



MEDIA RELEASE

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Agricultural taste bug draws region's youth

Youth from around Queensland will converge on Dalby next week to sample careers in agriculture.

The Australian Agricultural College Corporation's TASTE 2007 program offers young people a 'taste test' of what it's like to be an agricultural student.

The inaugural Agricultural Skills and Technology Experience program will give years 10 to 12 school students the opportunity to check out their agricultural skills or desire for a life on the land.

AACC Dalby Campus Manager Bill Callaghan said the response to the holiday program had been outstanding with all places filling quickly.

He said TASTE would open up a rewarding career pathway for the school students as there were many exciting and diverse career options now available to rural graduates.

"TASTE offers hands-on access to the technical aspects and practical skills used in rural industry to attract young people into agriculture.

"It's a unique opportunity for school students to sample the rural experience and become acquainted with the new technologies used in rural production.

"They will have the opportunity to interact with other students from all over the state and will be engaged in training for different types of careers in the rural industry."

Students will be training and then competing in a range of rural skills, working in teams on an agricultural project that involves researching information and presenting to rest of the student group and will visit properties in the local area.

Mr Callaghan says it is an exciting time for young people to be considering a future in agriculture.

"Through their TASTE experience the students will not only get a taste of life at college but they are made more aware of the industry and the potential opportunities for them if they wish to pursue a rural career."

Students from years 10 to 12 were selected based on an essay outlining their interest in the program.

Tours and training will fill up the days of the week-long program (September 24 – 28) at the Dalby Campus with nights taken up with games, careers seminars and teambuilding exercises.

With a wide choice of programs ranging from agriculture, horticulture and conservation and land management, AACC offers a variety of study options to get school students and school leavers considering a career in a rural industry ready for work, improve their skills or create a pathway to further studies.

School students can find their potential career path by participating in AACC's school-based programs or enroll in a school-based traineeship. School leavers can enroll in AACC full-time campus-based courses or along with existing workers, enroll in a traineeship whilst at work.

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