

Sun shines on Stratford Graduation

Family and friends gathered at the Stratford Demonstration Farm on Friday 29th January to share in the celebration and award ceremony of the eight new graduates from the Taratahi Agricultural Training Course.

The eight students have completed their studies in one or more of the National Certificate in Agriculture level 2, 3 and 4 qualifications.

The Taranaki campus was established in 2004 in Stratford to enable local students to remain in their region to study agriculture. The courses have been developed to help students get the core skills needed to start a career in agriculture and students have the opportunity to specialise in either sheep and beef or dairy training.

As well as theory, all students gain essential practical experience with chainsaws, tractors, ATVs, motorbikes, fencing, soils, water supply, agrichemicals and many other aspects of farming.

There were a number of graduates who excelled in specific areas throughout their course and special awards were given to the following students:

Work Experience Trophy – Alexis Housham

Tutor Trophy – Logan Tamahill

Stockmanship – Nathan Taylor

Most Improved Student – Natasha Bunting

Shearing Trophy – Nathan Taylor

Fencing Trophy – Brandon Bowring

Top Student – Logan Tamahill

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

The Stratford campus is going from strength to strength with around 60 students currently studying a variety of Agricultural Training qualifications, with another intake due in June/July.

Agriculture is the lifeblood of the Taranaki community and Taratahi has gained a solid reputation as one of the country's foremost agricultural education providers, proving that this is the place to come and learn essential skills to start a successful career in farming.



PHOTO: 2009 Graduate Award Winners L-R
Logan Tannahill, Nathan Taylor, Natasha Bunting, Brandon Bowring, Alexis Housham