

2020 ANNUAL NEWSLETTER

AgForce School to Industry Partnership Program (SIPP)

2020 - Underlines the importance of agriculture

It has been a year like no other for everyone including the SIPP team. While we consider ourselves nimble we have been pushed as circumstances changed throughout the year. With this came opportunity! It led us to many new contacts within the agriculture industry in Queensland who are excited to engage with school students. In terms 3 and 4 we have been able to get back to what we are passionate about and engage many students, teachers and industry members through our Ag Inspirations events teaching them about the importance of agriculture to their everyday lives, where their food and fibre comes from and the diversity of careers available in the agriculture industry.

We have continued our work with ASEP and Agribusiness Gateway to Industry Schools under funding from DESBT to provide events to promote the diversity of careers in agriculture and pathways to those careers and a gateway for surrounding schools to access these events.

This year we also were successful in gaining funding from The Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment under the 'Educating Kids about Agriculture' initiative. You can read about our plans and express your interest in being involved in the newsletter.

We welcomed a new team member in October, Kym Campbell. Kym works part time from the Toowoomba office and her home office in Haden on the Darling Downs. Kym is passionate about giving students an introduction agriculture backed by her professional and personal experience in the agriculture industry. Kym is really looking forward to sharing her enthusiasm of, and showcasing our, innovative and exciting agricultural industry with our next generation food producers.

The SIP program is more relevant now than ever before, so we must continue to ag-vocate for our industry for the sake of its future. Thank you to all students, teachers and industry members for your support this year.

TANYA NAGLE, KELLIE COOKE AND KYM CAMPBELL



Ag Inspirations

Ag Inspirations is a three-day tour of agricultural industries with the student goals for the program:

- To have the opportunity to learn and talk about their interests, aspirations and their personality/character type.
- To become aware of the breadth of occupations in any particular workplace and how they relate to one another.
- To hear from employers about their career journey and how their career developed.

This year Ag Inspirations were held in the following regions: Southern Downs (Scots PGC, Assumption College, Warwick SHS and Clifton SHS), Lockyer Valley (Faith Lutheran College, Plainland and Lockyer District SHS), Brisbane South (Emmaus College, Jimboomba, Beenleigh SHS and Loganlea SHS) and Monto (Monto SHS).

We would like to thank the following businesses for being involved in Ag Inspirations this year:

- DAF Hermitage
- Wickham Farms
- Clinton McGrath (DAF)
- Pohlmanns Nursery
- Windolf Farms
- Wickham Farms
- Warwick Equine Vet
- Ashbern Farms
- Queensland College of Wine Tourism
- Condamine Apiaries
- Davanya Grains Pty Ltd
- MRAEL
- Ag Requirements
- Blanch's Dairy
- Fishers' Farm
- Neogen
- Monto Veterinary Surgery



Ag Inspirations events were funded by the Department of Employment, Small Business and Training's Gateway to Industry Schools Program



Ag Inspirations - Student Feedback

I was surprised by how much tech there is in every aspect of farming.

This Ag Inspirations has made me feel very inspired and driven about getting a career in agriculture. The tour has given me an awesome insight into the local industries in our region.

There are so many jobs in one industry and how there is something for everyone in agriculture.

I was surprised by the demand for engineers and the technology used on farms. Ag Inspirations has made me feel keen and excited for my future and all the opportunities there are in ag areas.

The tour has made me feel very positive and know that I want to definitely work within the agriculture businesses from working on farms or ag offices.

I have realized that there is a very large range of jobs in the field and there are very detailed and specific jobs.

I have realised that there are many more careers involved in producing food that relate to agriculture.

That you can find careers in unexpected ways and places. Its great to go and see places like the piggery because you take in a lot more and remember it.

The Ag Inspirations tour made me feel excited and keen to learn more about agriculture. I was inspired by the dedication and commitment people showed towards their jobs.

That skills are transferable between different occupations based on the activity that we completed during this tour.

They opened a new can of worms for the agricultural industries from agricultural perspectives of sciences and further industries such as stock quad, Neogen and agronomist. One thing I have realized about careers is that there are so many more job opportunities and pathways you could choose from and that I should find a job or career pathway that I will enjoy.

I was inspired by all of the farmers as they were all passionate and determined about their jobs and for the future of the industry.

Ag Inspirations has made me feel like I had more options and now know that I can do more. There are many different types of jobs and career in agriculture. That you could work as anything you want in agriculture because there is a large variety in ag jobs and the work you put in is what you get out.

That there are more careers than what I thought there was and it has opened my eyes that there all different careers to the normal ones that I have heard of before.

Agriculture opens many jobs and opportunities.

This Ag inspiration has made me feel that I want a future in agriculture.

Ag Inspirations has made me feel enlightened about possible careers and curious about several others.



Calvary Christian College Livestock Challenge

SIPP attended the Calvary Christian College Livestock Challenge talked to 150 students from 7 schools about the diversity of careers in agriculture and completed a personality profile to help them start to think about how they might fit in the agriculture industry. Students also participated in workshops on judging and preparing sheep and alpacas for a show followed by the sheep and alpaca competitions.



Livingstone Christian College Ag Taster Day



Livingstone Christian College held an Ag Taster Day to promote agriculture as a subject to their wider school community. SIPP talked about the amazing diversity of careers in agriculture, pathways to those careers and how a career in agriculture can take you anywhere.



Kids to Farms

AgForce has secured Commonwealth funding to help connect primary school children to where their food and fibre comes from. The program will be delivered on behalf of the agriculture industry in Queensland over two years starting June 2020.

The objective of the program is to increase children's understanding of:

- where and how their food and fibre is produced
- the role and importance of agriculture to Australia's way of life, regional communities and the economy.

This project is supported by the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment through the Australian Government's Educating Kids About Agriculture Initiative.



Project partner Central Queensland University (CQU) will develop resources to support the hands-on activities in the program.

The program is based on the very successful SIPP program- the AgForce School Industry Partnership Program – and will connect students with agriculture through events such as:

- Visits to farms and primary production worksites (e.g. cotton gins, dairies, sugar mills, meatworks, production nurseries, food processors and technology-based facilities) to participate in a hands-on curriculum aligned activities.
- Hosting food and fibre 'mini classrooms' at major events, fair, shows or specific days (Ag Connect) for groups of primary school students where students will be engaged in hands-on experiences complemented with short interactive learning activities aligned to the curriculum. Ag Connect also provide the opportunity for students to engage with a wide variety of agriculture industry professionals and learn about the diversity of careers available in the industry.
- Satellite and virtual technology or other 'in-class' agricultural experiences for primary school students with students who undertake a hands-on, interactive learning experience in agriculture complemented with pre and post experience activities within the classroom more likely to retain knowledge than attending a one-off experience.
- Reviewing and refreshing, or developing resources about food, fibre and the value of agriculture for use in primary school classrooms.
- CQU will develop curriculum-based modules to create a three-phase engagement and learning activity which meets and supports the Australian Curriculum connection to food and fibre. Other activities will create interest, knowledge and understanding of the critical roles of agriculture in the Australian economy, lifestyle and community.
- If your primary school is interested in participating in this program click the link to register your expression of interest:

<http://web.agforceqld.org.au/cn/apjnk/kids2farm-eoi>





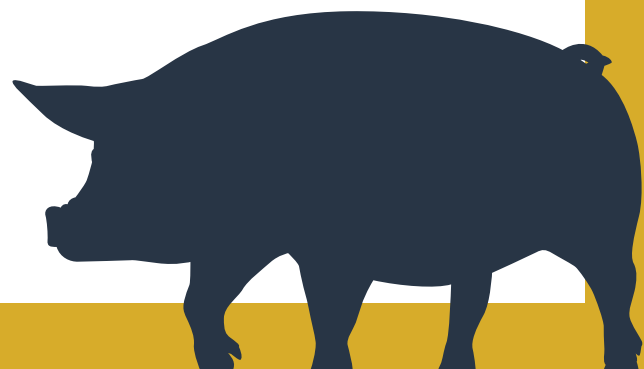
In these unprecedented times we are all being forced to adapt and change. In 2021 we are hitting the road and taking our much-anticipated Food, Fibre & Agricultural Educators Conference to a range of venues around Queensland. These professional development events are designed to give educators the currency needed to teach food, fibre and agricultural education in schools, whilst ensuring they have the latest information and resources to promote food and fibre production as a career to their students.

The format for these events will be:

Day 1: Plenary sessions and hands-on workshops followed by networking/reconnecting dinner.

Day 2: Tour

Keep your eye on  @openthegatetoag for conference updates and register your interest at futureag@agforceqld.org.au



Thanks for supporting us in 2020, we look forward to working with you all again in 2021!

Tanya Nagle & Kellie Cooke

