

# POWERING PROTEIN



## **Tell us a bit about your role at Tegel?**

As the Production Manager of the New Plymouth feed mill, my main focus is making sure everyone has a safe and positive working environment. Safe and happy workers are productive workers - when people feel supported, quality improves, efficiency increases and injuries are reduced.

## **How does your role help to get quality affordable protein on to Kiwi tables?**

It starts with producing high-quality feed – the work that happens at this stage has a big impact further down the chain. Good nutrition helps chickens grow well and convert feed efficiently. When feed conversion is strong, less feed is required to produce the same amount of protein. That means fewer resources used, less waste, and ultimately more affordable chicken for New Zealanders.

## **What does sustainability look like day-to-day on site?**

Producing feed according to plan is a core part of our role, and that includes minimising waste. For example, if finished product isn't quite the right size, we simply put it back through the process rather than discarding it.

On site, our team recycles cardboard, co-mingled waste in the lunchroom, soft plastics, and polypropylene bulk bags. Our 20L chemical containers are triple-rinsed and recycled, IBCs are re-used to store quarantine waste, and plastic and wooden pallets are put out for the community to reuse. We make sure materials go to the right place. It might take a little more time, but it's simply the standard we work to.

## **Have you discovered any opportunities for improvement when reviewing waste streams?**

We had several 20-litre chemical drums ending up in waste. They're actually really good containers, they just needed cleaning before they could be recycled. Now they're washed and sent to the plant for recycling instead.

## **What will it take to achieve Tegel's goal of zero organic waste to landfill by 2028?**

To reach zero organic waste to landfill, we'll need innovative solutions to treat quarantine grain (imported grain that could carry weed seeds) so the seeds are no longer viable, and the remaining product can be safely reused.

*Joel Lewis - Feedmill Production Manager  
New Plymouth*