



Harvest insider: Sean Vincent

Viterra Cummins

Harvest worker

I joined Viterra as a harvest worker in October 2019, and I'm still working at the Cummins site. I was a backpacker and I was hesitant about completing my regional work because you hear about people having bad experiences. Luckily, I applied for, and got the job with Viterra and it has been great. I would definitely encourage other backpackers to apply and complete your regional work with the company, it will be one of the greatest experiences of working in Australia! Working the harvest with Viterra is great because you meet so many new people from all corners of the globe and have the chance to create many new friendships.

I also really enjoy the fast paced environment of harvest, there was little time to hang around as there were always jobs to be done. But for me, the best part about harvest was that I was completely thrown out of my comfort zone, but I wouldn't let that daunt anyone, any time I felt out of my depth there was support from my team mates and guidance from permanent employees. What I learnt very early on is that we are all in it together and, as a team, we can get the job done.

My role during harvest

My primary role was as a 'tarpy' (bunker operations). This involved using large sheets of plastic called tarps and prepping the bunkers that store grain by laying the tarps on the ground. We also covered the grain with another tarp once the bunker was full, and welded the tarps together to protect the grain from the elements.

I also worked a few night shifts loading trucks with grain to be transported to other sites.

Since harvest ended we've been opening up the bunkers and outturning grain into trucks to be shipped off. Once empty, we clean the bunkers so that they are ready for the next harvest.

My advice to new employees

The advice I would give to new employees is don't be afraid to ask questions. If you are ever unsure about anything then please raise it to ensure you and your team are safe. Safety really is paramount at Viterra, we always spend five minutes before every task to assess the situation to ensure that we can complete it safely.

I'd also say enjoy your experience at Viterra. Everyone that works here all seems to share the same view, which is to get the job done but also to have fun while doing it!