



NEWS UPDATE

APRIL 2011



Damp but happy during parents weekend

CADET PARENTS VISIT

Over the weekend of March 19 and 20 we held a parents weekend with most families in attendance. It also happened to be the weekend of the Waipaoa horse sports. Saturday saw everyone involved with the horse sports as a rider, spectator or helper. The fine weather and festive atmosphere set a great platform for parents to get a better understanding of the community spirit that the cadets have become accustomed to. On Sunday morning the kitchen was a hive of activity as we all enjoyed a big breakfast before setting out to walk to our local landmark "Areoma", a large pinnacle of rock that can be seen from the cadet hostel. Unfortunately the drizzle and mist put a damper on the view but this did not dampen spirits.

WELCOME TO OUR 2011 CADETS

The cadets have come into this year's programme with a sense of pride and camaraderie that any programme manager would hope for. Our ten cadets are a big team of brothers who laugh and work together with a total understanding for each other. Our seniors manage the hostel systems with precision and have also been active in teaching the junior cadets about standards and pride in place. The junior cadets are a top group of focused determined young men who have already shown many of the qualities that will take them to the top of the industry.

The new batch of junior cadets are:

**Hamish Stewart - Marton, Chris Torkington - Wairoa, Samuel Ofee - Halcombe
Jacob Coulston - Upper Hutt, Patrick Allen - Hastings**

I would like to thank the industry personnel who have committed their time to our 2011 training programme and to others who mentor the cadets outside of Waipaoa.

Finally on behalf of the Waipaoa team I would like to offer condolences to those who have suffered grief as a result of the Canterbury and Japan earthquakes.

THANK YOU TO OUR KEY SPONSORS

"The Waipaoa Station Farm Cadet Training Trust would not exist without the generosity and support of our sponsors. The Waipaoa Board would like to publically acknowledge and thank our key sponsors."

PLATINUM

Donny Charitable Trust, BK Otway Education Foundation

GOLD

Clark Charitable Trust, Gisborne Veterinary Club Charitable Trust, Mangapoike Family Trust, David Withers, Whitbourne Farms, James Brownlie, St Ledger Superior Genetics.

SILVER

Ingleby Company Ltd, Bank of New Zealand, Farmlands, Wairoa Veterinary Club.

OTHER SUPPORTERS

Wharehinau Charitable Trust, Beef + Lamb New Zealand, Ravensdown, Hickey Charitable Trust.

PROUD BUILDERS

Todd Candy (L) and Jason Wyn-Harris (R) utilised a wet day to erect this post storage frame because they felt the existing ground stack system was messy. Their plan included elevated storage bearers in order to minimise bending when loading posts on and off vehicles. Even though the frame was built out of second hand materials the job was very tidy.



NOTICE

Orientation open days
2011: June 11 and 12.
1pm start.

Visitors only need to
attend on any one of
the two open days.

Proudly sponsored by

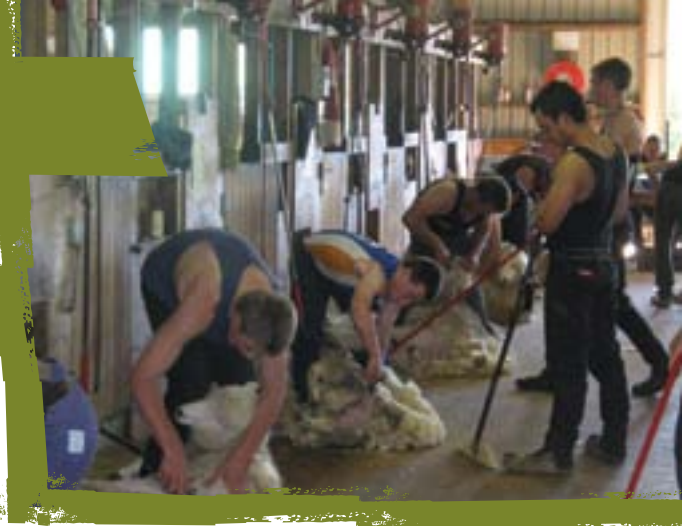
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TECTRA SHEARING COURSE

During the week of March 7 the cadets completed a shearing course in Waipaoa's Moonlight woolshed seeing the wool shorn from just over 500 ewes. Special thanks to Tectra instructors Phil Wedd, Tuta Wilkie and Bill Hale for running a professional operation and providing excellent tuition for our cadets.

Over the course of the week the cadets received training in wool handling and shearing with strong emphasis on health and safety, technique and clean shearing. There was also a theory component meaning the cadets will complete the course with National qualifications to back the practical element.

By the end of the week those who couldn't shear could and those who could were way better to a point where some of the seniors and juniors stayed in for the weekend and finished shearing the remainder of the ewes for some well earned pocket money.



NEW PUPS FOR JUNIOR CADETS

It is always an exciting time for our junior cadets; the anticipation of getting their new pup. In preparation the cadets are given an information booklet and tuition.

For the first two weeks the cadets spend time bonding with their pups and teaching them to come on command. The next phase focuses on sit and stay commands then putting side commands on the pups. From here the pups will be introduced to sheep to build their confidence. They will be three quarters broken in when the cadets return as seniors next January.

CADET PROFILES

Samuel Ofee: Hi my name is Samuel Ofee, I am originally off a ten acre lifestyle block in Halcombe. I started my schooling at Halcombe Primary through to year 8 when I enrolled at Feilding Ag High School. While there I played rugby up to 1st XV grade.

Farming is something that I have wanted to do from a very young age and although my father and older brothers do not work in farming I have grown up around the farm environment which has instilled in me a passion for the agricultural industry. I also look forward to the life style and opportunities that farming offers. After seeing Waipaoa on Country Calendar I realised that this would be the perfect start to my career. After Waipaoa I wish to work around the North Island in shepherding roles that will give me the experience that I need to achieve my long term goal of managing and farm ownership.



IN THE FIELD

The juniors were glad to be able to put theory from their first topic into practice when they started on fencing operations in Mid February. Gaining an understanding of the basic principles of fencing in the lecture room means cadets are better able to understand instruction from tutors and confidently ask questions. The cadets began with basic repairs and maintenance, progressed onto short new lines and will be able to erect a full conventional fence by the end of the year. The juniors have been busy on thistle grubbing, yard maintenance, building flood gates and working with the stockmen in the yards and woolshed.

Looking to the next few months the juniors will have lectures on Wool Production, Animal Health, and Pasture Management while out in the field they will be taught how to ride horses, break in their pups and work with different classes of stock.

PROUD NEW STOCKMEN

Waipaoa's senior cadets have been "full on" with stock work since their induction in early January. Moving weaned lambs, cows and calves is a challenge for an experienced stockman let alone an 18-year-old with a semi broken in huntaway and heading dog. Our cadets can take a bow because they have managed to come through one of the busiest periods of the year in good spirits having met all challenges with enthusiasm.

Jobs have included mustering, calf marking, mouthing and drafting ewes, mustering and drenching bulls, crutching and shearing operations and more.

Our seniors are learning to read and interpret stock behaviour of varying stock classes and reading the lay of the land in order to predict where the stock will flow best.

The seniors also attended a stock sale. It was great to follow stock from the paddock to the saleyards and gain an understanding of the sale process.

WEEKEND WORK

Any Gisborne farmers with shearing, dagging, fencing etc I'm sure the cadets will give you a competitive rate.

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