can contribute solutions for the tough challenges the industry will face as I recognize the wealth of opportunity that lies within this industry. Agriculture is the foundation of opportunity within Canada and the world and due to this endless opportunity, I am excited about pursuing a career within the food sector.

My vision for the future of agriculture is one that is sustainable, innovative and the backbone of economic growth in Canada and the world. The future starts with innovation involving family farms, agricultural researchers, engineers and manufactures to create more efficient farms that produce a higher yield. Sustainable farming is a critical challenge the agricultural industry will face in the future. The effective use of crop inputs is essential in keeping the approximately 33 million acres of agricultural land used for crop production each year in Saskatchewan in a condition that will continue to provide food for the world. As the agriculture industry drives forward innovative solutions to improve the health and safety of our products, consumer confidence will grow. Unquestionably, there is a great demand for advancement in the food industry and this will lead to economic prosperity for farmers, manufactures, retailers and entire communities. The economic benefits from an agriculture industry that is both sustainable and innovative will push the industry into a prosperous future.

I am confident in my chosen career path in agriculture as I know that the food sector is an exciting, diverse and constantly evolving industry. Both my passion for agriculture and the opportunity that lies within the sector result in my determination to make my vision for the future of the industry a reality.