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Press Release

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National seminar puts New Zealand's agricultural education future into focus.

Wellington saw key stakeholders come together last night at the invitation of Taratahi Agricultural Training Centre to discuss issues, pressures and opportunities in the agricultural education sector. Senior figures including many CEOs and Chairs attended from Lincoln, Massey, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, NZ Young Farmers, Agriculture ITO, Tertiary Education Commission, Federated Farmers, Meat & Wool NZ, Ag Research and Dairy NZ. They all strongly contributed to discussions on the position of agricultural training in New Zealand at present, and how to ensure the demands of industry are being met when educating the next generation of farmers.

Over the 90 years that Taratahi has been training agricultural students, there has been major change and development in the agricultural industry and they believe a collaboration of ideas and research is critical to the future of the sector. Farmers now demand skilled graduates who have robust, relevant qualifications, and education organisations must provide this in a timely, relevant manner.

David Carter, Minister of Agriculture, congratulated Taratahi on getting everybody together to address common issues. His particular concern with getting younger people engaged with the rural community was endorsed by Taratahi who run the Agriculture in Schools programmes and by NZ Young Farmers, who run the AgriKids NZ initiative sponsored by Taratahi.

The attending organisations have committed to developing a closer partnership for the common good of the industry. The seminar concluded with a proposal to enhance opportunities for the general public to better understand what agriculture has to offer, not only for themselves but for the benefit of the country's skill base and economy.