



MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Friday, 7 December 2007

Graduate aims for a future on the land

Douglas Martin knows exactly what he wants to do in life and he knows what he must do to make it happen.

The Dalby AACC Campus student has set his sights firmly on managing a property in the not-too-distant future, but realises he needs to be across every aspect of the agricultural industry before his dream becomes a reality.

After completing his Certificate II, III and IV levels, the 19-year-old has spent this year finishing off his Diploma of Agriculture studies and loving every minute of it.

"I've found the Diploma course to be a lot more theory, but it's exactly what I need if I want to become a manager of a property," Douglas said.

With a view to one day returning to his family sheep, cattle and grain farm at Deniliquin on the New South Wales and Victorian border, Douglas said the experience he has gained at AACC has given him the self-belief to tackle any task with confidence.

He puts that self-belief down to the influence of his instructors.

"They're always there to help you, trying to guide you in the right way of doing things," Douglas said.

"They know their stuff and they're constantly giving praise for a job well done. They can't do enough for you."

Douglas said he was initially worried about finance and budgeting, but found the extensive study he has done working with figures and the GST has put him in good stead for future assignments.

Dealing directly with banks as part of the course has helped him to stay on top of the accounting side of business management.

"My skills have improved 100 per cent and with the specialised study I've done on bookkeeping and computer work I know I'm covering both the practical and the theory needed to become a property manager," Douglas said.

With his ag studies now in hand, Douglas has secured a job as a harvesting and planting contractor on a property at Moree in north western New South Wales.

Douglas is one of a cohort of students who will receive their certificates and diplomas at the Dalby Campus graduation ceremony tonight.

AACC media contact:

Brett Hoefler, Marketing Coordinator, Corporate Office, Australian Agricultural College Corporation 4672 3126 or 0417 717 507, email: brett.hoefler@aacc.edu.au

Photo Caption:

[**Job ready for the farm:** Dalby AACC Campus graduate Douglas Martin credits Australian Agricultural College Corporation for helping him land a job as a harvesting and planting contractor]