

Fond Farewells

A celebration of student achievement saw farmers from all around the lower North Island - Rongotia to Herbertville, White Rock to Levin - converge on the Masterton Club at the beginning of August. They joined staff and students for a fabulous farewell dinner for second year students and to welcome the mid-year intake of second years.

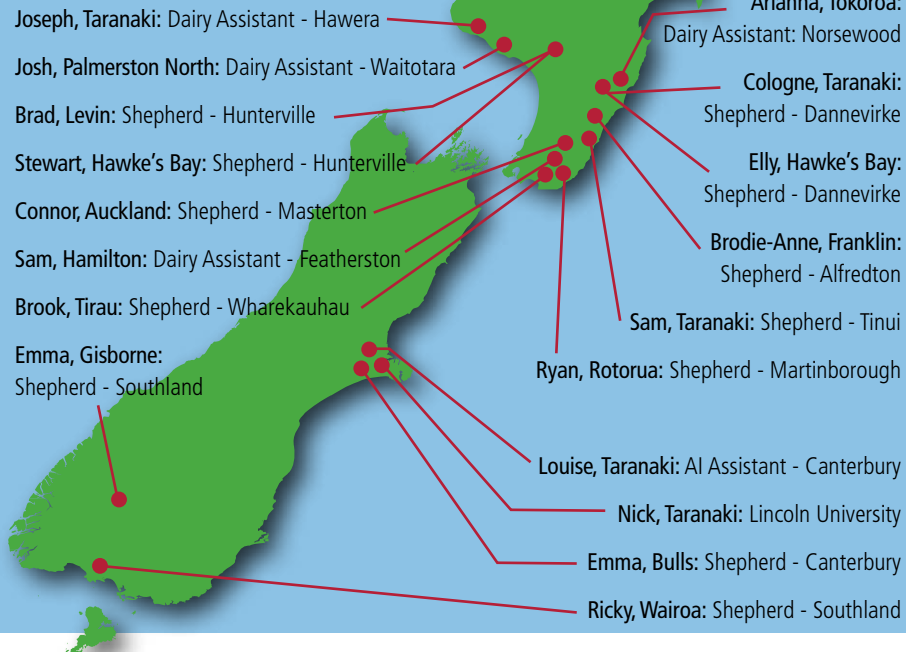
"Some of the twenty January intake students have already started work, several with farmers they connected with on their placement. They have taken up positions as dairy assistants and shepherds, gone contracting and even specialised in artificial insemination work," says Chrissy Jordan, Second Year Student Co-ordinator. "More than usual are heading down south this year, although many will still be local and we hope to still see their faces over the months ahead!"

Matt Wyeth a well-known Masterton farmer gave a short, very complimentary speech about the quality of Taratahi students and how much he has enjoyed working with us to date. Many of the thirty farmers present have taken on students over the last five years. "We really value their patience and their support to help students make the transition from Taratahi into the wider world." says Chrissy.

Twe News

- The excellent autumn and early winter conditions are reflected in the good condition of the stock across our three Wairarapa farms. The recent snowfall came before lambing and had a small impact. We're looking forward to a good lambing. Cows have come home from winter grazing in good condition.
- Two-tooth and mixed age ewes at Mangarata scanned 196%, Glenside 183% and Koromiko 163%. Hoggets at Mangarata scanned at 125%, Glenside 128% and Koromiko, 129%. Koromiko results were pleasing as this was a new property, with new stock for Taratahi last season.

Second Year Students Employment Locations



Northland NorthTec

An exciting new partnership is in the throes of development, with Taratahi set to begin delivering training programmes throughout Northland in 2012.

This new venture is in partnership with NorthTec, the region's largest tertiary education institute. Recruitment of Taratahi Northland staff has begun. The team will consist of a Regional Manager and three experienced tutors.

Taratahi's core philosophy of 'real training on real farms' will underpin the programmes in Northland. The agricultural training programmes will immerse students in practical and highly relevant programmes tailored to meet a wide range of student needs. Taratahi Northland will deliver non-residential programmes for those starting their careers, those already in the industry wanting to up-skill and for those who would like some practical and transferable skills.

The primary sector is the backbone of the Northland economy and is the region's biggest earner and employer. There are excellent opportunities for graduates, with dairy, beef, deer and sheep farms all represented in the region - a region well suited to growing grass and raising livestock

Support throughout Northland for this initiative has been overwhelming and Taratahi is looking forward to working with farmers, industry and community groups to ensure quality, relevant agricultural training is delivered in the region.

SCHOLARSHIPS/FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

2012 Scholarships forms are now available.

Please check out our website for specific details on closing dates and eligibility and then contact Taratahi for forms.

WWW.TARATAHI.AC.NZ

Hawke's Bay

Taratahi Hawke's Bay was excited to launch the Certificate in General Farm Skills (GFS) programme in the region in July. Our first students range from 16 years through to 61 years of age and are all undertaking this course to learn new skills to further their career or lifestyle goals. Two separate GFS courses run on Tuesdays and Saturdays.

The National Certificate in Farming Skills (Work Ready) Level 3 and National Certificate in Agriculture Level 4 January intake students are over half-way through their training. They have been enjoying the mix of classroom-based theory work and practical training on the campus farm and on local farms.

These full-time students range from 16-48 years and this mix of ages has had a positive impact on their learning. The majority of Level 3 students have indicated that they plan to continue their qualifications by enrolling in the Level 4 course in 2012.

Growth in the number of farmers keen to support practical training with access to their farms is strong. Taratahi has had excellent feedback from local farmers who have already hosted our students on their properties. Taratahi Hawke's Bay is always keen to hear from local farmers interested in offering work experience opportunities to students.

The Hawke's Bay campus is accepting enrolments for both the Level 3 and Level 4 courses for 2012, as well as on-going enrolments for the General Farm Skills course.

Contact kim.holden@taratahi.ac.nz or phone 0800 TARATAHI for an enrolment pack.



Hoof & Hook



Taratahi students' hard work finishing and handling stock earlier this year, paid off with Hawke's Bay taking the 1st place trophy for Excellence in Beef Industry Training at the annual Future Beef NZ Hoof and Hook competition held in Feilding in May.

Students from Wairarapa, Taranaki and Hawke's Bay Campuses competed and took out a number of awards across the categories. Great job!

Pictured here, from left to right: Andrew Davies (tutor), Meg Horrocks, David Price (tutor), Daniel Hill, Elliot Cowley, Maria Montaperto, Tuari Edwards, Brad Deverell.

Dairy Diary

- The Wairarapa Campus dairy unit saw an infrastructure upgrade through the winter with the installation of a new 47 cup Waikato system. Milking times are expected to improve significantly and increased efficiency of the plant should positively impact on stock health overall. The collecting yards were also redesigned to improve stock flow.
- Feed conditions are good, although the recent bad weather has required supplement to be fed-out to the milking herd.
- Calving is on schedule with the rising twos beginning on 19th July and cows on 25th. After three weeks, 84% of rising twos had calved and 54% of the cows. Mating is due to start in mid-October.
- Taratahi Wairarapa contract-milk from a 50 bale rotary shed at Riverslea Farm close to Masterton. This farm has a winter milking contract that saw 250-300 cows milked through June and July. Spring calving started on 1 August.
- Conditions are very wet. Feed is tight with 1850 kgDM/ha pasture cover, ProGibb and urea are being spread to lift the pasture cover. Stock are being fed: maize silage, barley, palm kernel and straw supplements. Riverslea plans to peak milk 650 cows this season.
- Backvale Dairy, Taranaki, has experienced a very wet winter but currently pasture cover is good. Cows were light in condition at commencement. High feed levels are being targeted over winter at the sheep and beef farm to improve cow condition with grass, rape and baleage being fed. A peak milking of 280 cows is targeted for the Spring.
- Calving has been slow but is on track for 12 week completion in late October with mating beginning shortly after.

The Young Farmer 2011 Contest kept staff and students busy in late June. Taratahi Wairarapa hosted parts of the competition and helped set-up at the Solway Showgrounds, Masterton.

Taratahi welcomed the TeenAg and AgriKids competitors for a day of fencing and stock whip demonstrations as well as some hands-on activities, lunch and time to quiz the seven Young Farmer Contest Finalists.

Tom Beattie, Taratahi student, showed families around the campus. "The parents were really interested in both the residential side of life here and the qualifications. The younger students asked some really challenging technical questions!"

Congratulations to Will Grayling from the Aorangi region, winner of this year's contest.

Young Farmer Contest 2011



Seven Young Farmer Contest Finalists 2012 and Taratahi Students: Adam Hutchinson, Darius Ogilvy, Tom Beattie and Paul Wakelin.



Experience of a lifetime

In mid-July nineteen second year Taratahi students returned from an exhilarating three and a half weeks in Britain. The annual exchange with Walford and North Shropshire College, now in its seventh year, allows students to compare farming techniques and helps them develop an understanding of cultural differences between the two countries.

The programme offered some farming experiences with a distinctly UK feel including: shearing sheep straight off a trailer, going to the biggest livestock market in Britain, checking out a robotic milking unit, vaccinating pigs at a huge piggery, visiting an 8,000 acre estate owned by Lord Hamilton and inspection of a beef unit that housed 800 head of bulls indoors.

Cologne McKinstry, Taratahi's top performing first year student in 2010, said: "the major difference for me was the intensity of their operations and the amount of additional feed required to grow their animals. It makes me realise how good NZ is at growing grass! The other major difference was the amount of regulation and paperwork required to farm in Britain – It was huge!"

The students experienced British culture with visits to London, the wild Welsh coast, several castles and the Three Counties Agricultural show.

A (potential) star is born!

A rising star was born at Taratahi Wairarapa in early August. Calf #150 has been identified by the Livestock Improvement Corporation Ltd (LIC) as one of around three hundred nationwide with the potential to gain entry to the SIRE catalogue when they come of breeding age in two years' time. Friesian cow #657 has been the 'one to watch' in recent years; her breeding worth was rated highly by LIC.

"For the last three years cow #657 has worn ear-tags marked 'contract cow' so that during mating we could easily identify her and make sure she was inseminated with 'gold standard' semen. When she was close to calving I moved her into a separate paddock to make sure there were absolutely no mix-ups!" says Nigel King, Assistant Dairy Manager.

"It's nothing to get too excited about just yet," says Nigel. "But if Calf #150 makes the grade this would give us naming rights in the LIC catalogue which would be exciting. Once he's been weaned he will be reared by LIC, but we will be able to follow his progress. It is interesting for our students to see this aspect of herd management in operation," says Nigel.



TARATAHI WAIRARAPA OPEN DAY

Come along to our Open Day and check out what Taratahi has to offer in 2012!

WEDNESDAY 12 OCTOBER 2011

Open Day tours will start at 9am and run at set times through the day. Get a feel for life at New Zealand's oldest agricultural training college - check out our accommodation, our technical workshops and, of course, our farms! Also get up to date information on Taratahi's Taranaki, Hawke's Bay and Northland campuses. Hear about scholarships opportunities and how to apply.

For more information, or to reserve your place, contact Natalie
06 378 2116 ext: 722 or marketing@taratahi.ac.nz