
Press Release

Masterton, 19 August 2010

Agriculture to benefit from Trades Academy

The agricultural sector will reap the benefits of the new Primary Industries Trades Academy set to accept enrolments from 2011.

After a year of establishment activity Taratahi Agricultural Training Centre has been given the green light to become one of nine Trades Academies in New Zealand. The Primary Industries Trades Academy (PITA) will be offering year 11-13 students individualised programmes designed to provide careers guidance, mentoring and a smooth transition from secondary school to tertiary institutions or the workforce. 100 places have been made available for students with a passion for a career in agriculture.

Education Minister Anne Tolley confirmed Taratahi's selection as the Primary Industries Trades Academy specialising in pastoral agriculture in its first year of operation.

"It is a real compliment for Taratahi that the government has recognised our unique educational delivery by appointing us to the status of Primary Industries Trades Academy" said Donovan Wearing, Chief Executive of Taratahi.

A change in legislation will allow students to be enrolled at school and with PITA. Students will be able to complete a National Certificate that can be credited to their NCEA qualifications as well as gain a valuable understanding of the primary sector. In addition to PITA, Taratahi will also continue to facilitate and provide resources to enable schools to offer agriculture as part of their STAR programme.

"PITA will rise to the challenge of an ageing agricultural workforce, emerging environmental good practices, and technological advancement, and in doing so will contribute to producing a workforce that can capitalise on new skills for the good of the individual and the agricultural industry" said Mr Wearing.

PITA will give secondary students access to a structured programme that will familiarise them with the agricultural industry as well as assisting them to develop a training plan that meets their future goals.

"The Primary Industries Trades Academy is a great opportunity not only for the individuals undertaking this programme, but also for the agricultural sector, as the demand for well trained, qualified employees has never been greater. Primary Industries Trades Academy at Taratahi is dedicated to the development of our young people in this fast changing industry which is critical to our country's economy, employment, environment and national identity" says Mr Wearing.

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