



Thursday, April 2, 2020

## Brianna gets Hart start in grains research career

A grains research regional internship is helping bring graduates into the Mid North and boosting their careers with a 12-month intensive experience at one of Australia's leading cropping research trial sites.

The Hart Regional Internship, now in its fifth year, is providing successful graduates with a one-year placement in applied grains research and development.

In the joint project with the South Australian Grain Industry Trust (SAGIT) and SARDI, the intern works alongside the Hart Field-Site Group's research manager, while collaborating with some of the state's top researchers, industry, consultants and growers to deliver research projects in regional South Australia.

Hart Field-Site Group recently welcomed its 2020 regional intern Brianna Guidera to the Hart team based in Clare.

Brianna completed a Bachelor of Agricultural Sciences last year, fostering her interest in agriculture during her childhood at Elliston and the completion of schooling at Mount Barker.

Just two months into the regional internship role, Brianna is already making an impact in the world of grains research and says she is excited about what the internship will offer her going forward in her career.

"I'm really enjoying the internship, it's been an extremely welcoming workplace and community," she says.

"Already I've had a good mix of office and field work and I'm really keen to learn more about the ag research industry to help me work my personal goals going forward into a career in the industry."

While Brianna has an extensive interest in all areas of grains research, she has a passion for soil science including soil acidity, salinity and organic carbon and is keen to use her 12-month Hart regional internship to add to her knowledge and experience in the field.

"Hart works on a massive range of trials and projects that I'll be able to look at and learn about over the next year," she says.

"Because the Hart Field-Site Group is such a close-knit organisation, I really feel like I'm being well-looked after and supported, but at the same time they're letting me sink my teeth into areas of research that I'm most interested in.

"The Hart group have excellent support systems so it's been a really warm welcome into the research industry."

Hart Field-Site Group conducts a large number of trials across the Mid North and interns contribute to research areas including weed management and control, soil fertility and crop nutrition, crop entomology and agronomy and seeding systems.

Last year's regional intern Jade Rose says her experience as a Hart regional intern exceeded her expectations.

"I definitely found the practical research skills very valuable along with the interaction with growers," she says.

"I learned so much from talking to growers, agronomists and other researchers and from working on numerous projects on different farms, landscapes and soil types.

"Hart was an excellent segue from previous work to understanding farming systems/field trials as a whole and this experience will help me in my PhD and future work in understanding why and how to do agricultural research better.

"Although I thought the regional internship would be a great experience, it was even better than expected and I learned way more than I thought I would. It's great looking back on the year and being able to apply some of the skills and critical thinking I've learnt along the way to my work today.

"Hart is an excellent research organisation with work that is beneficial to the wider community, it is run by a great team and seeks to understand the broader issues in agriculture and give growers farm-applicable research outcomes. I'd love to work there again in future."

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