

Matt Dyck

"I love working in a role that strives to protect this industry from pests and diseases, so that the industry can continue to produce and sell quality products to the global market."

Current position in the kiwifruit industry –

Biosecurity Analyst

Who do you work for?

Kiwifruit Vine Health, a grower funded pan-industry organisation tasked with managing biosecurity for the New Zealand kiwifruit industry.

What does your role involve?

As a Biosecurity Analyst, I work with others to prepare the kiwifruit industry for future biosecurity incursions; to reduce the risk of these occurring and the impacts to the industry should they occur. The role involves networking with scientists, industry experts and the Ministry for Primary Industries to identify biosecurity threats to the kiwifruit industry and how to address gaps in our current state of preparedness. Activities include working with MPI to ensure industry confidence in the biosecurity system, promoting and implementing biosecurity practices across the kiwifruit supply chain to reduce the risk of spreading pests and diseases, and developing systems so that the industry can respond if called upon and deploy our own resources into a biosecurity response.

What was your career path?

After school I attended Otago University graduating with a double degree in Science (genetics) and Commerce (management). After a period of travelling I worked for AgriQuality (nowASUREQuality) where I gained exposure to biosecurity.

Looking to develop more specialised skills, I returned to study and completed a Masters degree in marine science, which involved a one-year industry placement in a paua farming operation in Northland. I then took up a challenging role as the Environmental Manager for a large and remote aquaculture operation in the Malaysian rainforest before moving to Singapore where I worked as a project manager for a finfish selective breeding project.

Upon returning to New Zealand in 2013, I took on the role as a Biosecurity Analyst for Kiwifruit Vine Health where my previous experiences and knowledge of biosecurity practices have transferred well to the kiwifruit industry.

What do you like about working within the kiwifruit industry?

Primary industries, such as kiwifruit, are the backbone of the New Zealand economy and form an important component of our global image.



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Kiwifruit are one of very few natural sources of folate – needed in pregnancy and growth