My name’s Matt, I’m in year 12 and I do VET Agriculture, Horticulture, Conservation and Land Management.

I’ve always had a passion for agriculture, and I thought this would be a good way to broaden my knowledge and learn more about the industry.

The units that are involved in Agriculture are mainly, working with animals ah, cattle and sheep, machinery and fencing. So the machinery we use are mainly tractors and in the units where we learn about machinery we learn how to drive the tractors and how to hook implements up to the backs of the tractors and also involved with that is maintenance so we cover a lot of servicing and checking for any broken parts and lubricating everything to make sure everything runs smoothly.

When we’re driving the machinery and learning how to use the tractors, for everyone it’s a really good experience in learning how to use the implements and backing trailers and just getting comfortable being around machinery and familiarising themselves with it so it’s really good. With fencing it mainly starts with building an end assembly where you um, put your posts in and create a whole box assembly or it depends on the type of fence you want. When you run your wires you obviously have to strain them to make sure they’re tights and they’re going to keep the animals in if you’re creating an electric fence you have to put insulators on to make sure you’re getting proper current through the whole fence.

The sheep and lambs um, the main work we do with them is yarding them, preparing them to be shorn. And there’s also vaccinating, and drenching involved with them as well. I much prefer working with cattle but it’s still a good experience and it’s always something I can take with me if I ever end up on a sheep farm.

So, I’m doing Certificate II in Agriculture and I’ve chosen to do it as a School Based Traineeship, which allows me to go and work on holidays on a farm. Some of the work they’ve got me doing is driving tractors, working with cattle, which involved with that is tagging them, yarding them, moving them, vaccinating, um, feeding them with the tractor.

The type of work that’s appealed to me most is working with cattle which I really enjoy and I always have enjoyed it, and in the future I’d like to complete Certificate IV in Agriculture which will help me broaden my knowledge further and increase my chance of employment.

So I have chosen to do VCE unscored and with that the VET Agriculture is a lot more practical and hands on than the VCE subjects which I find a lot more rewarding and um, it’s a good way to work with your hands and um, yeah I really enjoy getting out of the classroom and walking around and being up on my feet.

The other VCE subjects I’m doing are English, Geography, Business and Design Technology. Business also really helps with VET Agriculture as um, running a farm there’s also business aspects involved so doing that subject in VCE also helps with gaining basic knowledge of um what’s involved in running a business and what’s needed in running a business.

Yeah the course has been a great way to introduce myself and other people to agriculture and to see what it’s like working in agriculture and what’s involved in the work you can expect to be doing. I’d recommend this program to anyone who’s thinking of doing anything involved in agriculture or working with animals or anyone who wants to get involved with farming as it’s a good introduction and good way to learn some new skills, all while having fun and working with your hands.