



## **Looking forward to bringing problem-solving and science skills to food sector**

MIA undergraduate scholar Megan Ross was planning to study engineering, but then came across a B.Food Tech honours degree at Massey University.

Now in her second year, majoring in Food Process Engineering, Megan has spent her past two summer holidays working for Silver Fern Farms at Dargaville.

“When I looked into engineering, I couldn’t see myself in any of the career roles,” says Megan, whose grew up on a beef and sheep farm at Tangiteroria, near Whangarei.

“The food tech degree brings together problem-solving ideas, science and maths – and is focused on developing new products and changing processes for foods too. I have a passion for food too. I’m really enjoying it.”

Megan has also found working in the cold chain department for Silver Fern Farms valuable experience.

“The first year was a learning curve but this past summer I understood the work more and had got to know the people there so I enjoyed it a lot more. I see my future as working in the food industry, linked to the agricultural sector.”

The MIA awards six undergraduate scholarships annually providing \$5,000 a year for each year of study and four post-graduate scholarships of \$10,000 for each year of study. They are aimed at students considering a future in New Zealand’s red meat sector.

The MIA also runs a mentoring programme for its scholars, including a networking and educational event each year in Wellington.

“I’m really looking forward to the mentoring and networking aspect and making contacts and meeting people I would not normally meet,” says Megan. “I think that will be really valuable.”