

# EMERGING LEADERS

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## **Tom Considine** **Berry North, Atherton, Queensland**

Originally from a grain and sheep farm in Sea Lake in the Mallee, Victoria, Tom has agriculture running through his veins. After attending the innovative Ag Program at Tyrrell College in Sea Lake - started by teachers Fiona Best and John Wright as a way to arrest the drain of young people away from the area - Tom went on to Longerenong Agriculture College and then LaTrobe University picking up qualifications in Agronomy and Agribusiness Management along the way.

When it came time to join industry, Tom actively looked for an opportunity in a growth industry and one where he could see the business was innovating. He wanted a change from his broadacre childhood and identified the berry industry as a booming sector. He joined Kureen Farming Berry North in an Agronomy role in 2021 and quickly progressed into an assistant farm manager role in the blueberry operations.

Kureen Farming is a third generation, family owned and operated, diverse farming business with four different farm locations from the Atherton Tablelands to Lakeland in Cape York, Far North Queensland. Berry North is the joint venture partnership between Kureen Farming and Mountain Blue Farms.

The farm grows and packs premium quality blueberries just five minutes outside Atherton on the picturesque Atherton Tablelands. The production season up in far north Queensland runs from March to October.

"Being isolated up in Atherton and still very new to the berry industry it was important for me to come to BQI22 to be able to meet other berry growers. I wanted to build a foundation of knowledge and the speaker list was amazing. Being able to hear first hand from global berry giants like Soren Bjorn and Juan Allende was invaluable.

"It was also great to learn from the research presentations and seeing the new technology on offer from industry suppliers all in one place meant we could move forward quickly with bringing tech innovation back to the farm."

"A real highlight for me was the Emerging Leaders Workshop with Cynthia Mahoney on the final day. Growing blueberries is actually all about the people; pickers, packers and production staff, and working with Cynthia really boosted my people skills."

