

Press Release

Masterton, 20th February 2009

Taratahi is the Federated Farmers Open Farm for Wellington and Wairarapa

The first Federated Farmers Farm Day, to be held on Sunday 1 March 2009, will take place right throughout New Zealand. Federated Farmers Farm Day will give urban dwellers a great opportunity to come onto a farm for the day and see what real farmers do, each and every day. Not a sanitized farm experience, every Federated Farmers Farm Day farm will offer guided walks and feature fun interactive 'farming' activities for guests. The launch of www.farmday.org.nz will also enable people to navigate easily to their host farm using embedded Google Maps.

Taratahi Agricultural Training Centre is pleased to have been invited to host the event for Wellington and the Wairarapa.

Visitors will have the opportunity to learn more about dairy, beef and sheep farming and try out a few farming tasks. As an extra bonus, visitors will have the opportunity to discover how six generations of farmers started their careers at New Zealand's oldest agricultural training centre.

- Taratahi's prize winning female fencing students will be sharing a few tricks of the trade.
- Federated Farmer members and Taratahi staff will be giving you the chance to get into the sheep yards and work with a mob of sheep.
- Meet some young farm dogs just starting their training and see some older working dogs in action.
- Jump on to a tractor and learn the basics from a Taratahi tutor.
- Walk and talk around the farm.
- Meet some beef cattle and find out about breeding.
- Visitors at 1.30 will get the chance to be involved with milking.
- Masterton Intermediate School will be providing hot food with all money going to school funds.

Natalie Bowie, Taratahi's Liaison Officer says "This is a great opportunity to chat and hear about farming life, but if you fancy an interactive experience there will be plenty of opportunity to get dirty, so come with the right clothes and footwear."

The aim of Federated Farmers Farm Day is to create better understanding and connections between town and country. Federated Farmers is excited that Farm Day will provide opportunities to show the wider public what real farmers do each day, every day of the year. Given the importance of agriculture to the New Zealand economy, Federated Farmers Farm Day will give people the chance to see farm eco-systems and the farming profession in action. We look forward to explaining how farmers farm, what farmers do and why agriculture is so important to New Zealand. We know many city children think milk comes from a carton and meat from a supermarket refrigerator. We hope that children will come away turned on to farming and inspired by what rural New Zealand has to offer.

Don Nicolson
President Federated Farmers

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE