

2021 ANNUAL NEWSLETTER

AgForce School to Industry Partnership Program (SIPP)

Taking agriculture to the grassroots

The new normal continued in 2021, with operational challenges at each turn. This year can only be described as a rollercoaster – tremendous highs coupled with tremendous lows. In each low came a new opportunity for us to grow and strategise, building strength and resilience in our team.

We have built capacity in our team with Tanya Nagle stepping up to General Manager Media and Community Engagement and have secured two new enthusiastic and talented team members in Cait Jenyns and Chelsea Hartwig, both based in Toowoomba.

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.

Our 'Educating Kids about Agriculture' initiative funded by The Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment has gone from strength to strength with over 4000 students engaged in hands on curriculum aligned activities and farm visits in 2021.

Whilst not every student will follow a career into agriculture it has never be more relevant for them to appreciate how their food and fibre is produced. SIPP must continue to engage the community starting at the grass roots level to ag-vocate for agriculture and its future.

A sincere thank you to the students, teachers, producers and industry members who have given up their time and resources to support the School to Industry Partnership Program in 2021.

TANYA NAGLE, KELLIE BLINCO, CAIT JENYNS AND CHELSEA HARTWIG



Beef Australia



At BEEF 21, the SIPP team were responsible for the Suncorp Bank Schools Program engaging with more than 65 schools (over 2500 students and 300 teachers) along with another 1000 children and parents who visited us in the Cattle Kids Calf Classroom. We held a number of events for students and teachers through the six days of BEEF 21 to educate them about the importance of agriculture to the lives of every Australian and our communities and the diversity of careers in the agriculture industry and pathways to those careers.

Beef Boot

Primary school students from Queensland were invited to participate in the BEEF Boot competition and design and decorate a boot that reflects the theme 'From Farm to Fork – my relationship with agriculture'. The purpose of the competition was to ignite interest in agriculture whilst engaging children in a fun competition which aims to improve their knowledge of the agricultural industry. Particularly, looking at where their food and fibre comes from. There were over 170 entries schools around Queensland. The winners were:

- Prep - 1: Hugh Hauwert, Marlborough SS
- Year 2 - 3: Khiden Horrocks, Jambin SS
- Year 4 - 6: Olivia Vella, Marian SS

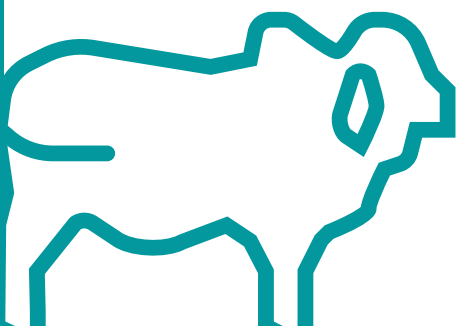


School Tours

Students and teachers participated in curriculum focused school tours. The aim of the tours was to educate primary and secondary students about the origins of their food and fibre, raise the profile of careers available in agriculture while showcasing the Australian cattle industry. The sessions connected students with various aspects of the agricultural supply chain including producers, agribusiness, suppliers, agents and more.

Career Conversations

An informal networking event for secondary students to conduct concise discussions with industry representatives already involved within the agribusiness supply chain. The aim of Career Conversations is to provide access to key industry personnel highlighting career pathways and the diverse and exciting job opportunities available within the sector. One hundred and ninety-one students from 20 schools attended with 30 representatives from the agricultural industry.



Beef Australia

Career Snapshots

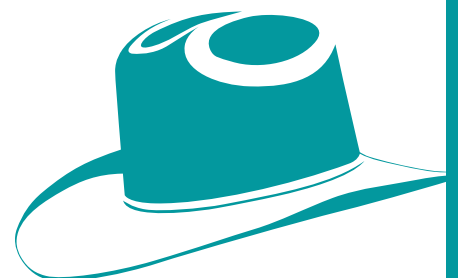
Young professionals presented a snapshot into their career providing an insight into the diverse range of career options available in agriculture and real-life career pathways into the industry. The speakers represented varied aspects of the agriculture industry from producers and policy makers to researchers, teachers and marketers. Presenters were from DAF, Fitzroy Basin Association, AgForce Young Producer Council, Suncorp, CSIRO and a Young Farming Champion.

Teacher Professional Development

Teacher professional development involved interactive practical workshops for primary and secondary agriculture, science, hospitality, and technology teachers. The workshops gave educators the currency they need to teach food, and agricultural education in schools, whilst ensuring they have the latest information and resources to promote agribusiness as a career path to their students. Fourteen teachers participated in workshops across BEEF with presentations from: CQUniversity - meet the meat; Telstra Code Club - getting started with digital technology in the classroom; Greg Mills - explore the role of animal agriculture in society and share a framework to examine the true sustainability of agriculture activities; and FBA - soil science.

Beef Australia & Westpac Property Tours Bursary Program

Coordinated the Beef Australia & Westpac Property Tours Bursary Program for select secondary students to attend the half-day property tours with sponsorship provided by Beef Australia & Westpac. One student and their accompanying teacher from each of Caboolture State High School, Redeemer Lutheran College, Biloela, Kilkivan State School, Caboolture State High School and Rockhampton Girls Grammar School attended a property tour during BEEF 2021.



Ag Inspirations

Ag Inspirations is a three-day tour of agricultural businesses. The explorative program raises awareness of the wide variety of exciting career options within agriculture and pathways to those careers. The goals for the students in the program are:

- 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.

We were able to hold Ag Inspirations for the North Coast (Caboolture SHS, Dakabin SHS and Glasshouse Christian College), Southern Downs (Clifton State High School, Assumption College, Warwick State High School, Scots PGC, Stanthorpe State High School) and Lockyer Valley (Lockyer District State High School, Laidley State High School and Faith Lutheran College). While Brisbane South was cancelled less than a week out due to covid.

We sincerely thank the following business for opening their operations to the students and the generosity they showed in giving up their time.

North Coast - HQ Plantations, AKD Softwoods, Vanderfield, Australian Country Choice, Modular Farms, Pinata Farms, QCamel Camel Milk Dairy and apiarist John Batchelor.

Southern Downs - Hermitage Research Station - DAF, Davanya Grains, Nicoletti Orchard, Ashbern Farm, Queensland College of Wine Tourism, Clinton McGrath, John Dee and Condamine Apiary.

Lockyer Valley - Awassi Cheesery, Stanbroke, Windolf Farms, Barden Produce, Brisbane Valley Protein, Blanch Family and Rugby Farming Group.



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



Ag Inspirations - A snippet of feedback

This Ag Inspirations tour has made me feel:

- There are other jobs out there that provide people with food.
- Has opened my eyes to see all the different industries and how many different jobs there are in every industry.
- Confident in the way in which I approach a traineeship or choose of a career.
- Confident that I want a job in agriculture.
- Inspired and I'm glad I came to learn new things.
- Good, made me find out how many more jobs are out in the industry.

What I have now realised about careers is:

- There's a lot of different careers in the ag industry.
- Getting a job. There's lots of careers. Can change your life.
- That you have to be passionate with what you do. There are many more careers than I realised in the agricultural industry.
- You don't have to stay in the same career or have it planned out before you leave school.
- If you are interested in a career you can easily ask around for work experience or a part-time job to start off in the industry.
- A lot of the industries need more workers. There are a lot of different roles in each industry.

Where did you see the greatest value for your students?

- Being able to see and hear first-hand from people in the industry, how they got there, what they do.
- Also when they were able to participate and be hands on was a definite bonus.
- Great program as always, thank you to AgForce, DESBT and all of the organisers as this is a valuable tool for our students and the Agricultural Industry.
- It is a great opportunity to see diversity in the ag industry.
- The students always love the experience of visiting John Dee. It is great to see the different opportunities we have in the local area.



Moo Baa Munch & Ag Connect

These events are immersions held on school grounds bringing together a wealth of agribusinesses that provide hands on presentations for primary and secondary students. The presentations are designed to deliver the learning outcomes of the origin of food and fibre, the importance of agriculture to our everyday lives and the diversity of careers in the agriculture industry. Moo Baa Munch is held over two days while Ag Connect is a one-day event.

In 2021 we hosted almost 1500 students and held Moo Baa Munch at Downlands College, Toowoomba (our longest running event, with a 10 year anniversary on the horizon) and Calvary Christian College, Carbrook. We held Ag Connect events at Caboolture State High School, Loganlea State High School and Texas P-10 State School.

We had hoped to expand the program into North Queensland this year however a global pandemic got in the way! We are looking forwards to a tropical Moo Baa Munch in 2022.



Kids to Farms



It has been a successful year for our Kids to Farms program together with project partner Central Queensland University.

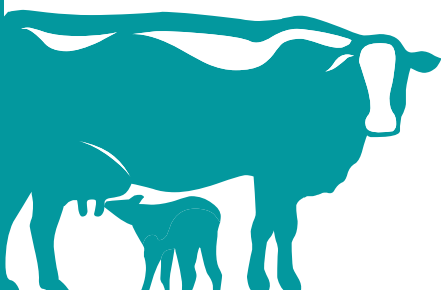
The objective of the program is to increase children's understanding of:

- 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.

Nineteen schools have been involved in Ag Connect events, 48 schools in mini-classrooms and agriculture industry tours at BEEF 2021 while 18 schools have visited agricultural properties/primary production worksites. These schools have been from urban, regional and rural areas throughout Queensland.

All schools (85 schools, 4275 students, 367 teachers) have been engaged in the three-step engagement process consisting of pre-engagement and survey, engagement and post-survey. Feedback from teachers and students has been positive, including:

- 81% of teachers surveyed post participation either agree or strongly agree that the day has increased their appreciation in the value of agriculture to Australia.
- 69% of teachers surveyed post participation either agree or strongly agree that they will now look for other opportunities to increase their knowledge of food and fibre concepts and confidence to incorporate into their teaching.
- 71% of students surveyed said they would consider a career in agriculture post participation, compared with 48% prior to participation.
- Student participation to date has been 20% in K-2, 45% in Years 3-4, and 35% in Years 5-6. Students are 52% Female and 48% Male.



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

National Ag Day

AgStars AgVenture @ Loganlea State High School

We celebrated National Ag Day for a whole week

starting with Career Snapshots at Loganlea. We

took along a bunch of young industry movers

and shakers to get the students motivated about a

career in agriculture. The day started with a look into what agriculture can offer

and what sort of job might suit each students personality. We followed that up

with Clinton McGrath and Bronwyn Ford, DAF who talked to the students about

the supply chain and challenged their thinking around food production using a

McDonalds Big Mac.



We then headed back to our spectacular classroom to hear from Elders

Agronomist and 2021 Queensland Rural Ambassador Awards Runner Up Georgia

Rodgers, BEC Feed Solutions Nutritionist Chris Jarmin, Norco Milk Supply Field

Officer Fraser Hess and AgDSA Environmental Consultant Matt Norton about

their journeys in agriculture and what opportunities they see within the sector for

the students to consider. The day was rounded out with encouragement by

AgForce Queensland General President Georgie Somerset and a delicious BBQ full

of Loganlea State High School produce.

Next Kellie and Tanya joined the AgForce Young Producers Council and Nutrien

Ag Solutions for drinks on the Skydeck at Parliament House. We heard from

Agriculture Minister Mark Furner MP for Ferny Grove, AgForce General President

and an interesting panel of young producers.

By the end of the week the city was turning green with the Tropical Dome at Mt

Coot-tha and Victoria Bridge both green in recognition of National Ag Day.



National Ag Day

CHOOSE YOUR
#AgVenture!
Friday, 19 November 2021

National Ag Day culminated in our big celebratory AgVenture Moo Baa Munch at Calvary Christian College.

We cut a beautiful cake at morning tea for all to share in the celebration! Calvary was a terrific venue with an enthusiastic teaching staff coupled with engaged students making for a great day!

We thank our industry supporters for making the day a success, DAF, Responsible Wood, AgForce Young Producers Council, Organic Systems and Solutions, AgEtal, Rocky Point Mulch, Australian Soil Planners and Calvary students with sheep and alpaca displays.



We didn't just focus on Brisbane our newest team members Cait Jenyns and Chelsea Hartwig travelled to Central Queensland University (CQU), Rockhampton to visit our Kids to Farms project partners Agri-tech Education and Innovation, to complete Kids to Farm module training and help with delivering the modules as part of their National Ag Day AgVenture event.

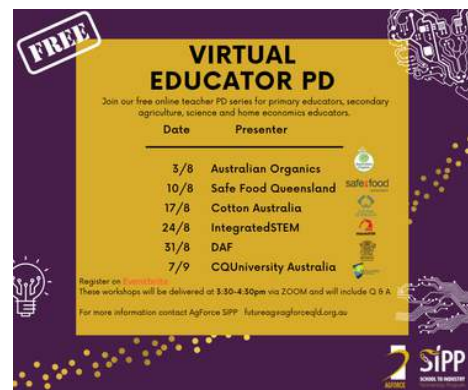
The Rockhampton AgVenture event saw 160 local students from Frenchville State School and Lakes Creek State School congregate at the Central Queensland Innovation and Research Precinct, where they were able to get hands-on with some agri-tech and see firsthand, how some of this technology is applied on farm and in industry. The activities students participated in included Fibre up Close, Fitbits for Cows, Harvest Time, and Sweet Science. Each of these activities gave the children the opportunity to explore careers in the agricultural sector and, complete their AgVenture career passport for the day.

Chelsea delivered the Harvest Time module which explored grains grown in Australia, what they are used for and looked at using technology to test grain moisture. The children enjoyed naming each type of grain, matching them with a common food and using a grain moisture meter to test the moisture content of wheat. Cait delivered the Fibre up Close module which explored the differences and similarities between two of the most commonly fibres grown in Australia, cotton and wool. This activity highlighted the properties of these fibres, what products they are often used for and gave the children the opportunity to examine these fibres under the microscope, and draw and describe what the differences between the two.



Other 2021 Events

Food, Fibre & Agricultural Educators Conference
Darling Heights State School Science Expo
Calvary Christian College Livestock Challenge
Protein Careers Expo
Virtual Educators PD - 6 week series
Carina Kindy - Farmer in the Classroom
Cooparoo Guardian Kindy - Farmer in the Classroom
Fairholme College Industry Tour
Toowoomba Royal Show



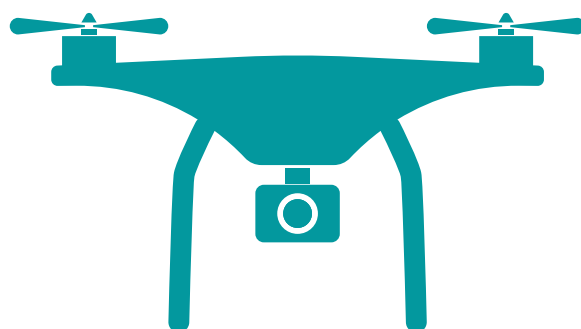
***Want to get involved with us in 2022?
We'd love to hear from you!***



futureag@agforceqld.org.au



**AgForce School to Industry
Partnership Program - SIPP**



*We can't do this without you. A sincere thank
you for your involvement and support in 2021.
See you in 2022!*

School to Industry Partnership Program

