

TEACHER GUIDE

Career Q&A Videos: Unusual Farming

This theme explores some of the lesser known food and fibre careers and in so doing highlights new possibilities to students. It covers saffron production, lemon myrtle production and carbon farming. Saffron production is a niche market, very labour intensive and uses minimal technology to produce a specialty product. Lemon myrtle production highlights the potential of the commercialisation of Australian native plants as sources of new foods and medicines. Carbon farming provides landholders a mechanism to combat climate change through carbon capture and sell carbon credits. Landholders actively manage landscapes and so are in a position to employ management strategies to capture carbon in the landscape. Consultants provide assistance to landholders as to how to best achieve this in order to earn carbon credits.

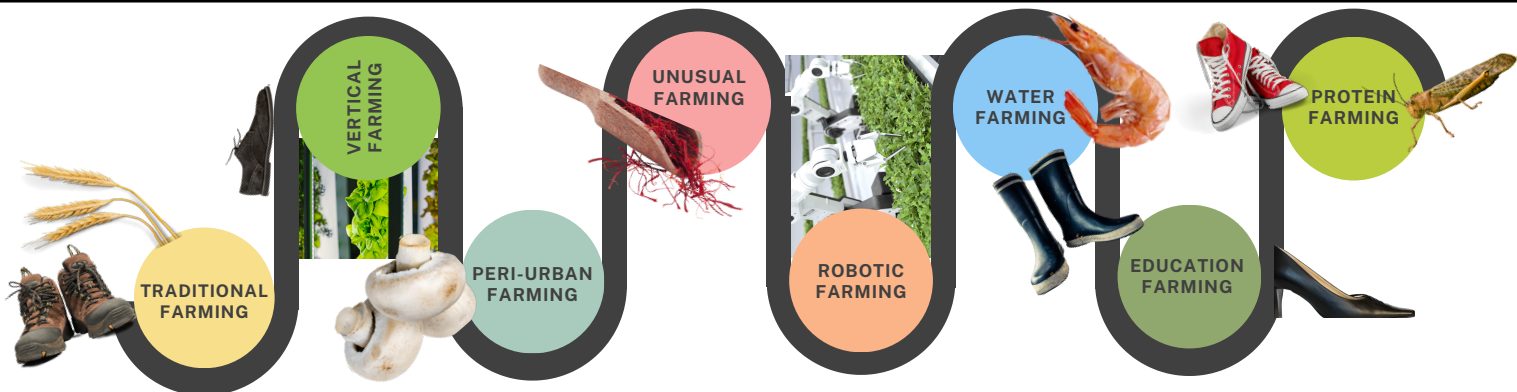
In this series of Career Q&A videos three candidates are interviewed about their experiences in unusual farming.

- Angela Argyle General Manager Argyle Australian Saffron (9.57 min)
- Darren McCoy CEO Lemon Myrtle Co (8.41 min)
- Ian Loane Carbon Farming Advisor and Tasmanian Farmer (8.41 min)

The videos can be watched individually or all three can be watched to discuss the differences between the candidates answers. The candidates are all asked the following questions:

1. Where did you go to school and what was your favourite subject?
2. Describe what you do.
3. Describe a typical day.
4. Explain how what you do is adapted for Australian agriculture.
5. Explain how technology has changed the way you do things.
6. Identify something that surprised you about your career.
7. Describe the most useful skill you require for your role.
8. Identify some of the challenges facing young people starting in your role and explain how they can overcome them.
9. What shoes do you wear to work?
10. Where do you sit on the CSU Career Pathway Poster?

A set of worksheets relating to the videos accompanies this resource.



NSW CURRICULUM

Year 9-10 Agricultural Technologies - Stage 5

Objective

Knowledge and understanding of agriculture as a dynamic and interactive system that uses plants and animals to produce food, fibre and other derivatives

AG5-1

Explains why identified plant species and animal breeds have been used in agricultural enterprises and developed for the Australian environment and/or markets

AG5-2

Explains the interactions within and between agricultural enterprises and systems

AG5-3

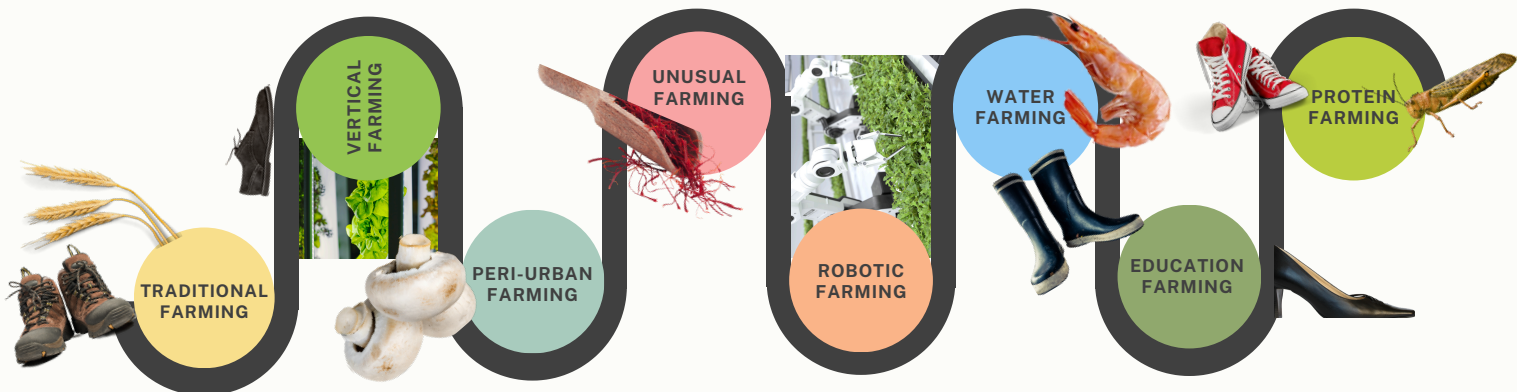
Explains the interactions within and between the agricultural sector and Australia's economy, culture and society

AUSTRALIAN CURRICULUM

YEAR 9/10 Design and Technology

AC9TDE10K01 Analyse how people in design and technologies occupations consider ethical, security and sustainability factors to innovate and improve products, services and environments





1. Student Worksheet: Suggested Answers (may vary depending on videos and student's ideas)

1. In the video, a person working in agriculture discusses their career. Identify their job title and using the PIEFA Explore Food and Fibre Careers Poster, explain which category of agriculture they work in (make sure you justify your reasoning).

Unusual Farming: Farming niche crops, Australian natives or managing landscapes to capture carbon.

2. Identify their (the person being interviewed) favourite subject at school. Is there a connection between their favourite subject and what they currently do? Justify your answer.

Angela Argyle: Visual arts - helps in marketing of the saffron

Darren McCoy: Sport- it is active and hands on experience, working in teams

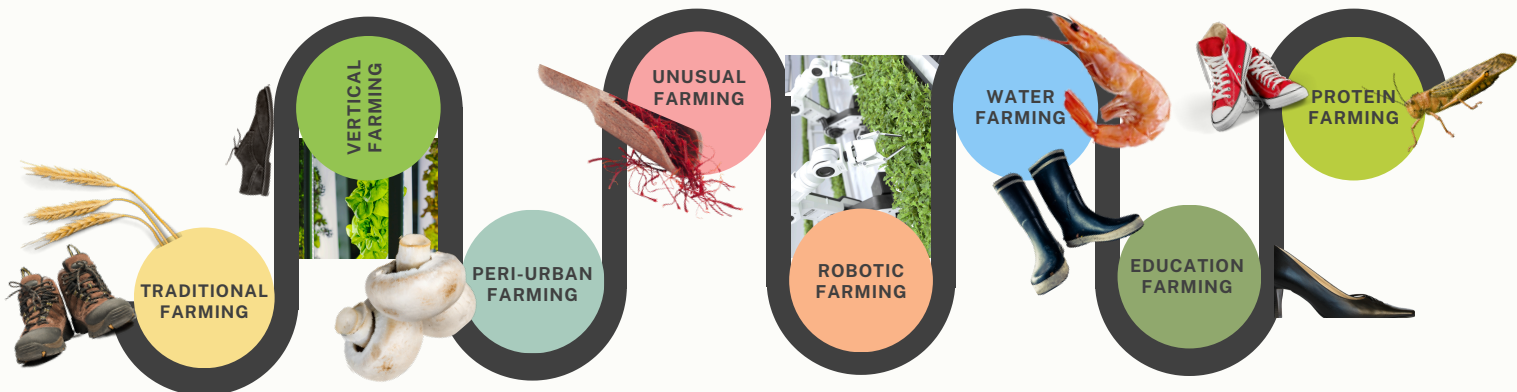
Ian Loane: Trade subjects, English and Maths- hands on experience and communication skills

3. Describe a problem technology addresses in the video and explain how technology helps to solve the issue(s).

Problem: Saffron - Very labour intensive crop due to delicate flowers. There is ongoing research with robotic harvesting of the saffron flowers.

Problem: Lemon myrtle- how to separate leaves from stems. Use of technology to improve processing lines to get improved product quality with greater efficiency.

Problem: Carbon Farming- connecting with colleagues, use of computers to improve communications enabling remote work when required



4. Technology helps address the labour shortage in agriculture, so whilst it is replacing jobs it is also creating jobs. Do you agree or disagree with this statement? Justify your answer with examples and/or evidence.

Yes, technology is creating jobs- In these videos new jobs are mentioned like creating robots to harvest saffron flowers or designing new processing lines to process lemon myrtle. There are new roles created to support the technology used in these examples. Impact of improved technology could also make produce more competitive if the production costs are also reduced.

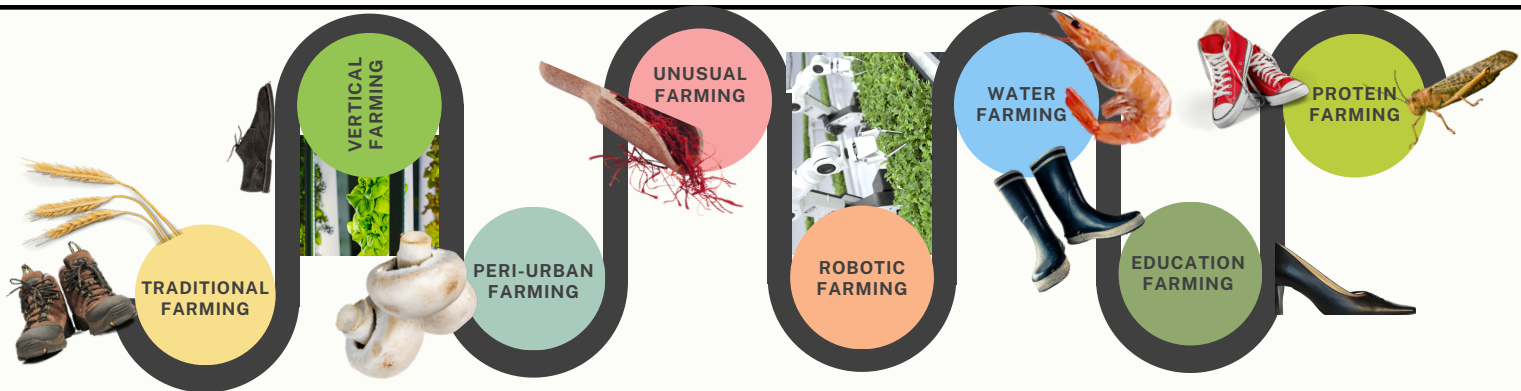
5. There are often challenges when starting a new role. Identify the challenges they (the person being interviewed) faced and the strategy they used to overcome the challenge.

Challenges: Saffron - Getting the saffron bulbs- imported new bulbs

Challenges: Lemon myrtle: Feeling out of your depth - being courageous, recognising imperfection and giving things a go

Challenges: Carbon Farming: Not understanding career pathways - Ask people, talk to lots of different people in different roles

6. Describe a situation where you are faced with a similar challenge. Explain what strategy you would use to overcome the challenge.



7. In the video, the person being interviewed mentions the skills required for their role. List the skills and explain how these skills help them in their role. Provide reasons with your answer.

Skills:

Saffron: Attention to detail - love what you do

Lemon Myrtle: Communication and problem solving

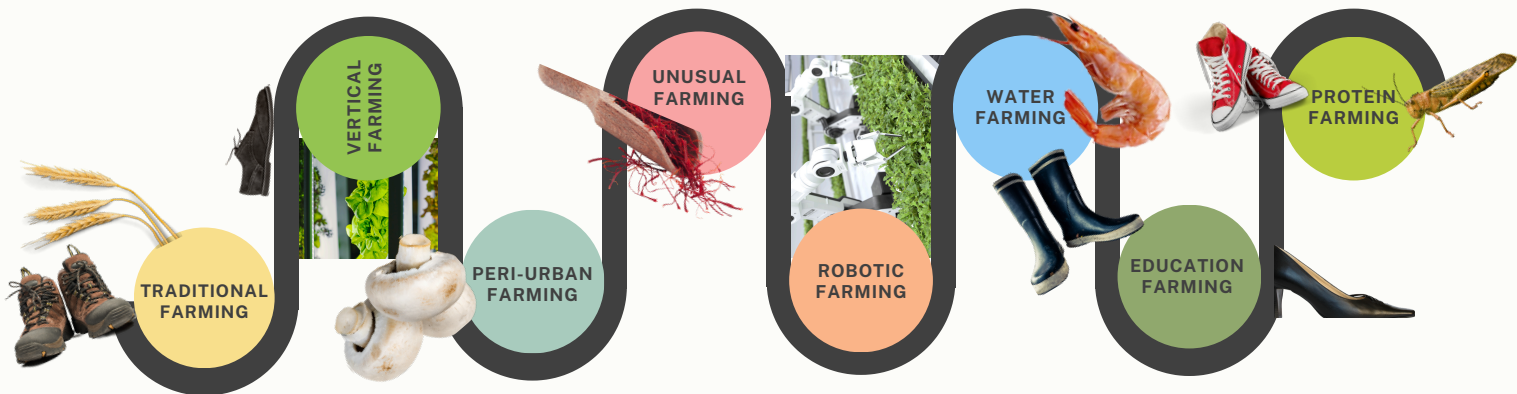
Carbon Farming: How to lead and mentor

8. Research and describe how the agricultural product discussed in this video is adapted to, or suited for Australian environmental conditions.

- *Saffron: Adapted to grow in cold regions of Australia*
- *Lemon myrtle: well adapted it is an Australian native - could be challenges around mass production - seedlings not readily available as it is a new crop and there are commercial propagation limitations*
- *Carbon Farming: Using Australian methodology suited to Australian conditions.*

9. Does this role promote sustainability in agriculture? Justify your answer.

- *Saffron: Yes. Speciality crop - good production techniques and soil conservation ensure sustainable practices.*
- *Lemon myrtle: Yes. Using a crop well adapted to the Australian environment should require reduced inputs.*
- *Carbon Farming: Yes. It provides sound methodology to capture carbon and improve pastures and grazing with reduced inputs.*



2. Create a Job Description

A job description details the features of a role and is required when you want to advertise for a job position. Select a career from one of the videos you watched and create a job description for this career. Use the following template from the [Australian Government Fair Ombudson Website](#) to write your job description. You will need to research your career to help you answer the questions in the template. [Career Harvest](#) could be a useful starting point.

PRINTABLE TEMPLATE JOB DESCRIPTION (Refer to page 12 of worksheets for electronic version)

JOB TITLE: (Write the name of the job role) For example, Receptionist

JOB TYPE: (Write the type of employment) For example, Full-time; Part-time; Casual

LOCATION: (Physical address the employee will work at. If the job requires travel, list the primary location) For example, Smithton office

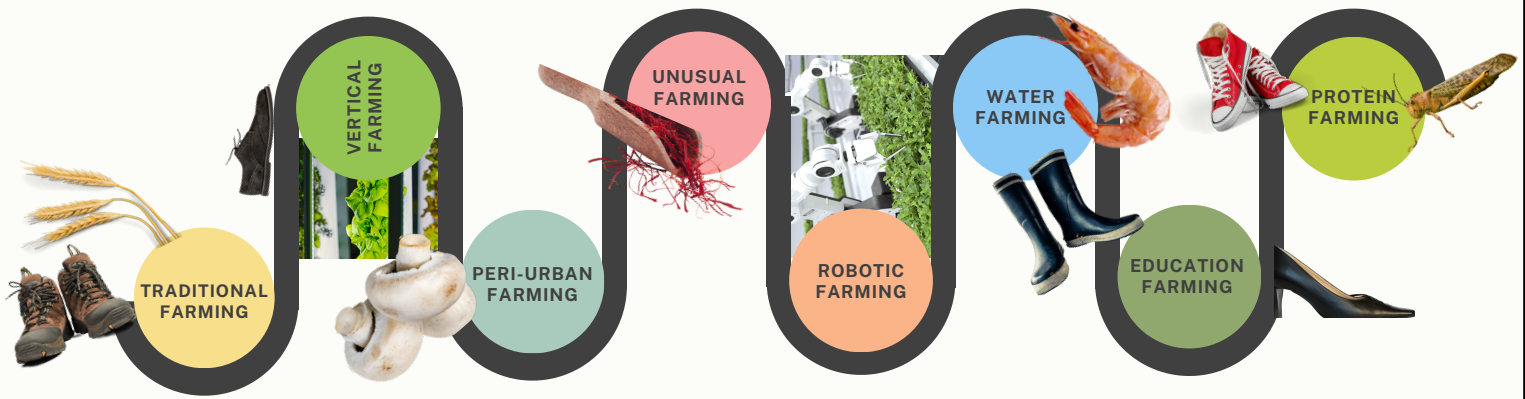
SUPERVISOR/MANAGER: (Who the employee will report to?)

For example, Office Manager; Shift Supervisor

MAIN DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES: (What are the duties and responsibilities of the position?)

For example,

- Coordinate and carry out all office administration, including reception, mail, couriers, greeting clients and filing
 - Maintain a clean and safe workspace, and abide by workplace health and safety policies
 - Other tasks as directed
-
-
-



2. Create a Job Description

PRINTABLE TEMPLATE JOB DESCRIPTION
 MAIN DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES continued

SKILLS & EXPERIENCE

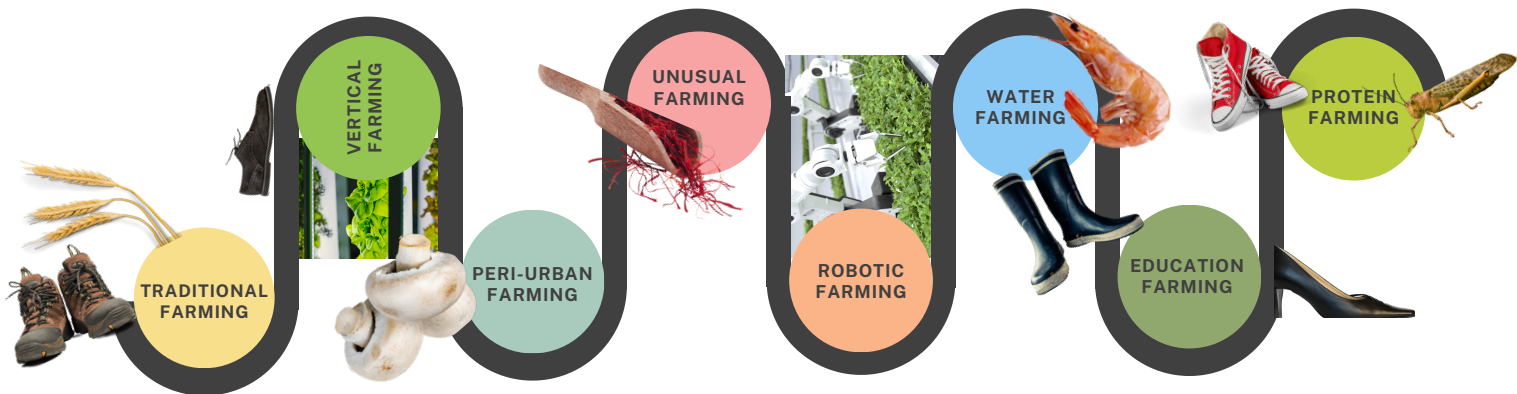
Qualifications: (What qualifications, licenses or education level does the employee need?)

For example,

- Diploma or Certificate IV in Business Administration or relevant experience
- First aid certificate

Experience: (What type and how much experience is needed?)

For example, 3 years experience in a similar role or industry



2. Create a Job Description

PRINTABLE TEMPLATE JOB DESCRIPTION

Skills: (What skills are needed for the job? Including any technical or interpersonal skills.)

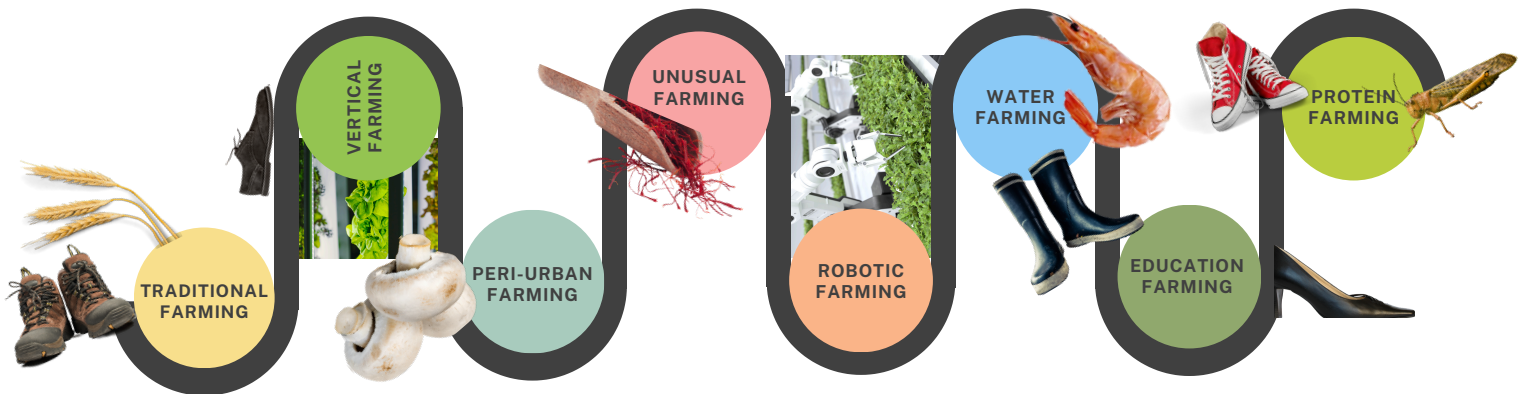
For example,

- Intermediate to advanced Microsoft Office skills (Word, Excel, PowerPoint and Outlook)
- Excellent verbal and written communication
- Organised and able to meet deadlines

PERFORMANCE GOALS: (What level of performance do you expect from the employee?)

For example,

- Complete administration tasks on time
- Ensure office is clean and presentable at all times
- Deal with clients, suppliers and other employees professionally at all times



3. Interview Question

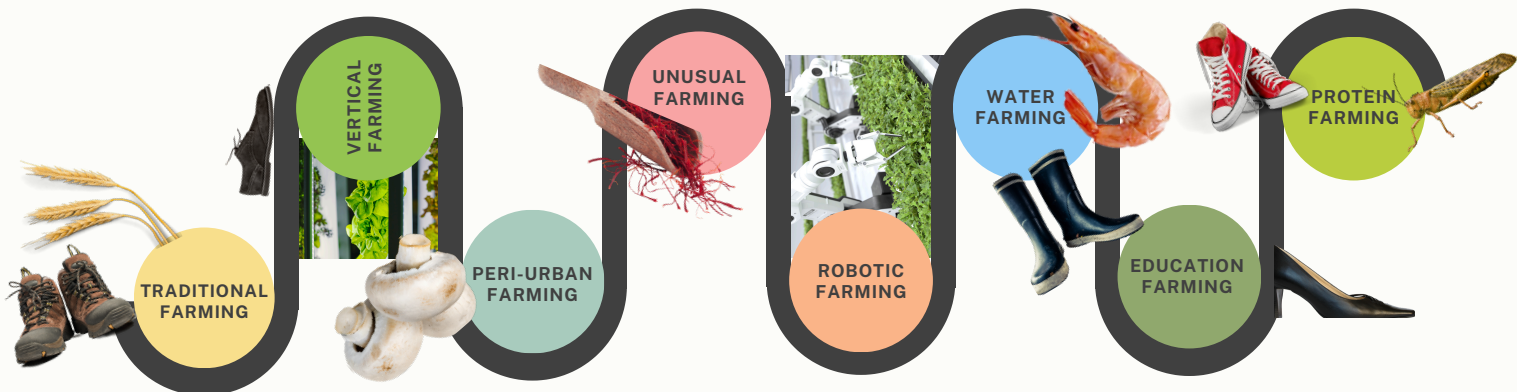
Choose from one of the videos which role best matches your skills, experience and personality. Imagine you have been selected for an interview and explain to the interview panel why you would be a good candidate for this role.

1. Select your role:

2. Explain what interests you about this role:

3. Explain how your skills match this role:

4. Describe how your work/ school experiences matches the role:



2. Create a Job Description-Electronic version

A job description describes a job and is required when you want to advertise for a job position. Select a career from one of the videos you watched and create a job description for this career. Use the following template from the [Australian Government Fair Ombudson Website](#) to write your job description. You will need to research your career to help you answer the questions in the template. [Career Harvest](#) could be a useful starting point.

TEMPLATE JOB DESCRIPTION

IMPORTANT

This template has been colour-coded to assist you to complete it accurately. You will replace the blue < > writing with what applies to your situation.

Example information is shown in purple writing to assist you and should be deleted once you have finished the ad.

JOB TITLE: <Role name> For example, Receptionist; Sales Assistant

JOB TYPE: <Type of employment> For example, Full-time; Part-time; Casual

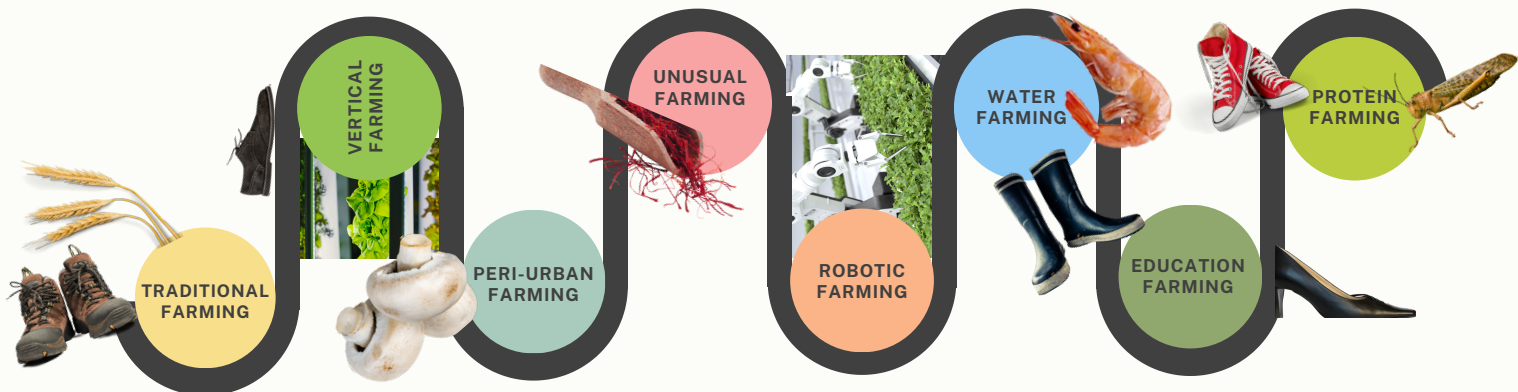
LOCATION: <Physical address the employee will work at. If the job requires travel, list the primary location> For example, Smithton office

SUPERVISOR/MANAGER: <Who the employee will report to> For example, Office Manager; Shift Supervisor

MAIN DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES: <What are the duties and responsibilities of the position?>

For example,

- Coordinate and carry out all office administration including reception, mail, couriers, greeting clients and filing
- Maintain a clean and safe workspace, and abide by workplace health and safety policies and procedures
- Other tasks as directed



SKILLS & EXPERIENCE

Qualifications: <What qualifications, licenses or education level does the employee need?>

For example,

- Diploma or Certificate IV in Business Administration or relevant experience
- First aid certificate

Experience: <What type and how much experience is needed?>

For example, 3 years experience in a similar role or industry

Skills: <What skills are needed for the job, including any technical or interpersonal skills?>

For example,

- Intermediate to advanced Microsoft Office skills (Word, Excel, PowerPoint and Outlook)
- Excellent verbal and written communication
- Organised and able to meet deadlines

PERFORMANCE GOALS: <What level of performance do you expect from the employee?>

For example,

- Complete administration tasks on time
- Ensure office is clean and presentable at all times
- Deal with clients, suppliers and other employees professionally at all times

References

Career Harvest – Career Harvest is a one-stop shop for prospective students to discover rewarding careers. (n.d.). www.careerharvest.com.au. <https://www.careerharvest.com.au/>

Charles Sturt University . (n.d.). Careers in Agriculture. Retrieved March 20, 2024, from https://cdn.csu.edu.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0007/4261363/Agriculture-careers-diagram_A3_web.pdf

Welcome to the Fair Work Ombudsman website. (n.d.). Fair Work Ombudsman. <https://www.fairwork.gov.au/tools-and-resources/templates>