

A Taste of Taratahi

For potential students who are considering a career in agriculture, but want first hand experience before committing to a course study, Taratahi offers 'Taster Courses'.

These four day courses are run every school holidays and are an excellent way to learn about Taratahi and discover if agriculture is the right career path to pursue. Many of our fulltime students initially attended a Taster Course and say it's a great way to discover what it's like to live and learn at Taratahi.



Lifestyler's Lessons

Taratahi Wairarapa continues to offer courses catering to farmers, lifestylers and those interested in up-skilling and gaining a recognised NZQA qualification in the agricultural field.

Individuals need to complete four modules plus the compulsory NZQA Health and Safety unit to receive the Certificate in General Farm Skills.

The Certificate in General Farm Skills is flexible in that it allows individuals to choose different components of agricultural training to complete the qualification and up-skill in their area of interest.

Saturday courses are being offered in subjects such as Soils & Fertilisers, Milk Production, Animal Health, Pasture Management & Feed Budgeting, Horticulture, Chainsaws, Tree Felling, Fencing, Tractor Safety and ATV's.

Contact 0800 Taratahi or enquiries@taratahi.ac.nz for further information on any of our courses.



Extra studies

For those currently working who are wanting to obtain more advanced qualifications, Taratahi offers the Lincoln University Diploma in Agriculture.

The diploma is available through the Wairarapa and Taranaki campuses. The Lincoln diploma provides great staircasing options for students who have completed Level 4 studies with Taratahi, or those in the workforce who wish to advance their studies.

This regional diploma is offered over two 12 week semesters each year and students usually undertake one or two papers per semester.

The next semester starts July 2010.



The Taratahi year so far....

Below: Golden Shears



Above: Wairarapa visit by Labour leader Phil Goff



Above: Federated Farmers Farm Open Day



Above: Wairarapa Hoof & Hook training



Below: Hawke's Bay students team building



Above: Wairarapa Student Council

Graduates Success Celebrated

The Wairarapa campus saw 300 people descend on Taratahi to help celebrate the successes of our 2009 students in December.

The Honourable David Carter, Minister of Agriculture was the guest speaker at the Graduation who noted "it is clear to me that Taratahi has long understood the importance of developing skilled people in the industry. Young people like yourselves are the product of that foresight and of your own dedication to developing the skills you will need throughout your careers." Minister Carter addressed each student "I leave you with this challenge. Take what you have learned here at Taratahi and be proud of it. Don't see it as the end of your training, but as a starting point to the professional development you will continue throughout your careers."

There were many prizes and awards presented throughout the afternoon's celebrations including Most Promising Student, Most Improved Student and Best Overall Student. Taratahi was again fortunate to have received such generous support from the local community and businesses by way of donation of gifts for the many deserving students.

Family and friends also gathered at the Stratford Demonstration Farm at the end of January to share in the celebrations and award ceremony of the eight new graduates from the Taratahi Agricultural Training Centre in Taranaki.

The Taranaki campus was established in 2004 in Stratford to enable local students to remain in their region to study agriculture. Students can undertake the National Certificate in Agriculture level 2, 3 and 4 qualifications at the Stratford campus.

There were also a number of Taranaki graduates who excelled in specific areas throughout 2009 and special awards were given to the students.

The majority of the 2009 Taranaki graduates have secured positions on local farms or will be continuing further studies.

The Taranaki campus is going from strength to strength with around 60 students currently studying a variety of agricultural training qualifications, with the next intake due in July.



Above: Jason Powell with the Hon. David Carter



Above: Wairarapa graduation



Above: Taranaki graduate award achievers

Key Dates

Check our website for more information about these and other events

Taster Course starts at Wairarapa campus	12 April
UK Walford Exchange, students arrive at Wairarapa campus	12 April
National Certificate in Fencing Course starts Rodney District	19 April
Pasture Management & Feed Budgeting 1 course at Wairarapa*	24 April
Pasture Management & Feed Budgeting 2 course at Wairarapa*	22 May
Animal Health 1 course at Wairarapa*	29 May
Animal Health 2 course at Wairarapa*	12 June
National Field Days, Mystery Creek, Waikato	16 June
Milk Production course at Wairarapa*	19 June
Animal Health 1 course at Wairarapa*	29 June
Student July intake starts at Stratford campus	5 July
Taster Course starts at Wairarapa campus	5 July
Young Farmers Finals in Gore..	9 July
Student July intake starts at Wairarapa campus	12 July
Student July intake starts at Taradale campus	19 July

* Modules as part of the General Farm Skills Certificate

Contact Us

Taratahi Agricultural Training Centre, Cornwall Road, RD7, Masterton 5887 • enquiries@taratahi.ac.nz
Tel: 0800 TARATAHI • www.taratahi.ac.nz

News in Brief

Welcome new staff

Taratahi had the pleasure of welcoming a range of new staff members over the last few months.



Marcus Howie
Sport & Recreation
Coordinator



Leanne Richards
Regional Education Manager
Taranaki & Hawke's Bay



Warren Hales
Senior Tutor Hawke's Bay



Kim Holden
Communications Officer



Nigel Tomlin
Tech Tutor Wairarapa



Karla Liard
Assistant Residential
Supervisor



Joanna Taylor
Project Manager



Above: 2010 students and local Carterton Mayor Gary McPhee

Positive enrolment growth

It is obvious that Taratahi Agricultural Training Centre is going from strength to strength with the announcement that 2010 has seen a record number of students enrolled in courses throughout their three campuses.

With 80 new first year students arriving at the Wairarapa campus in the first week from all over the country, as well as enrolments at the Stratford campus and the new campus in the Hawke's Bay being run in partnership with Eastern Institute of Technology, Taratahi saw a 24% increase in new enrolments.

This was a very positive start to the New Year and Taratahi is committed to continuing and growing relationships with other organisations and the community to ensure we are at the leading edge of providing quality, robust, modern and relevant education benefiting both the learner and the agricultural industry.



Above: Hawke's Bay students

Dairy Diary

- Mating started 16 October, 10 days earlier than in the past due to the fact that we will no longer be winter milking.
- 6 week in-calf rate of 61%.
- Empty rate of 15% overall.
- There has been a strong focus on achieving target grazing residuals. This has been mostly through grazing pressure but we removed some surplus as silage, and also topped post-grazing where necessary.
- 6ha maize growing at home and it is looking very good. We have irrigated it once but the summer rain has looked after it since then.
- Rain in January allowed us to leave irrigators off for over 3 weeks. This has also meant that there has been no need to feed silage over the summer to keep cow intakes up.
- Currently milking 600 cows producing 1.31kg MS/cow/day. This includes cows that calved last autumn, they will have an extended season due to the change to spring calving.

Ewe News



Sheep farms are in an unusual position, we have grass! Feed covers are good, with some paddocks being taken out of the rotation for deferred grazing to be utilised in winter. This helps to maintain quality on the current rotations.

The lamb selling has been very good, so far 17,534 lambs sold with an overall average of \$70.

11,000 lambs have been killed so far with an average CW of 17kg.

Ewe hoggets have been shorn and averaging 39kg. On target to achieve mating LW average of 45kg on 1 May.

We are supporting Massey with a trial to better understand lamb losses in hoggets from mating to birth. It will be exciting to work with Massey and support them with obtaining some answers.

The first two student groups have completed their shearing course at Glenside shearing the two-tooths.

It has been a busy time finishing lambs, shearing, lots of handpiece and stockwork for the students, and awe are well set up for winter and hope the works schedule stays high!



Taradale turning out Taratahi talent

The Hawke's Bay agricultural sector will begin reaping the benefits of qualified individuals when students graduate at the end of 2010 from the newly established National Certificate in Farming Skills (work ready) Level 3 course.

The new course which commenced on 1 February at EIT's Taradale campus is a fulltime 34 week programme running as a joint venture between Eastern Institute of Technology and Taratahi.

The Taradale course currently has nine students enrolled and is being led by Senior Tutor, Warren Hales.

EIT will be running the second intake for the National Certificate in Farming (work ready) Level 3 course mid-year and anyone who would like further information or would like to enrol in the next course can contact EIT on 0800 22 55 348 or Taratahi on 0800 TARATAHI.



Generate Self Development

Taratahi offers a professional self development programme designed by rural people, for rural people.

Generate is about self-development and growth – professionally and personally. Whether you're working on a farm, in the rural servicing sector, or involved in the rural corporate world, Generate offers you the opportunity to focus on developing your attitude, character, personal principles and people skills.

Courses run all over New Zealand in partnership with New Zealand Young Farmers, AgITO and Open Polytechnic. Generate is run part time, once a month.

Check out the Taratahi website www.taratahi.ac.nz for dates.

Graduate Update – Emma's OE

Emma Chapman graduated from Taratahi in 2008 after completing her National Certificate in Agriculture Level 4 studies, qualifying in sheep and beef. Emma then headed to the Gold Coast for a much needed break, but it wasn't long before she was itching to swap the surf for soil! Emma managed to secure a seasonal job on Pretty Plains Station at Hughenden, a 200,000 acre cattle ranch with around 8,000 cattle.

Emma says her Taratahi qualifications made her more employable. "Working on a cattle ranch is totally different to anything you'd do in New Zealand. My qualifications definitely make a difference – they proved that I had good skills working with stock."

A typical day for Emma would begin around 6am with loading up the ute with supplies and gear. She would drive out to the paddock that contained the stock for mustering, and be given a place to wait; usually by a watering hole, or in a holding paddock with a watering hole. The team would drive the cattle down to the yards, using motorbikes and a helicopter to move the stock either along a fence line, or down a lane way. "Once we got to the yards we'd draft up, and the cows, weaners and calves would be separated. The next day we'd brand the calves and castrate them, then ID tag them in the ear. The steers would also be given a hormone growth capsule in the left ear that makes them put on weight. It's not cheap at \$5 per capsule, but the steers can gain an extra 30kg over their lifetime, so out there they think it's worth it."

All the weaners would then be loaded onto a road train and taken back to the home yard. Once back there we'd have to teach them to get used to us – they call it 'educating'. You see, there is only two rounds of mustering a year, and calving all year round – so this would be the first time they'd ever seen a human being! When we weren't mustering, we'd be doing maintenance – even that was pretty full on!"

Rural Beginnings in Rodney

Taratahi will be delivering a new fencing course in the Rodney district with the start date of 19 April.

The full time National Certificate in Fencing Level 3 will be targeted to locals aged 18-25 years and will run for 37 weeks.

Students will learn a range of skills that will give them a grounding in conventional fencing including electric fencing, repairs, building and hanging gates. As well as the fencing aspect of the course, students will also attain a certificate in chainsaws, ATV and safety qualification.

For more information or to register interest in the fencing course, please contact Stephen Hannam at Taratahi Agricultural Training Centre on 0800 TARATAHI or stephen.hannam@taratahi.ac.nz



Above: Emma Chapman with dog, Kim

Emma is certain about one thing, and that's the influence that Taratahi had on her career. "It's not just the things I learned there, or the qualifications, although that's all important stuff. It's the fact that I realised while I was there that farming can really take me places, and give me amazing experiences on the way."

