

Ryan Cosgrove

Wool Marketer, J Marshall



Job overview

My primary responsibility is to purchase wool to create large consignments of similar types for marketing to overseas buyers. I spend part of my week valuing the wool which will be offered at auction, and the remainder of my time liaising with customers who will purchase the wool. Several times per year I travel overseas to meet face-to-face with my customers to discuss their needs and maintain positive relationships.

What makes me get up in the morning

Each day brings new challenges as the wool market is constantly evolving. Not only are there economic considerations to make but also a psychological element as you evaluate how other people may interpret the same information, and how they will act upon that.

Career pathway

I worked for a wool broker in Hawkes Bay as a summer job for 5 seasons, and upon completing my degree I gained a job with an export firm. A wool background is helpful, but not essential. If you have another skill such as finance, economics, or even language then the wool component can be learned if you're willing.

Qualifications

Bachelor of Science majoring in Ecology and Biodiversity

Important subjects Y12 & 13

Economics, Sciences, English, Statistics

Pay range

\$50,000 starting salary with no real ceiling. Your salary will reflect your ability to be a competent trader.

Samuel Leighs

Senior Technician & Research Associate, AgResearch



Job overview

As a senior technician, I work either under the guidance of a Scientist or manage projects research of my own. I use skills in areas of textile chemistry, technology, health and wellbeing and environmental sciences. The role even requires me to sweat, literally, during wearer trails on odour prevention, and for assessments of quick dry ability and moisture management features of fabrics.

What makes me get up in a morning?

The research we undertake is aimed at benefiting the wool growers and associated industries throughout the supply chain in New Zealand and knowing that my work contributes to this is very satisfying.

The variability of the role also mean that there is no chance of getting bored!

Career pathway

While there are plenty of learning and development opportunities, at the end of the day it really comes down to the individual and where they see themselves in the future and how they plan to meet those goals. If you want to reach the level of scientist, you need to consider undertaking a PhD.

Others have taken a more business orientated pathway within science, a unique space that allows you to understand and communicate the outputs of science into the commercial world.

Qualifications

Bachelor of Science (Chemistry), University of Canterbury

Important subjects Y12 & 13

English, Science, Maths, and any subject that teaches critical thinking and observational analysis.

Pay range

\$55,000-\$80,000 for a Technician.

Be part of taking New Zealand wool to the world

Growing, processing, marketing and exporting wool takes a whole team of people with a diverse range of skills. We need people who can think differently and teach us new ways of introducing wool to the world. Maybe you love science or design, care about sustainability or have a talent for speaking multiple languages. If you have the skills we need, we can teach you about wool along the way.

To explore education,
training and careers
related to New Zealand
wool, check out
www.growingnz.org.nz

The National Council of New Zealand
Wool Interests Inc. is a member of GrowingNZ.

For further information email:
info.woolnz@gmail.com

 **The National Council of
New Zealand Wool Interests
Incorporated**

Jeremy Donald

Trainee Scourman/Scour Supervisor, Canterbury Woolscourers (CWS)



Job overview

In my current role I run the smaller of our two scours. This involves managing a team and fully understanding the process of washing and cleaning wool and then drying it. The job itself can be quite fast paced at times, but at the end of the day extremely rewarding.

What makes me get up in the morning

An interesting job and good job security are the main reason why I love coming to work. This role allows me to lead a great family lifestyle.

Career pathway

I joined CWS almost 3 years ago as a Sorter and started sorting and processing the greasy wool bales that were to be scoured. My work has introduced me to many different areas of the pipeline. From logistics, classing and lanoline production, engineering through to testing and exportation logistics. I am now 12 months into my training towards becoming a Scourman/Scour Supervisor. Progressing upwards depends on your ability, reliability and performance.

Qualifications

Wool Technology level 4; Leadership Excellence training; Ag to level 3 & 4, Chemical handlers certificate; Fork lift license; First aid certificate

Important subjects Y12 & 13

English – written and spoken
Maths – lower levels
Science/chemistry – could be helpful
Workshop/mechanics

Pay range

\$18 to \$30 per hour starting out with no experience. Overtime hours paid after 40 hours are extremely beneficial.

Pagan Karauria

Wool Classer



Job overview

My job as a classer is to sort wool into categories of breed, colour, length, micron style and age for sale while making sure fiber is free from contamination.

I also oversee the running of the team and the woolshed operation as well as making sure the woolbook is documented correctly and the wool specification sheet is filled correctly for sale. My work is seasonal so I engage in other rural work when not working as a Classer.

What makes me get up in the morning

The beautiful wool and amazing people I'm surrounded with every day classing is rewarding in so many ways.

Career pathway

I started out as a wool Handler studied Level 3 and 4 Wool Handling Certificate and went on to complete my wool classing qualification so I could become a classer. Looking ahead I would love to travel to a wool auction overseas and there are also opportunities to work in other wool growing countries.

Qualifications

Level 3 & 4 wool handling certificates
Level 2 shearing certificate
Wool Classing qualification

Important subjects Y12 & 13

English and anything that focusses on good communications, Maths

Pay range

Like most classers I am self-employed. The pay rate varies between 50-70 cents per fleece plus GST so the daily rate depends on how many sheep are shorn but a minimum should be \$500 a day.

Michelle Macky

Designer / Sample Coordinator, Interweave



Job overview

My main role is the design development of Inter-Weave's homeware collection of woollen interior throws. I work with clients to create the best fabric for their design ideas taking account of wool and yarn type, dobby or jacquard loom, weave structures and colour. My role can also be very hands on getting to work in the factory, weaving samples and design developments.

What makes me get up in the morning?

Everyday is different as I can be involved in multiple roles. I can continue to grow my knowledge and experience in the field of weaving utilising my passion for creativity, bold graphics, bright colours and geometric shapes. It never gets old watching my own designs come to life when weaving. However, the key reason is to continue to promote the use of wool as a primary fibre.

Career pathway

Progression to Senior Designer. Potential for overseas trips to market our new collection to current and new clients.

Qualifications

Bachelor of Design
– Honours, First Class Master of Design – Distinction, First Aid Level 1

Important subjects Y12 & 13

Design, Textiles, Art

Pay range

\$20 per hour as a Junior Designer and will increase over time as you progress towards the Senior Designer role.