



Transcription details:

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Transcription results:

[music]

We're primarily vegetable growers. Our business has expanded significantly over the last eight to ten years. Rugby Farm produces or grows just over 12,000 acres of vegetables each year through the 12 crops that we grow. Horticulture and harvesting vegetables and growing them is a very labor intensive occupation, so we employ generally over 500 people all year round.

My job is actually training people. We've got so many backpackers here. They're not allowed to work more than six months, which means I'm so lucky that I can meet so many different people.

So as a boilermaker we do a lot of fabricating. I've made ladders, hydrocoolers, planters, truck trailers, different planters to pick the fruit and vegetables, harvesters. We need trucks to transport it.

A typical day for me as an agronomist would be checking all the crops that we have planted and seeing the insects and the disease and writing a spray sheet for the chemical sprayer, and seeing what alternatives we can use as more of a natural way or whether we have to go in and spray.

A good day is when you've finished something you've been building for a couple of months, and it's being painted and you just feel proud of it and take photos of it and that. And then when they take it out in the field and start using it, it's pretty cool to watch your thing getting worked.

What I enjoy about my work is the challenge of finding alternatives and the right chemicals and that, that need to be sprayed because at the end of the day it's people's health.

I meet so many new people and when I train them, they say, "Thank you, Hannah, for teaching me. You are so good teacher." And that makes me so happy with it.

Well, when I came here I hadn't used a welder or a grinder before, but now I can do pretty much everything. I've built massive things from start to finish, and I'm proud that I can get qualified as a boilermaker and then, furthermore, I can go on to do an engineering degree. It's just going to lead to a lot of good things.

I don't have to stay as an agronomist at Rugby Farm. I can go do marketing or there's all different sides. It's all interrelated. Stay focused because there are great opportunities in agriculture in general and horticulture. Just keep going and the opportunities will arise. [music]

[silence]