



Contact:
Stephen Carr
Business Development Manager

Mobile: 027 450 4269
Office: 06 378 2116 ext. 712
Email: stephen.carr@taratahi.ac.nz

Taratahi Agricultural Training Centre
Cornwall Road, RD 7, Masterton
Web: www.taratahi.ac.nz

Press Release

Masterton, Friday 6th October

Taratahi plays a leading role in Rural Challenge

The Wairarapa's first ever Rural Challenge has been heralded a huge success – largely thanks to Taratahi staff and students. The Rural Challenge took place at this year's Wairarapa A&P Show, at the Clareville Showgrounds on Sunday 1st November, and was thoroughly enjoyed by participants and spectators alike!

Working together with the A&P Society and Young Farmers, Taratahi was instrumental in getting the event off the ground. "Ray Beale, from the A&P society, contacted me to ask me to help organize the event at the show," says Caren Oliver, Taratahi's Year 1 Course Co-ordinator. "These competitions are already being run up the east coast by other A&P societies, and we felt that the Wairarapa youth would really benefit if we could make it happen."



Joining and straining up a conventional wire fence. Left to right: Timothy Bradshaw, Mitchell Mainwaring-Day, Jay Mutton, Andrew Moore

A total of ten teams entered the competition, including three teams from Taratahi. Wairarapa College entered a team and students from Makoura College and Kuranui College joined with more experienced Young Farmers to make up the remaining teams. Participating students from all three schools have benefitted from training at Taratahi this year via the STAR and Gateway programmes, and they definitely got the chance to put their newfound skills to the test! The teams competed in no less than ten events, which included stock judging, setting up a water trough, and a cross-saw challenge!

The prizes up for grabs were worth competing for: two members of the Young Farmers winning team will compete at the Eastern Districts Rural Challenge Final, which will take place at the Dannevirke A&P show on February 6th. The overall winners will be announced at the event's centennial ball and dinner – an extremely exciting prospect!

Judges and spectators alike were not only impressed with the high skill level of the Taratahi-trained participants, but their mature outlook, sportsmanship and willingness to give everything a go! "It's been a fantastic day," said Caren Oliver, Taratahi's Year 1 Course Co-ordinator, "largely because of the enormous energy, enthusiasm and focus of the students! I've now had feedback from TATC students and staff, Young Farmer participants and the parents of the student competitors – all agree that the event was simply fantastic!"

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



It was a busy weekend for Taratahi trainees at the Hunterville Hunterway Festival too. Students competed in the “Shepherds Shemozzle” a grueling cross-country race where shepherds, and their Huntaway dogs, complete an endurance and obstacle course. One of the Taratahi teams was delighted to walk away with second place in the “Shearing Challenge with a Twist!”

After receiving a prize for saw cutting. Left to right: Scott Wylie, Michael McCoombs, Thomas Menefy and Jason Powell