



NEWSUPDATE

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Waipaoa cadets in preparation for the 2010 prize giving.

Graduation 2010

Thank you to all who attended the 2010 Waipaoa Station Farm Cadet Training Trust prizegiving. It was great to see so many familiar faces and catch up with everyone. A special mention goes to guest speaker John Cottle. He spoke about his success in show jumping and the importance of setting good foundations and following your passion. Also in attendance was the Deputy Vice Chancellor of Lincoln University, Dr. Chris Kirk who met with cadets earlier in the day and was impressed with the Waipaoa set up and acknowledged how well Waipaoa cadets have performed at Lincoln. Thanks again to Mayor Meng Foon for his attendance and entertaining words.

Congratulations to the following prizewinners:

Juniors

Practical Award: James Hurley
 Academic Award: Todd Candy
 Top dog: Todd Candy
 Hostel Award: Jason Wyn-Harris
 Most Improved: Mark Bengston
 Top Cadet: Jason Wyn-Harris

Seniors

Top Stockman: Jason Coffey
 Academic Award: Jeremy Lawson
 Wool and Shearing Award: Nick Herries
 Top Dog: Jason Coffey
 Hostel Award: Harry Murtagh
 Top Cadet: Jason Coffey



Elders wool handler Ross Buske with James Hurley and Jason Wyn-Harris.

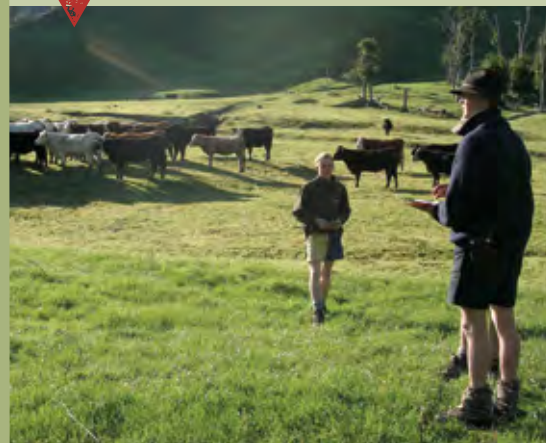
As we say goodbye to our senior cadets we also wish them the best of luck in their future endeavours.

Jeremy Lawson is heading to Lincoln University to study toward a Diploma in Agriculture.
Nick Herries is shepherding on Mangapoike Station, Gisborne.
Harry Murtagh is shepherding on Shannon Station, Wairoa.
Jason Coffey is going to Te Whanga Station, Wairarapa.
Greg Thomson is heading home before taking up a shepherd's position on Otopae Station, up the Napier to Taihape Road in April.

In the classroom

The lecture room has seen some excellent results. Senior cadets will finish with National Certificates in Agriculture levels 3 and 4. Junior cadets have completed a National Certificate in Agriculture level 3. Thank you to the many industry representatives who graciously gave their time and resources in support of giving our cadets the best possible start to their agriculture careers. The Waipaoa training model is proud to have turned out another crop of high achievers and a 100% pass rate.

Senior cadets on pasture management exercise.



Melbourne Cup Calcutta

On behalf of the Waipaoa cadets, I would like to thank all the people who played a part in making the 2010 Melbourne cup fundraiser such a successful and enjoyable event. The training we receive at Waipaoa is extremely beneficial to our future career prospects so these events and your support play an important role in enabling the training model to operate and evolve. We all enjoyed the afternoon and were surprised at the distance that some people had travelled. I am sure that they enjoyed the afternoon as well.

Thank you to all our supporters, Jason Coffey



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On the farm

The past few months have provided an excellent test for the cadets. They were heavily involved in docking and more recently, crutching, drenching and dipping ewes and lambs. During this time, senior cadets take on full shepherding roles - the early starts and long days seemed to make them all the more keen. Junior cadets also enjoyed this period, getting a taste for next year's journey to higher honours as stockmen. On top of stockwork, cadets have been busy with general fence repairs - the highlight being junior cadets erecting their own conventional fence without supervision.



Ben Te Kahika learning the ropes.

At the show

The cadets represented Waipaoa at the annual Gisborne A&P Show again this year. In the dog trials, senior cadet Jason Coffey made the run-offs and won the novice section, qualifying for the nationals. The seniors again entered two teams in the shepherds' challenge. Nick, Jeremy and their import, Jono from Morunga Station, took it out and the other team finished as far from first as you get but enjoyed the event. Junior cadets Jason Wyn-Harris and James Hurley helped out with the Elders Wool competition and learned a lot from judge Ross Buske, who is a great mentor for the Waipaoa Cadets. Jeremy Lawson was third in the novice section of the dog trials at the Waipukurau A&P Show. Nick Herries teamed up with Jason Van-beers from Central Hawke's Bay in the Carters novice power fencing competition. Their second place qualified them for the Mystery Creek power fencing competition in 2011. They also won \$200 worth of prizes.



Nick Herries competing at the CHB Show.

Senior Field Trip

This year's trip started with David Clark of Clark Farming, Gisborne. Mr Clark is a pioneer of minimum tillage and controlled traffic cropping techniques, and he told cadets how he increased the profitability of his cropping operation while nurturing and improving the subterranean ecosystem at the same time. The cadets also inspected some pretty impressive equipment and got an insight into the complexities of operating heavy high-tech machinery.

The Design Spun carpet factory in Hawkes Bay was the next stop, where the cadets learnt about the end use of wool and how profitability is affected by the way wool is handled on the farm. Tours of the Ravensdown Fertiliser Works, Silver Fern Farms Beef Processing Plant and Brownriggs Agriculture provided an insight into increasing profitability by understanding fertiliser use, the processing process and large-scale cropping and lamb finishing operations.

The final part of the field trip saw the cadets travel to Taratahi Training Farm to check out its campus in the Wairarapa. It was then on to Wairere Ram Stud where cadets heard about sheep breeding and management systems from the top ram seller in New Zealand.



Top: Silver Fern Farms visit with Frank Elliot. Above: David Clark shows us how healthy his soil is.

A word from the Training Manager

As we reflect on 2010, we can be proud the Waipaoa training model has withstood the test of time and produced another group of highly-trained and motivated young men. Floods and persistent wet weather ensured the year was always going to be a challenge but as a cadet you couldn't ask for a better opportunity to learn about contingency planning.

As manager and guardian of the cadets it has been my pleasure to work with such a friendly and committed group of young men. Respect for the Waipaoa cadets continues to grow throughout the community as a result of their high work ethic and keenness to learn. I would like to acknowledge and thank the ex-Waipaoa cadets who have offered their support and advice to myself and current cadets. It's great to see they're willing to give back for the benefit of others - something that the Waipaoa Station Farm Cadet Training Trust is grounded on.

The highlight of the year for me has been the great cadet culture and improved hostel systems.

Credit must be given to my wife Diane, the Waipaoa Training staff and community for the skills, training and mentoring they give to the cadets. These people are all key to the success of our training model.

A special mention must also go to the tutors, academic staff and management of Tairāwhiti Polytech. We've had four successful years working together and the professionalism and training that Tairāwhiti Polytechnic provides enables the Waipaoa Training model to grow its national profile.

I look forward to welcoming the new cadets on January 8 and wish you all a safe and merry Christmas.

Laurence Burkin
TRAINING MANAGER



Nick Herries helping out a lamb that was stuck in the bog.