NSW Association of Agriculture Teachers

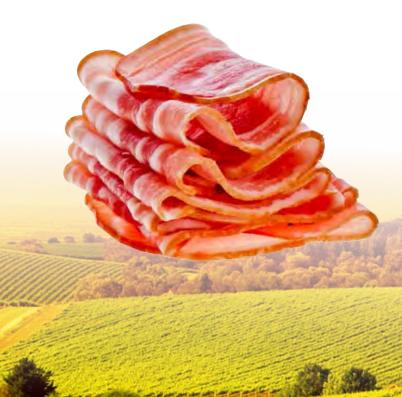




Spring 2019

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ALL ROADS TO THE ROYAL

"Connecting Rural Youth with Sydney Royal"

The Royal Agricultural Society (RAS) of New South Wales invites schools to apply for the 2020 Sydney Royal Easter Show (SRES) All Roads to the Royal Program. The program offers a unique, fully funded experience of the Sydney Royal Easter Show including return transport, accommodation and meals across four days, 6th-9th April 2020.

This program, now in its second year, has been designed by the RAS Youth Group, which consists of individuals, aged 18-35, who are passionate about rural NSW and ensuring RAS initiatives are education focused and continue to capture the potential of rural youth.

Sydney Royal Easter Show is a celebration of Australian culture, from our rural traditions to our modern day lifestyles, providing unique experiences for everyone. Every Easter, the country and city join together at Sydney Showground, Sydney Olympic Park, for twelve days of agricultural competitions, animal experiences, live entertainment, carnival fun, shopping and much more.

The program is fully funded including return transport, accommodation and meals with an itinerary that includes exclusive behind the scenes tours. A maximum of forty places are available which includes teachers and parents as required and is open to students in Years 7-12. It is hoped the program will inspire students to pursue a career that contributes to rural Australia, facilitated by opportunities for students to network with industry leaders. This experience aims to address the disproportionate access to the SRES for rural students who are often geographically isolated as well as foster interest in agriculture through education and exposure to world-class competition.

First held in 1823, the show is Australia's largest annual ticketed event, attracting over 850,000 attendees on average. Revenue generated allows the RAS to invest in agricultural programs, competitions, education, youth and rural NSW. In all, the RAS invests almost \$7 million annually in these

activities which are designed to promote agricultural excellence and keep our rural communities strong. This program is a great opportunity for students in rural NSW to experience first-hand, what the SRES has to offer and is especially aimed at students who have never had the opportunity to attend previously.

<u>Click Here</u> for application form which is due by close of business Friday, 13th December, 2019. If you have any further questions please don't hesitate to contact the RAS via phone 02 9704 1160 or email rreyes@rasnsw.com.au

What's Included

Monday 6th April - Thursday 9th April 2020

- Return travel from school to Sydney Showground, accommodation and meals
- Program Briefing
- Tour and experience animal competitions and pavilions of award winning agricultural produce
- Experience the Grand Parade
- Opportunity to meet with youth involved in RAS leadership programs (Showgirl Winners / Rural Achievers)
- Behind the scenes tours of District Exhibits, woodchop, entertainment, announcers box etc
- Networking functions with opportunities for students to meet with RAS Councillors and Youth Group Evening Entertainment from the Sky Deck
- Showman's Guild and free time
- And much more!

From Drought and Bushfires to a Royal Experience

Coolah Central School students embarked on the trip of a lifetime, coming to the 2019 Sydney Royal Easter Show as inaugural winners of All Roads to the Royal

Among the inspiring tales of rural resilience at the Show, Coolah's story is up there with the best.

In February 2017, the Sir Ivan bushfire devastated the Dunedoo, Cassilis and Coolah districts, ripping through more than 55,000 hectares of land. This was followed by 18 months of crippling drought, destroying livelihoods and struggling families.

Little did the close-knit community know, a reprieve was on the way.

Early this year, the Royal Agricultural Society of New South Wales (RAS) Youth Group initiated the All Roads to the Royal program, inviting regional schools to apply.

The program offered a unique, fully funded experience of the Show across four days.

The Youth Group hoped the winning students would not only enjoy the 'royal' treatment but also nurture their passion for agriculture and pick up vital knowledge and skills to take back to their rural community.

Agriculture Teacher Kate Thompson said Coolah Central School was thrilled to be the lucky recipient.

"It's quite an outlay to come down to Sydney accommodation wise," Mrs Thompson said.

"To have had everything paid for, enabling our students to come down here as part of a group... you just don't get that opportunity ever."

Staff and students in years 9 - 12 travelled five hours by bus before reaching their 'home base' at The King's School in North Parramatta.

Of the 31 students who attended, 30 had never been to the Show before.

PDHPE and Science Teacher Sally Staniforth said the younger students may not yet realise the huge opportunity they were given.

"In a couple of years, they will probably understand just how lucky they were to have done this," she said.

It appears the senior students wasted no time taking everything on board.

"After our first day here, one of our students said to us that she wants to be an agriculture teacher," Mrs Thompson said.

"This makes us really proud; it's such a good feeling."

There were many highlights for the students throughout the four-day adventure.

They had the best seats in the house for the Grand Parade, cheered on their very own Sue Duggan and Troy Palmer in the Campdraft and Mark Redmond in the Saddle Bronc, and enjoyed dinner in the Stewards' dining room.

They met the 2019 Rural Achievers and The Land Sydney Royal Showgirl Competition finalists over breakfast at the Big Bush BBQ, and took a look behind-the-scenes of the iconic District Exhibits and other competitions.

The students took a seat for goat judging, woodchopping and showjumping, before stepping into the limelight for interviews with NSW Country Hour, ABC News Sydney, The Land and Prime.

"The RAS Youth Group were phenomenal," Mrs Thompson said.

"We were looked after beautifully, and our students really appreciated it'.

Although the Coolah Central School logo reads 'The virtue is the struggle... not the prize' for these students the prize was well deserved and incredibly appreciated.

YABBY UNIT

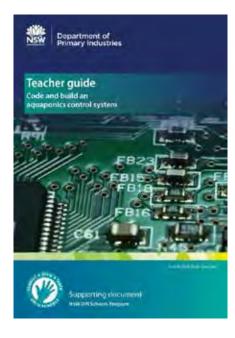
The NSWDPI is proud to release the final instalments to the Technology Mandatory Yabby Unit resources.

The release includes a teacher guide 'Code and build an aquaponics control system' along with fully operational and downloadable code.

The teacher guide resource gives a possible build solution with step by step guides, images, example materials and full code to build a digital control system with a pH probe, soil moisture probe, photosensor, digital thermometer and a water level sensor. The build could be used for a range of agricultural systems not just aquaculture.

The release is designed to assist teachers integrating and delivering Food and Fibre and Digital technologies outcomes for the Tech mandatory syllabus.

Find these at https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/education-and-training/school-resources/secondary-schools



SCHOOLS OFFER OASIS TO SALVE THE SUFFERING

Amid the heat, dust and despair, schools across droughtstricken NSW are serving as an "oasis" for their local communities.

While livelihoods on the land in the worst affected regions may be at a low ebb — with many families making the heartbreaking decision to up and leave — regional schools are proving to be a hub of hope, both in and out of the school grounds.

From providing laundry and shower facilities — for students whose families have little or no water other than for drinking — to serving a welcome breakfast, public schools and their teachers have been lightening the load in their communities.

That "lightening" — and raising of morale — can also come from unusual quarters.

Agriculture teacher Adam Macrae at Coonamble High School is one of the diehards. He has seen the shire have one good cropping season in the past six. In 2016, rains were good enough for the school farm to grow 1000 square bales of barley hay for its cattle program. That feed ran out a couple of weeks ago.

The school's ag program has a rich vein of success in breeding beef cattle for show, despite the fact its herd has had to be halved and variously agisted over the past three years to maintain the stock and bloodline program.

The program and its students have won many awards at the bigger Brisbane and Sydney Royal exhibitions, but a recent honour at a smaller show had resonance considering the current state of affairs in Coonamble.

Mr Macrae took a contingent of 16 students and steers to Scone for a livestock show and came home with ribbons — a third, two seconds and a first — for their entries.

"A parent who hosts the cows from the Speckle Park [breeding] bull, he's one of the parents that volunteered to come on these excursions and he was able to be there and watch those cattle win in the ring," Mr Macrae said.

"He had those cows on his place, and their mothers, and asked for nothing [in costs]. So that was, despite being dry here, a little bit of joy in his life, and obviously for the rest of the team.

"That joy kind of spreads out when we communicate it with the rest of the school and the community," he added.

It's a difficult row to hoe, but the sense of resilience in the community is what is keeping the Coonamble folk positive, even though the shire falls within the "intense drought" category as gauged by the Department of Primary Industries.

Federation is aware of other schools putting in the hard yards. A central school deep in the dry zone of the

Northern Tablelands has had to completely de-stock its agricultural program over concerns for the welfare of the animals. But there are other concerns.

"The mental health of students has deteriorated and consequently counselling needs have increased," a Federation Representative from another drought-affected school in the state told Education.



"However no adequate provision for a school counsellor is available from the Department.

"The school has resorted to using the services of a counselling provider once a week on campus.

"Mandatory reports have doubled at the school this year in respect of student wellbeing/ self-harm incidents. The mental health toll of the drought on farming families is harming children who suffer as their family circumstances deteriorate."

However, Mr Macrae credits affected communities with a high level of cooperation and adaptation. In his area people have been making fodder and agistment available at low or no cost and offering their labour for free to aid the school's program.

"The kids are really resilient," he said.

He was on the ABC Country Hour with two of his students who were asked whether the drought they had seen in their lives had put them off wanting to work in the agricultural industry. "[A student said] 'Well, I've also seen it pretty good too, and I love it ... This thing won't last forever and times will be good again'.

"I think people are pretty resilient out here because we're used to dealing with it and we've set up our businesses to

be able to continue and poke along and mark time.

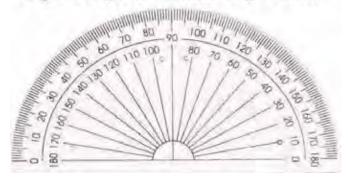
"Even though it's frustrating and it does wear you a bit, I think people are generally able to do that. But again as this thing develops, we're starting to look at summer now with no real forecast of a decent change in [weather] pattern.

"Every season that we have to put in, it's having an impact on people for sure."

— Scott Coomber

Source: https://news.nswtf.org.au/blog/news/2019/11/schools-offer-oasis-salve-suffering?fbclid=IwAR2vnFqz-Kn2s531MzybdSOyEUMPK5RuaylD_PPevs1uUc4xKd643whXgsM

I support farming, I guess you could say I'm...







FREE GPS Cows Advanced Workshops

\$100 + GST for non-DoE Teachers

TERM 4 2019







Education

- 26 Nov 2019 Hunter
- 27 Nov 2019 Sydney CBD
- 28 Nov 2019 Goulburn
- 29 Nov 2019 Ulladulla
- 9 Dec 2019 Coffs Harbour
- 10 Dec 2019 Sydney
- 11 Dec 2019 Wagga Wagga
- 12 Dec 2019 Dubbo
- 13 Dec 2019 Tamworth

The GPS Cows Advanced learning module will consist of a unit of work spanning 10 weeks (25 hours) where students will collect their own GPS livestock tracking data from their school farm and analyse this data to help make better management decisions on-farm to improve productivity. environmental sustainability and animal welfare. The material will assist with the implementation of the updated Stage 5 Agriculture curriculum.

A partnership between CQUniversity Australia and NSW Department of Education

Email your interest to Amy Cosby a.cosby@cqu.edu.au and we will arrange your registration.

NSW Department of Education, 2019

New secondary school resources recently developed for Dairy Australia are now live on Discover Dairy.

WHY TEACH AG?

The new 'Why Teach Ag?' Video is now available on the NSWAAT Youtube channel..

Check it out at https://www.youtube. com/watch?v=L39m3XxIlT0

and need to know what compliance needs



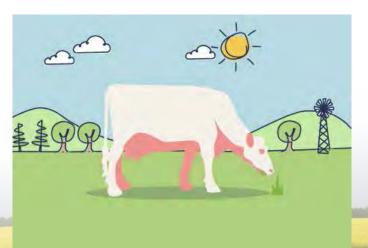
to be covered for the farm.

If you are a rural or isolated Ag teacher interested in joining RRASP or want to find out more, please contact Sam Jarrett at: samantha.mcauliffe1@det.nsw.edu.au

EDUCATION FOR SUSTAINABILITY

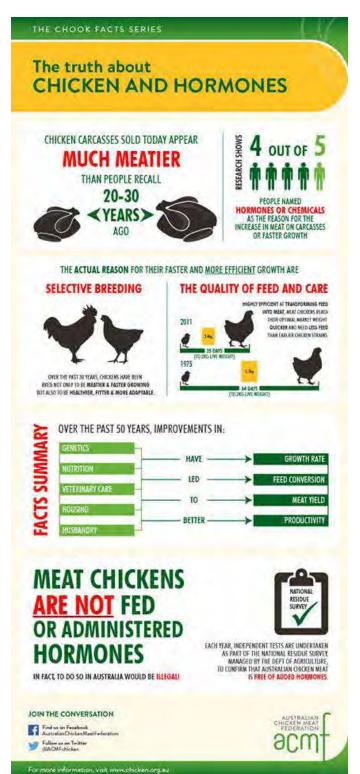
The Australian Association for Environmental Education (AAEE) has mapped the content descriptions and elaborations for the Australian Curriculum with advice from our members to demonstrate the connections between sustainability and core concepts in the Australian Curriculum. http://www.aaee.org.au/projects/

DISCOVER DAIRY

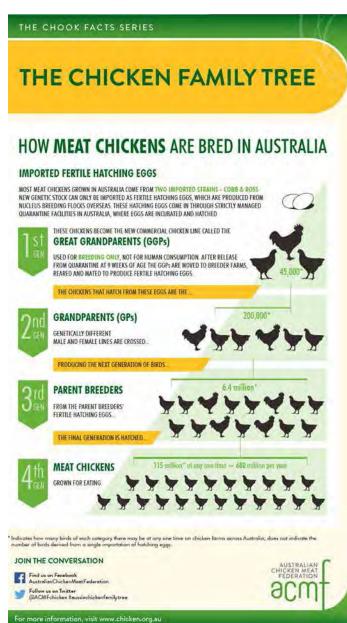


CHICKEN MEAT

Like the Australian Chicken Meat Federation Facebook page to access infographic on the industry







https://www.facebook.com/ AustralianChickenMeatFederation/

STAGE 5 SYLLABUS

New stage 5 syllabus is now available on program builder. They are currently going through quality assurance checks but they are available via the new link:

https://programbuilder.edu.au

PIEFA MEMBERSHIP

PIEFA SCHOOL MEMBERSHIPS ARE NOW FREE!

Show you care about teaching your schools' students about from where their food and fibre come from! Help be part of the solution.

Your school can qualify for membership at three levels; Bronze, Silver or Gold.

How? Encourage your staff to sign up to the PIEFA newsletter AND Primezone website.

Bronze- 2 or more teachers signed up to newsletter and Primezone.

Silver- 5 or more teachers

Gold- 10 or more teachers

(NOTE: Schools with less than 10 teachers please contact PIEFA office)

Each school will receive a membership certificate, a digital badge to display on email signature block and website and acknowledgement on the PIEFA website.

Show the world your school supports food and fibre education today!

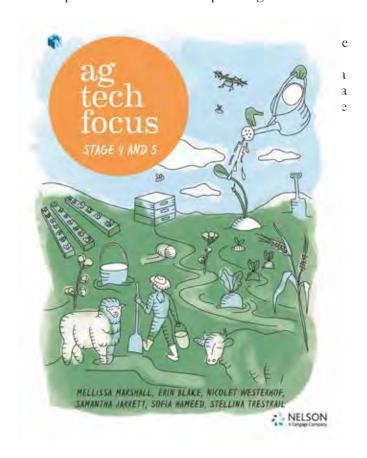
VIRTUAL VICKEY

As part of Poultry Hub Australia's training initiative, we have developed a virtual chicken with the assistance of Tafe Digital in Armidale. 'Vicky' the virtual chicken allows users to experience all parts of the chicken from inside out, even down to the different cuts of meat from chicken.

There is also a testing function that enables the user to select a specified part of the chicken with tweezers and place on the tray. This interactive tool has applications across all levels of education and we look forward to integrating it into our training packages and also education sessions. If you would like to experience the virtual chicken you can take a peek at the clip https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=77-aIa5s2r8 or contact us to discuss at poultryhub@une.edu.au.

INTRO TO AG TECH FOCUS

Nelson Cengage is excited to introduce Ag Tech Focus, a brand-new practical textbook with a strong focus on sustainability, multiculturalism and technology, reflecting the current opportunities and issues affecting Australian agriculture. Written from the ground up with comprehensive coverage of the new NSW Agricultural Technology syllabus, Ag Tech Focus addresses a wide range of enterprises from wheat to sheep to fungi.



The print textbook is supported with extensive online resources on NelsonNet. High quality worksheets, data scenarios and practical activities, as well as chapter review tests to assist with formative assessment, are provided alongside the NelsonNet eBook. Teachers are further supported by in-depth teaching programs for both the Agricultural Technology syllabus and the Technology Mandatory Agriculture component. Project based learning outlines show teachers how to utilise the textbook in creating investigative, authentic projects in the classroom. To find out more visit: cengage.com.au/secondary/ag-techfocus

About the authors

Mellissa Marshall teaches agriculture and science at Moruya High School on the South Coast of NSW. Prior to teaching, she worked as a veterinary surgeon in small animal and mixed practices for 10 years.

Samantha Jarrett is a passionate agriculture teacher with 10 years' experience. She is currently a representative for the NSW Department of Education on the Schools Animal Care and Ethics Committee (SACEC) and a team member of the Lighthouse Schools for Agriculture and Primary

Industries Program.

Stellina Trestrail is Head of Agriculture at Northholm Grammar School and has taught HSC agriculture for the past 7 years. She previously taught VCE Biology and agriculture in Melbourne and worked at the CSIRO on the Winter Wheat Breeding Program in Canberra.

Erin Blake is an agriculture and primary industries teacher with 17 years' experience and has been on numerous assessment writing teams as well as marked and judged for the HSC.

Nicolet Westerhof is an experienced senior agriculture and primary industries teacher, HSC marker, exam committee and NAAE executive.

Sofia Hameed is an enthusiastic agriculture teacher at James Ruse Agricultural High School. She has extensive teaching experience both in rural and urban schools and regularly marks for the HSC.



INVERELL TRIP OF A LIFETIME

AGRICULTURE students at Inverell's Macintyre High School will soon be packing their bags and heading on a trip which could shape their future job prospects, thanks to a last-minute \$5,000 grant from the State Government.

Member for Northern Tablelands Adam Marshall and Deputy Premier John Barilaro met Agriculture Head Teacher Deb Snaith and her students at the Wool Works Shearing and Wool Handling School at Glen Innes recently, where they heard the school's sheep team were possibly going to miss out on attending the Australian Wool and Sheep Show at Bendigo this year because of the drought.

Mr Marshall said supporting students to chase their dreams was an easy decision to make.

"With most of the farm income going to things like buying in fodder and transporting stock there's not much left over for activities like school camps," Mr Marshall said.

"This grant will subsidise the accommodation, food and

transport costs of nearly 20 students who will travel and attend the National Sheep Show at Bendigo before heading to Melbourne and around Southern NSW visiting major cropping and dairy operations.



"I hope by the students travelling, showing the schools White Suffolk stud and experiencing different farming operations they will be given hope and encouragement to continue with a career in agriculture once the drought breaks."

Mr Barilaro said it was inspiring to meet a group of students so optimistic about chasing a future in farming.

"Not everyone wants to work in an office and what I saw at the shearing school at Glen Innes was a group of young people who love and are passionate about the land," Mr Barilaro said.



"I see this grant as an investment which will allow these students to broaden their horizons and hopefully give them the drive to start their own enterprise later in life."

Mrs Snaith said the funding means the trip will go ahead with more kids than expected.

"\$5,000 doesn't seem like much but this action by the Deputy Premier and Mr Marshall has shown our students and their families there are people who care," Ms Snaith said.

"Because of the drought many families are doing it tough financially, the children are working hard at home to help make ends meet and sadly missing out on opportunities because they simply can't afford to attend.

"This grant means these great kids don't have to miss out and I'm truly thankful for that."



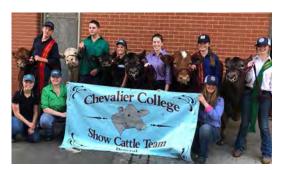
Chevalier College Ag and Show Team

Show season has wrapped up for my team at Chev for a while. We are super proud of our successful season at the local shows, Canberra Royal, Sydney Royal and the South Coast Steer Spectacular.

At Sydney I had students compete in pure bred steer, trade steers, Angus youth events, Hyline layer comp, Steggles meat bird comp, beef junior judging, school cattle parade, young farmers challenge, meat sheep junior judging and the Norman Lethbridge award.

Our highlights were:

- 5th place Hyline competition
- 2nd place Parader (school cattle)
- Highly commended trade light weight steer, who went on to be 6th on the hook
- 5th place trade heavy weight steer, who went on to be 3rd on the hook
- Silver medal for our school Simmental steer
- Bronze medal for our Square Meter steer
- 5th place meat sheep judging
- Darcy Howard came equal first in the Normal Lethbridge award- For students who study agriculture and also contribute to the community



My team competed in the South Coast Steer Spectacular for the first time in early May. This is the second year this event has run and was at Nowra show ground. It was a great event. The organisers help source the steers if needed and we made a great new connection with a breeder of Murray Greys, Cadfor.

This is a three-day event that has three main components: Led steer, a written and verbal presentation and the carcass.



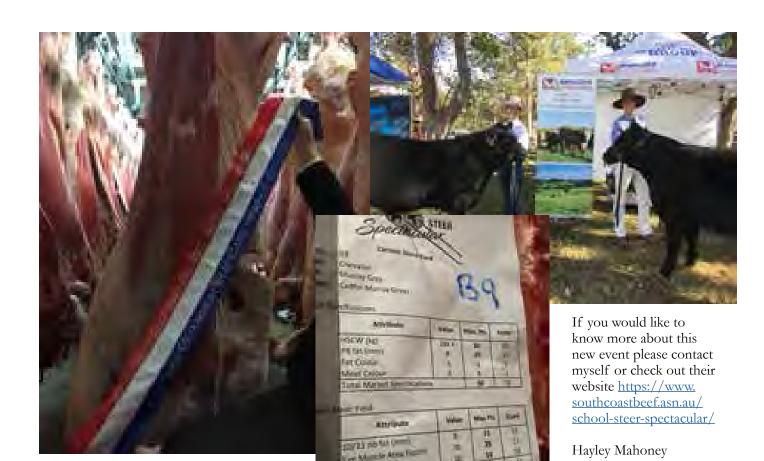
Tuesday: Day one the students undertake a variety of workshops. My experienced kids enjoyed the workshops as much as my newbies to the team. The teams also present their presentation to a panel, a condensed version of their report. The report focuses on animal welfare, nutrition and economics of raising the steers.

Wednesday: Day two the students exhibit their steers, compete in junior judging and parader events. Results and awards were given out.



Saturday: We could view the carcasses and the results and awards were given out. Saturday night was a teacher, producer and organisers dinner. We had a "nose to tail" wagyu beef feast!

It was \$120 per steer to enter and we were able to camp at the show ground as well. We walked away with some of the best prize money I have seen at a show. The committee that run the event are extremely helpful and friendly, which makes the event even better. Feed was also supplied by Manildra.



Team Chev was awarded the following:

1st and 3rd on the hoof middle weight steers Reserve Champion steer

In parders nearly all of the team placed and went on to win champion school parade

Junior judging: 1st, 2nd, 3rd and champion junior judge

Silver medal- written report

1st photography competition

Gold medal carcass- 92 points Champion middle weight carcass Champion carcass overall Champion School



FIELDDAYS

Tocal Field Days

http://www.tocalfielddays.com/ Location: Paterson, NSW

1-3 May 2020

30 April - 2 May 2021

Riverina Field Days

http://www.riverinafielddays.com/

Location: Griffith Showgrounds, Griffith, NSW

14-15 May 2021 13 -14 May 2022

Primex Field Days

https://www.primex.net.au/

Location: Casino, NSW

21-23 May 2020 20-22 May 2021 19-21 May 2022

Casino Beef Week

https://casinobeefweek.com.au/ Dates: 23 May to 2 June 2020

Mildura Field Days

http://www.mildurafielddays.com.au/

Dates: May 15-16, 2020 Location: Mildura, VIC

Admission: Adult - \$10, concession - \$5,

children (under 18) – Free

Mudgee Small Farm Field Days

https://mudgeefielddays.com.au/

Dates: July 10-11, 2020 Location: Mudgee, NSW

Sheepvention Rural Expo

Hamilton, VIC 2-4 August 2020

AgQuip

https://fairfaxruralevents.com.au/agquip/home/

Dates: August 20–22, 2019 Location: Gunnedah, NSW

Admission: Free

18-20 August 2020

17-19 August 2021 16-18 August 2022

Berry Small Farm Field Days

https://www.berryrotary.org.au/small-farm-field-

<u>day</u>

Dates: TBC 2020

Location: Berry Showground, Berry, NSW Admission: Adult - \$10, children (aged 15 and

under) – Free

Henty Machinery Field Days

http://hmfd.com.au/

Dates: September 22-24, 2020 Location: Henty, NSW

Murrumbateman Field Days

https://www.mfdays.com/

Dates: October 17-18 2020 October 16-17, 2021

Location: Murrumbateman, NSW

School Memberships Now FREE!

Membership is now dependent on how many teachers per school are signed up to Primezone and the PIEFA newsletter: Bronze (2+), Silver (5+) or Gold (10+).

(Schools with less than 10 teachers please contact PIEFA office)

Show the world your school supports food and fibre education today!

Email office@piefa.edu.au for an application form





Australian National Field Days

https://anfd.com.au/

Dates: October 22-24, 2020 Location: Borenore, NSW

Admission: Adults - \$15, children (school age) - \$5

Tocal Field Days

1-3 May 2020 30 April - 2 May 2021

Riverina Field Days

https://www.griffith.nsw.gov.au/cp_themes/visit/listing-detail.asp?org=CSD-HEY-81-75-56

8 - 9 May 2020 14-15 May 2021 13 -14 May 2022

Primex Field Days

https://www.primex.net.au/

21-23 May 2020 20-22 May 2021 19-21 May 2022

BEEF AUSTRALIA 2021

May 2-8, 2021 Rockhampton http://beefaustralia.com.au

NSWAAT SUGGESTIONS

Your executive is always looking to get feedback and suggestions from our members. If you would like to reachout to us please use the following contact details to share your ideas and feedback.

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