CALVES TO BE EDUCATED BY STUDENTS ACROSS NSW

Dairy Australia, DairyNSW, IMB and the NSW Dairy Industry Conference continue to deliver the Cows Create Careers project across the Far South Coast, Central Coast, South Coast and Tablelands Regions of New South Wales.

Supporting the project for the X year, the IMB Community Foundation has pledged $8,000 to the project, enabling the initiative to extend into more schools within these dairying regions and increasing the opportunity for further community involvement.

The Cows Create Careers project continues to educate secondary school students about the vocational and university career pathways in the dairy industry. The project is supported by the Australian Dairy Conference.

The Cows Create Careers project increases the profile of dairy to the local region by providing a framework that can showcase to students, teachers and parents; the array of career and education opportunities; personal skills/knowledge development; and importance of dairy to the local community. The project introduces members of the community, education and dairy industry sectors to support the students in carrying out the project objectives.

The schools involved in the project are:


It is important to mention that the Cows Create Careers project would not be possible without the commercial assistance of supplies from Probiotec Ltd, Weston Animal Nutrition, Landmark and Shoof International.

The co-ordinators of Cows Create Careers will be assisted by The Smith Family in the South Coast Region of New South Wales. These organizations are part of the Australian Government’s Career initiative.

During 2010, the Cows Create Careers project will be delivered to 195 schools across the nation and will involve over 6,000 students.

If you would like further information on the Cows Create Careers project please contact either Rodney Gilbert on 0413 187 043 or John Hutchison on 03 5659 4219.
THE SCHOOL ROLE
✓ The **project runs for approximately 6 weeks** and is introduced into the school curriculum in either Science, Ag/Hort, IT/SOSE, Maths or English. The curriculum resources have been developed by the Innovation and Excellence Cluster specifically for the project.
✓ The project has two sets of curriculum material available, **Junior Year 7 & 8 and Senior Year 9, 10 & 11**.

THE INDUSTRY ADVOCATE ROLE
✓ A **dairy industry advocate** introduce the project to students in school and assists both the students and teachers throughout the term of the project. The advocate explains to students about their career in the dairy industry and informs students about the education and training required for their career pathway.

THE FARMER ROLE
✓ **Local dairy farmers** loan two calves for a 3 week period and visit the school to teach students about looking after the calves and about their career in the dairy industry.
✓ Students in schools feed and monitor these calves for a 3 week period as part of a series of educational activities.
✓ Schools choose to manage the calves at their premises, or at a suitable location for students to enjoy a ‘hands on’ experience.

RESEARCHING THE INDUSTRY AND CAREERS
✓ In teams of 4-5 students will prepare a data show presentation, research poster, newsletter and a thank you letter/report to the dairyfarmers and industry advocates who have been involved at their school.
✓ The Cows Create Careers project takes approximately 6 weeks to complete.
✓ All schools who participate are provided with feed supplies from commercial sponsors to support the project at no cost.

PROJECT ASSESSMENT AND EVALUATION
✓ The students work is submitted to Cows Create Careers. In conjunction with the National Centre for Dairy Education and Innovation and Excellence Cluster the work is assessed and a written report is provided back to teachers and schools.
✓ Students will complete two evaluation forms, one which is completed at the beginning of the project and one at the end. The forms assess students’ general knowledge of the dairy industry.
A teacher evaluation form is completed and returned to project officers at the conclusion of the project in their school. This form asks for feedback about the benefits of the project and encourages any suggestions for improvement.

**PRESENTATION, AWARDS AND LINKAGES TO EDUCATION BODIES**

- A presentation day is organised for all students, teachers, industry advocates and farmers who participate (on a per region basis). Prizes and Awards are on offer for the overall winning school and team in the Region.
- The presentation day provides students with a further introduction to the dairy industry by showcasing guest speakers from NCDEA and other employment and training organisations. This creates ‘first hand’ linkages with these industry bodies and secondary schools students and teachers.