

YOUNG country

Food and You

Special

Winner
Canon Media Awards

*You know you've made it
when you're on the cover!*

Career opportunities

in the food and ag industries

Real people
real jobs

More jobs
than seekers

NZX  **Agri PLUS**

Job profiles of ag professionals, on-farm roles,
off-farm careers, great salary packages, phones,
laptops and more...



pathway in agriculture



Welcome to PICA

Welcome to PICA, where you can PIC A pathway in agriculture.

There are many, many opportunities for people of all ages in rural New Zealand and within the agricultural industry which supports it. Often

though it is hard to get a clear picture of what and where those opportunities are and how to get there.

PICA is your road map



Secondary

(14-18 years old)

Challenges,
outdoors,
animals,
mates and
technology!



www.pica.org.nz



Inspirational people

Welcome to the Young Country Food and You special publication.

Wow, what a day and what a buzz to have over 600 young

Kiwis together in one spot checking out an exciting career in agriculture and horticulture – the building blocks of the food industry!

We hope you enjoyed the Food and You day and went home with lots of ideas about how you could have an exciting and rewarding career in the food industry.

The great thing about the primary industries is that there is huge scope to fit in, whether you are strong in sciences, keen on technology, more words based or the kind of practical person who loves to get outdoors and get right into it. There is something for everyone in the sector.

Working in the primary industries you can build a great business and enjoy the country lifestyle as well! If you are into hunting,

shooting, fishing, horses and dogs, or keener on the finer things in life like good food, fine wines or all the latest toys, the rural broadband roll-out means that over the next three years almost the whole country will have access to fast broadband.

Agriculture and horticulture are such important sectors of New Zealand's economy and huge career opportunities exist within the industry, from on-farm jobs and rural businesses through to science, technology, engineering, banking, marketing and support-sector jobs.

The rural workforce needs young people like you who are energetic, continually asking questions, lateral thinkers, physical and experiential learners and good at working in groups and learning by doing.

Young Country magazine tells stories about these kinds of people and profiles career and training opportunities within the sector, as well as inspiring young people into giving a career in the primary sector a go.

Published by NZX Agri in Feilding, the

magazine is currently moving to a monthly print/digital format from six print issues per year and recently won a Canon Media Award 2013 for Best trade or professional magazine.

We aim to tell inspiring stories about young people building fantastic careers and businesses and revelling in the opportunities a country lifestyle offers. The magazine has a good dose of humour, columns for hunters, foodies and farm dog trainers along with features on great careers, training opportunities and issues that affect young rural people.

Enjoy this snapshot of stories about young people building their career in the rural sector and if you want more, take out a subscription to this magazine for only 36 bucks for your monthly dose of inspiration!

See you in the food industry!

Jackie

A passion for agriculture

At Lincoln University, we are proud of the fact that we are New Zealand's specialist land-based university.

Nearly half a million people in New Zealand, or around 27% of the entire New Zealand workforce, are involved in the land-based industries.

It is predicted that by 2050 the world's population will reach 9.2 billion people and as we look to the future there are challenges that need solutions.

As the population grows, food production will become key. So will sustaining our environment for future generations.

As these two, potentially conflicting, concepts become increasingly pressing – we will also want to be living well on our planet, enjoying sport, recreation and travel.

We need to re-think how we live, how we plan for the future and how we can meet future needs – that is where you come into it!

Whether it be farm management, food production, international trade, fibre production, soil science, horticultural management or agricultural research, Lincoln University has the specialist qualifications for you to make a difference.

If you want a qualification that incorporates practical learning and has close links to industry then contact us and let us take you where you want to be.

Grant McNaughton

Specialist: Bachelor of Commerce in Agriculture (Farm Management)

Landed: Technical Manager, Wilfarm Enterprises

For New Zealand Young Farmer of the Year 2010, Grant McNaughton, Lincoln University ignited his passion for agriculture. "Lincoln University was where I truly found my passion for agribusiness," says Grant.

"I chose the Bachelor of Commerce in Agriculture because it also gave me exposure to marketing and commerce – important for any agribusiness going forward – as well as animal, plant and soil science and farm management. I loved the culture of the university, where people knew how to work hard and play hard. It was somewhere I could study, grow my knowledge, and have a hell of a good time while getting a world-recognised qualification.

"Studying at Lincoln University was a really enjoyable few years. I developed many great friendships and a close-knit network of contacts that have been a huge help in the business world as well. Lincoln University is an absolute world leader in education and a place I recommend to anyone considering further education."



New Zealand's specialist land-based university

land@lincoln.ac.nz
0800 10 60 10
www.facebook.com/
LincolnUniversity
www.lincoln.ac.nz

Pushing the boundaries

How did one of New Zealand's brightest scientists find the time to become the number-six ultra-distance triathlete in the world?

AgResearch's Dr Christine Couldrey managed to – by bringing together drive and determination with exceptional time management skills. In 2002, when she achieved the number-six ranking, she juggled a 60-hour week as a postdoctoral research fellow at Red Cross, near Washington DC, with 30 gruelling hours of running, biking and swimming.

She is now back in New Zealand where she still trains 20-25 hours a week while excelling in her scientific endeavours.

Christine grew up on a lifestyle block in rural Waikato and was inspired to become a scientist after a visit to an AgResearch open day at the age of 14. After graduating from Hamilton's Fraser High School she attended Lincoln University, gaining a BSc. Honours in 1995. In 1999 she received a PhD in molecular biology from Cambridge University.

Today Christine is part AgResearch's reproductive technologies team, working in the field of epigenetics. She is currently focusing on understanding epigenetic mechanisms in agricultural animals.

"I thrive on constantly learning new things, the variety in my working day and being challenged to work out how things work," says Christine. "I love the fact that the science I undertake will ultimately improve the efficiency of farming and make a real difference to

farmers and their businesses."

Christine is still taking life to extremes. She recently made history as the first woman to conquer New Zealand's most extreme road-cycling challenge when she cycled eight times around Lake Taupo, the equivalent of cycling from Hamilton to Dunedin. It took her three days and three nights. She clocked in at 72 hours, 21 minutes and 30 seconds, during which she slept for only seven hours altogether.



hr@agresearch.co.nz
www.agresearch.co.nz



Renee Mason

– 2006 graduate



I grew up in Auckland and originally thought I wanted to be a lawyer when I left secondary school.

I got into agriculture through a gateway programme at school, followed by a Taster course at Taratahi in Masterton. After attending the Taster programme, I decided to sign up for the year long course and give it a go.

I excelled at the practical and theory work, and at the end of the year I was awarded Theory Dairy Student of the Year. Taratahi can really push you to achieve great things!

I now live in Rodney with my partner who I met as a student at Taratahi. We run our own dairy farm and beef stud business breeding Wagyu beef.

None of this would have been possible if I hadn't gone to Taratahi – I would probably be sitting in Auckland traffic every morning to get to my job in the city!

Taratahi was the start of my adult life and it was the best start and life experience I could have had. I will always be thankful for the opportunities that Taratahi gave me and where it has taken me.



0800 TARATAHI (0800 8272824)
info@taratahi.ac.nz
www.taratahi.ac.nz

From Ponsonby to paddocks

Studying agriculture was not exactly top of her list when, in her final year at school, Sally Peel was considering her future.

Born and bred in Ponsonby, Sally's secondary schooling was at an all-girls Catholic school where agriculture was not even presented as a career option to the bright 17-year-old.

Commerce was considered, but the insightful Sally couldn't work out where the degree would take her in the future.

She says she had always been curious about agriculture and when in her final year at school she attended a farm careers field day (which was the first time she had even been on a farm) she was hooked. She had discovered an interesting and exciting industry which offered good long-term career prospects.

At the field day she met Bill Barwood from DairyNZ, who took Sally under his wing and encouraged her to apply for a DairyNZ scholarship to attend Lincoln University, which she was awarded.

Sally admits that coming to Lincoln to embark on her B.Ag.Com was initially a bit of a shock. She was placed in the middle floor of Lowrie Hall with all the farm kids, so she was thrown straight into Lincoln student life – and loved it.

"It was a brilliant year."

Initially her sights were set on a career in rural banking, but Sally soon realised her real interest lay in farm management and farm systems, though she lacked confidence in that area due to her lack of practical experience.

Like many girls studying agricultural courses with a practical

component, Sally has not always found it easy to find farm jobs over summer. In her first year she worked on Orari Gorge Station and subsequent summers have been spent working on corporate-sized dairy operations in Canterbury.

She says they were all good experiences and gave her the practical grounding she needed to underpin her interest in farm management systems.

While Sally enjoyed her time on a sheep and beef property, it was not enough to divert her interest away from the dairy industry, which is where she expects her future will lie.

Not being brought up on a farm she says she has no real affinity with sheep and beef farms, and career-wise the dairy industry is an exciting prospect.

She is looking at the arable industry in her thesis which is examining synergies between

cropping and dairy farms, a topic she chose before it became topical, particularly in Canterbury.

In the course of her study for the thesis, which is funded by the Centre of Excellence in Farm Management, she has been working with 10 farmers in Canterbury, getting to understand their businesses and farm systems.

Sally says the aim of her thesis is to understand the drivers behind farmer decisions to partly convert from cropping to dairy. One of the likely outcomes of her thesis is that there is an element of efficiency in mixed-farm systems that may not be so evident in pure farm systems.

Sally is a member of a Christchurch Young Farmers Club, which has proved a great meeting place for city-based agribusiness professionals.

In February next year Sally will hand in her thesis and begin life in the commercial world. She clearly has no regrets about choosing to study agriculture and to pursue it as a career.

Ask her what advice she would give to school leavers, she urges students to think beyond just the subjects they liked at school.

"There is a lot of opportunity to do industry-based courses rather than just doing a subject. "Focus on the big picture."



DairyNZ

0800 4 DAIRYNZ
info@dairynz.co.nz
www.dairynz.co.nz



Ravi Paricherla

Technical Projects Manager Asia Pacific – Alltech

Everyone born in this world wants to have safe and nutritious food. The world population is expected to reach 9.3 billion by 2050.

This means that we need to grow more livestock to feed the growing population. Agricultural land in many countries is used for other purposes.

The grain we feed to livestock is the same grain humans want to eat. Corn is being diverted from food usage to fuel! It is very important to effectively utilise what we have. It is vital, however, that this improved production should be safe and sustainable.

Growing up on a family farm in India, I used to wonder about

the biology behind livestock productivity.

This passion drove me to study human and animal biology at secondary school. Upon completion, I applied for a three year programme in Biotechnology at VIT in India.

My main focus was to learn and know the application of new technologies, to add value to humans and animals. I continued with post graduate studies in Bioscience Enterprise at the University of Auckland.

After completing my studies, I was part of an internship programme with Alltech, a global animal health and nutrition company, where I applied my

science knowledge to understand new technologies.

Now I am looking at a variety of livestock research trials and projects across the Alltech Asia Pacific business. I am very glad to be a part of a dynamic team and even more importantly, being connected with the agricultural industry.

In New Zealand and globally, agriculture is one of the fastest growing industries. A 'world of opportunities' is waiting for efficient solutions to the challenges. I am very strongly committed to making my mark in the agricultural industry. Are YOU committed too? The future is dependent on YOU.



newzealand@alltech.com
Facebook.com/AlltechNaturally
www.alltech.com

Auckland Aggie



Name: Scott Dingle

Age: 33 years

Job title:

Silver Fern Farms Livestock Representative (South Auckland)

Brief job description:

A Livestock Representative is responsible for buying quality livestock from farmer suppliers, promoting Silver Fern Farms' procurement initiatives and informing suppliers of market related activity.

Remuneration package:

The Livestock Representative remuneration package will generally include a car, a good base salary and the opportunity to make more through livestock procurement incentives.

Education & Work Experience:

Scott boarded full-time at Auckland Grammar School before trading his final year at school to complete a Certificate in Agriculture at Manukau Institute of Technology.

At school Scott found that his talent came to the forefront with practical subjects such as design and technology.

Following the completion of the Certificate in Agriculture, Scott was a shepherd on a bull farm, played rugby for two years in the UK and worked on the family farm at Pukekawa.

The experience of hands-on practical work on the farm, an outgoing personality and a good attitude has set Scott in good stead for a successful career as a

Livestock Representative.

Scott says patience and an enjoyment of people goes a long way in his role. According to Scott, Silver Fern Farms is a "bloody good company to work for. They are organised and professional".

With a young son at home, Scott has the flexibility of organising his hours to suit his family and his farmers – "you can run your area how you want to". As he is driven to offer excellent service to his farmers often this means spending a lot of time on the telephone with farmers at night and driving to farms during the day.

Scott's advice to someone considering a career in agriculture is to "just get out there and try it, you'll soon know if you don't like it. A good attitude, positive and outgoing energy will probably get you the job. We need that in the farming industry".

Further opportunities at Silver Fern Farms for Livestock Representatives:

Traditionally speaking Livestock Representatives can move to other roles in the business including managing teams as a Regional Manager or in other senior livestock operational management roles. Silver Fern Farms have plenty of examples of good hardworking reps moving into other areas of the business to grow their careers. Being a livestock rep is a great way to develop strong relationship management skills and get a good overall understanding of the industry (predominantly farm gate), skills which are highly valued by many other parts of the business.



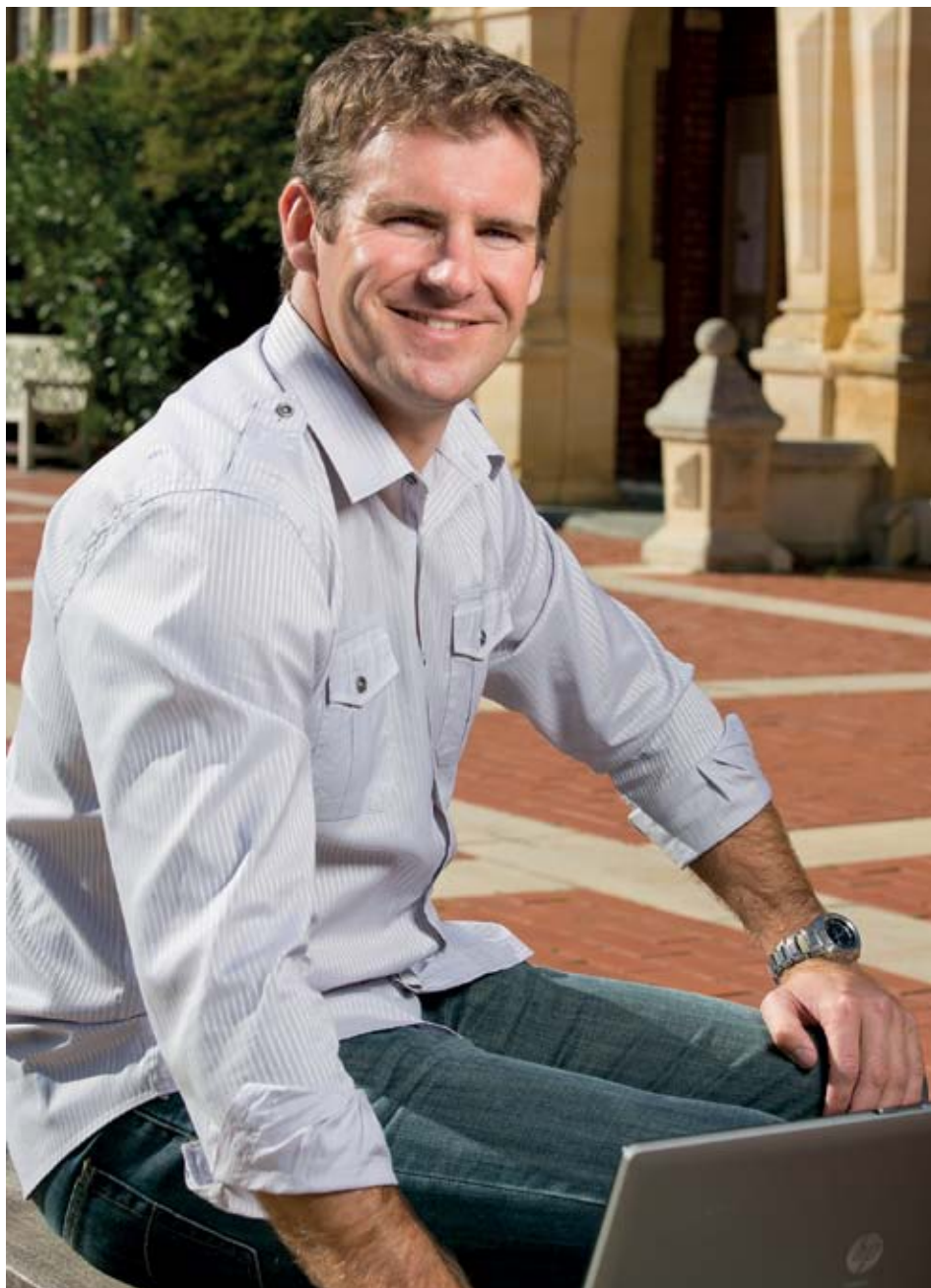
0800 362 362
www.silverfernfarms.co.nz

There's more to agri than meets the eye

If you're looking for a career that's challenging, exciting and has unlimited potential for growth, then look no further than the ANZ Commercial & Agri team.

Commercial & Agri at ANZ is about taking care of business! From smaller home-based businesses right through to major agricultural farming operations and everything in between, Commercial & Agri has a diverse focus on day-to-day banking, lending and investments – all of which help our customers achieve their goals.

A career in Commercial & Agri isn't like working in a branch. We are leaders in thought leadership, reputation and market share, and we get to help solve complicated problems for large New Zealand businesses, both on and off the farm. As a powerhouse in the New Zealand banking sector, we have a \$35 billion lending book and a team of over a 1,000 staff. Our relationship-driven teams are structured into four regions: Northern, Auckland & Northland, Central and Southern. By being close to our customers, we can understand their local markets and economies better, which means we are more strongly positioned to support their growth and ongoing success.



**To find out more about how you can be a part of the ANZ Commercial & Agri team and how an exciting and challenging career with ANZ can develop your skills and knowledge, contact:
Georgia Dry on 04 496 8329 or visit www.anz.com/graduates**



Quad bike design a potential lifesaver

Industrial design student Tom Marshall wants to reduce the alarming injury toll from people riding quad bikes and believes a couple of key modifications he has made to the existing farm quad bike design could help realise that goal.

The 22-year-old has designed the Huntaway, a prototype model of a quad bike that features a roll-cage-type rooftop and a seat that locks in at what would otherwise be the bike's tipping point.

More than 800 people are injured on farms riding quad bikes on farms every year in New Zealand.

The Labour Group of the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment has expressed a commitment to reducing the number of injuries and fatalities caused by quad bike accidents – something Mr Marshall wants to achieve with his design. The Huntaway acts as an interim between farm ute and a farm bike, he says, and would be ideal for small jobs like fixing fences.

"The Huntaway bike has been developed specifically for farmers on their farms and has involved direct input from farmers within the design process," he says, using an online community of farmers for feedback.

Mr Marshall believes with its roll cage and the potential to eventually be fully enclosed, the Huntaway would be of interest to users outside the rural

environment including the military and Department of Conservation workers.

"The bike is a safer alternative to the quad bike whereby the Huntaway's design enables riders to be enclosed, important equipment to be transported more efficiently and applies physical feed back when pushed in terrain it cannot handle."

Its other key modification is the way it addresses the issue of weight distribution. Riders can be buckled into the seat, which allows their body weight to be shifted around to match the direction being driven, in a similar sensation to riding a motorcycle, but the seat then locks when it senses the bike may overturn. He has attempted to counter differences in industry opinion as to the merits or dangers of riders being buckled in by seatbelts to design his seat so that it does move from side to side.

"The seat is able to lean side to side to a point of 15 degrees each way. This swivel point is located near the base of the seat to enable effective movement of mass. This movement of mass improves the



performance of the quad bike especially when cornering and moving along slopes."

Mr Marshall's design also lowers the centre of gravity, with horizontal engine pistons fitted that move from side to side rather than up and down, while the gap between the body of the quad bike and its wheels has also been reduced.

Other modifications include a light all-weather sail cloth-type fabric roof top and a 'step-through' design for the swivel seat, rather than the traditional design which involved the rider putting one leg over the seat before sitting down.

Mr Marshall, who is of Ngai Tahu descent, says he became interested in addressing quad bike safety after time as a casual worker on farms during his summer holidays. "It's something everyone was talking about wherever you went on the farm."




MASSEY UNIVERSITY
TE KUNENGA KI PŪREHUROA
UNIVERSITY OF NEW ZEALAND

contact@massey.ac.nz

0800 MASSEY (0800 627 739)

www.massey.ac.nz



A Zeal for knowledge

Although she is a born and bred Manawatu woman Sara Burgess has headed to one of the most prestigious colleges in the world to further her dairying career.

Sara Burgess is a scientist at the Fonterra Research Centre in Palmerston North. She has been working in the field of dairy biofilms for seven years - two years during her Master of Science (MSc) project and five years as an employee of Fonterra.

"The research for my MSc was very enjoyable and opened my eyes to the biological importance of bacterial biofilms in both industry and medicine. The study of biofilms is currently a very active and exciting field of research."

In 2007 she was given the chance to be manager of a project that involved installing new technology in a dairy manufacturing plant. "This was a steep learning curve as, although I had been involved in the developmental phase of the technology, I had no previous project management experience. It was a challenge but one that I really enjoyed."

She started studying towards a PhD in 2009. "I have wanted to do a PhD since the completion of my MSc but first I wanted to gain some work experience. Completing a PhD will be an important step in furthering my career as a senior researcher." While working at the Fonterra Research Centre in 2011 she

applied for a Fulbright Scholarship to Harvard Medical School in the United States. "It wasn't till I applied for the scholarship that I learnt about the Fulbright programme and what an honour it is to receive this scholarship." One of her supervisors, Dr Roberto Kolter, is based at Harvard Medical School so the opportunity to study under him was too good to pass on.

Since arriving in the US Sara has relished her time in the lab with so many exciting minds. "It's been a steep learning curve but I've learnt a lot. It's very inspiring being in a lab full of very talented young scientists. I'm in a lab of about 10 and nearly all of them post doctorates. I'm the only PhD student at the moment." She has faced unique challenges when it comes time to leave the lab coat behind and relax. "Even though they speak the same language it's amazing all of the little differences you notice. Different words, people having trouble understanding my accent, the extra sugar in food, tipping, the policemen out every morning at all of the major intersections and the brick pavements. My family and I have also enjoyed some of the American traditions such as Halloween and Thanksgiving."

She has also joined an American Toastmasters club and enjoys the confidence-building of speaking in front of other people. "It's been a great way to get to know a variety of people."

Outside of her work she loves the outdoors, particularly hiking. "Keeping fit is important to me so I swim and run. I continue to practise my French through reading and talking to friends in French." Her first experience of travel without family was in 1995 when she went to France as an AFS exchange student. "I stayed with a family for a period of one year. This opened my eyes to a new culture and different ways of doing things. I continue to keep in contact with my host family and have been back several times to visit them."

She has also been involved in the Association of Women in Science (AWIS). "This has been really interesting to see how they help women in science with their careers."

Her advice for other budding scientists is to find a good mentor. "I'm lucky that I've got great supervisors and also a manager who has been very supportive around the development of my career. Listen to what they say but don't be afraid to challenge. Have a passion for your subject. I think science is still an exciting area as you're always learning. If there's something you want to achieve, look for ways to do it and be proactive about achieving it."

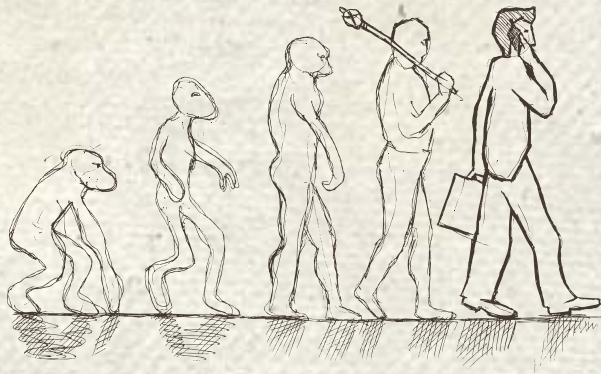
And where does she see herself in 10 years time? "I would still see myself working for Fonterra. However, I'd like to be a senior researcher and a leader in my field - both nationally and internationally."



**YOUNG
country**

www.youngcountry.co.nz

0800 85 25 80



ev•o•lu•tion *noun*.

1. A gradual process in which something changes into a different and usually more complex or better form.

A subscription to *Young Country* now includes six issues of the original magazine, six issues of the new e-mag and access to extra stories, videos and blogs online at agriHQ.co.nz/young-country



The original bloody good read

Young Country magazine - packed with great photos, laughs and all you need to read to inspire you to go further in your agri career. Delivered direct to subscribers' mailboxes every second month.

New and improved website

www.agriHQ.co.nz/young-country
It's your gateway to extra content from articles in the magazine and it's where you go to view our video profiles and e-mags. It's also the place to tell us what you think and what you want to see in future issues.

The new kid on the block

Two months is a long time between drinks. Our new e-mag bridges the gap between the print mags. Enjoy it on your phone, tablet or computer. Look out for the first edition in June online at our new website and delivered by email to subscribers.



**Better than ever
STILL just \$36 bucks a year
Subscribe now www.agriHQ.co.nz/shop
Freephone 0800 85 25 80**

Funders:



Other Food and You Careers Experience Day event contributors:

Ministry of Primary Industries | Alltech | Fonterra | CRV Ambreed | Tru-Test
Freshmax Group | Soljans Winery | Farm IQ | PrlTO | AgResearch
Massey University | Taratahi