

Media Release

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Koanga Pepe Project at Taratahi

A GROUP of Taratahi students are getting a first-hand experience in the world of beef trading through an incentive project based at the training centre's campus.

Koanga Pepe (or "Spring Baby") has been developed by Taratahi dairy manager David Tanner and course coordinator Caren Oliver with the intention of offering students the chance not only to experiment with and experience the business side of calf-raising but also to give them an appreciation of the work and commitment involved with this type of goal.

Six students are currently taking part in the programme which sees them responsible for up to twelve calves from the moment they are born through to the time they sold at around 14 weeks old. When they are eventually sold on the open market, all expenses are deducted and the overall profit split between the participating students.

Students taking part in Koanga Pepe will be under the close supervision of dairy tutor Nigel King during the first two weeks of more intensive feeding (twice a day). As the calves mature, the students then take over unsupervised care of feeding but report on progress (including weight targets) to the dairy team on a daily basis.

To reinforce the business nature of the project, each student has signed a simple contract committing them to the required timeframe and responsibilities. Any student not adhering to their obligations will be released from their contract by the dairy manager and will not receive any financial profit from the project.

The students currently signed up to Koanga Pepe are:

- Jess Bensemann
- Tom Cartwright
- Tegan Marshall
- Chris Mathys
- Jamiee Schimanski
- James Young

