

AG DAY 2018



Saturday 27 October

AGRICULTURAL DAY 2018

‘Focusing on our rural identity’

Saturday 27th October

GROWING & NURTURING - Animals and Plants

RURAL TRADITIONS – Kitchen, Art & Craft, Handyperson

AG DAY ACTIVITIES – ‘FUNdraising’

We want Ag Day to have a **high profile within classrooms**. Teachers will be asking children regularly about their Ag Day preparation and will expect them to share their progress.

We want **100% participation** from all Coatesville School children.

We would like ALL children to have **one ‘living thing’ – an animal or a plant - to nurture and share** with everyone.

We would also like our **‘Rural Traditions’ category** to have a high profile leading up to Ag Day and on the day itself - particularly with our Years 3-6 students.

We would like **class involvement in a number of fun activities on the day** to generate excitement! Children, teachers & parents joining together!

Requirement for students

Year 3-6 students

are to fulfil the following:

- **one animal OR one plant**
- **one rural tradition project (STRONGLY ENCOURAGED)**

Year 0-2 students

are to fulfil the following:

- **one animal OR one plant**
- **Miniature Garden (this happens at school the day before Ag Day)**
- **one rural tradition project (COMPLETELY OPTIONAL)**

Classes are to fulfil the following:

- **involvement in planning and running fundraising activities on Ag Day**
- **students, teachers and parents will be involved in the fun and excitement**

RURAL TRADITIONS

Projects reflecting our rural heritage - self-sufficiency and inventiveness

This is an opportunity for parents/relatives to teach children skills, pass on knowledge and make time to spend together. Therefore, adults may demonstrate skills, and then children copy the skills.

Ownership MUST however still remain with the children - as it is their project.

Judges will be looking at the children's level of:

- understanding of the learning process
- engagement and enthusiasm for the learning process
- originality and innovation (where possible)

**** All children entering this category will be required to verbally share their 'learning journey' – their involvement with their project. Children may want to share their 'learning journey' in written and/or visual form. This is perfectly acceptable and is strongly encouraged but is not a requirement of entry.***

*Please refer to the Rural Traditions Registration information on the school website and **complete the online registration form.***

The options are limitless - use your imagination! The idea must fit into one of the following categories:

'Kitchen' Category

- Create an edible project

'Arts and Crafts' Category

- Create a decorative project

'Handyperson' Category

- Create a usable project

Support

Early in Term 3 Yr 3-6 teachers will discuss Rural Tradition project requirements with their class so all students gain an understanding of what is expected. Teachers will also facilitate a brainstorming of ideas so students can examine a range of options under each of the categories.

Students can **register** their confirmed project through the online Rural Traditions Registration form on the Schools Website.

Projects will then be completed at home ready for display on the day prior to Ag Day.

If you have any questions please contact the school office on (09) 415-9218 or office@coatesvilleschool.nz

LAMB REARING

To be eligible for Agricultural Day your lamb must be born between **July 1st and September 15th**.

For your lamb you will need:

“Anlamb” or similar milk powder, bottle, teat, collar and lead.

Follow the instructions on the bag for the correct feeding regime and mixing instructions. Ensure milk is the correct temperature (38°C) and all utensils for mixing are kept scrupulously clean. Lambs require feeding 5 to 6 times daily when newly born and this will reduce to twice daily over the next weeks. As your lamb gets older it will start eating grass. The ruminant stomach will not have developed to digest grain properly until it is approximately six weeks old. Provide a clean, draft free shelter for the lamb when it is young (3 sides with a roof will do in a sheltered, dry paddock). Untreated sawdust or hay/straw is best for the floor. When it is older, all it requires is green grass, clean fresh water and some field shelter. Please see appendix at the end of this document for more bottle feeding information

Try to ensure that the lamb has had its first milk from its mother. This is colostrum, which gives the lamb immunity against diseases and is essential for a healthy start in life.

On Agricultural Day

Judging will be divided into the following groups; Junior, Intermediate, Senior.

Which group you are put into will be dependent on how many children have entered each category.

On Ag Day you will be judged on

- leading,
- calling,
- jumping,
- rearing,
- best wool lamb,
- best meat lamb
- most obvious pet.

Leading: Lead your lamb with a detachable lead attached to a collar (which must be adjusted as the lamb grows). Full halters are not permitted. The lamb should be led around the ring on the right hand side of the child, in a clockwise circle of a radius of about 6 metres. Remember, the lamb should be between you and the judge at all times. Practice walking with your lamb from an early age. Lambs are very affectionate and follow willingly. Play with your lamb each day so that it becomes used to you.

Calling: The Steward will hold your lamb and you will call your pet from up to 10 metres away.

Jumping: Concrete blocks support a plank; rough sawn, 3 metres long and 30cms wide. The bottom end of the plank is 10cms off the ground. You will walk on the ground while leading the lamb up the ramp. (Make sure the lamb is between you and the judge). The lamb should pause at the top of the plank and then jump off the end.

Rearing: You should be able to demonstrate reasonable knowledge of your lamb, e.g. what breed, how old, what do you feed it and how often etc? Questions will depend on the age of the child.

Best Wool Lamb: Does not contribute towards the Champion or Reserve Champion points.

Best Meat Lamb: Does not contribute towards the Champion or Reserve Champion points.

Most Obvious Pet: The friendliest and easily handled. Does not contribute towards the Champion or Reserve Champion points.

Do not wash your lamb with soap/detergent; this will destroy the oil in its wool and lead to the lamb getting wet and cold when it rains. You may brush your lamb and wipe it with a damp cloth.

POSSIBLE PROBLEMS

Diarrhoea

Main causes are:

- a) Infectious - due to a bacterial illness.
- b) Non Infectious - from changes in feeding, poor housing etc.
- c) Nutritional - amount / regularity of feeding, sudden change etc.

Treatment: Withhold milk; provide clear fluids and electrolytes to replace what is being lost. Re-introduce milk slowly over the next 3-4 days. Seek Veterinary advice if not improving.

Fly Strike

Purchase sprays to prevent this unpleasant problem, which can occur in hot summer weather. Check your lamb regularly and shear at appropriate intervals.

Please see appendix at the end of this document for more information and help with possible problems.

REQUIREMENTS

Docking and Castration

Your vet or an experienced farmer will advise you on this process. Lambs **must** be docked, i.e. tail removed, to be eligible to enter Agricultural Day. From past experience we advise that you castrate male lambs, as on maturing they can become quite aggressive.

Vaccinations

If the mother has not been vaccinated (or this is not known) the lamb must have a vaccination at docking / castration time. Follow up vaccinations are given at 4 weeks and 8 weeks of age. If the mother has been vaccinated, the lamb will need vaccinating at 8 weeks and 12 weeks of age.

Drenching

Lambs must be drenched every 4 weeks from weaning or 3 months whichever occurs first. Continue 4 weekly drenching until winter and then at regular intervals.

This information has been compiled from reliable sources, however we recommend that you seek expert advice about any aspect of lamb rearing you are not familiar with.

RD 1, Wrightsons, Falloons and your local Vet are good sources for information.

CALF REARING

On the advice of local vets and MAF there will be no calves at Ag day this year to assist them with trying to eradicate Mycoplasma Bovis and prevent any spread in our region.

KID GOAT REARING

To be eligible for Agricultural Day your kid must be born between **July 1st and September 15th**.

If you buy a kid goat ensure it has had its first milk from its mother. This is colostrum which gives the goat immunity against diseases and is essential for a healthy start in life.

For your Goat you will need:

Milk powder - Denkavit or Anlamb or similar, bottle, teat, collar and lead.

Kids need minerals and vitamins and these can be added to the milk - Colavit, obtainable from any farm supplies outlet. The milk should be warm (38 degrees C). Keep mixing equipment scrupulously clean.

From 2 weeks to about 3 months your kid should receive 2.5 litres of milk per day, at first divided into small feeds of approximately 500mls each feed. You can start to wean your kid at 3 months, but continue to give it 2 feeds per day, one being 1 litre of milk and the other 1 litre of water. This is to keep up its fluid intake. At 6 - 8 weeks your kid can start having kid pellets and good quality roughage should be available i.e. hay, chaff etc. Provide fresh drinking water and a salt block. As the goat gets older it should have a balanced diet e.g. hay, vegetables, scraps, crusts of bread, carrots, bracken, ferns etc. Goats are herbivorous and need trees and shrubs but take care they are not poisonous or precious. Don't let kids eat lilies. They will avoid most poisonous plants but not these.

Provide a clean, dry shelter with a floor that can easily be moved. Goats become very attached to their homes. They are thin-skinned animals and are very susceptible to chills possibly resulting in bronchitis or pneumonia.

On Agricultural Day

Judging will be divided into the following groups; Junior, Intermediate, Senior.

Which group you are put into will be dependent on how many children have entered each category.

On Ag Day you will be judged on

- leading,
- calling,
- jumping,
- rearing and
- most obvious pet.

Leading: Goats are to be led around the ring, on the right hand side of the child, in a clockwise circle of a radius of about 6 metres. Your goat will need a collar with a detachable lead.

Calling: The steward will hold the goat and the child will call it to come from a distance of about 10 metres.

Jumping: Concrete blocks support a plank; rough sawn, 3 metres long and 30 cms wide. The bottom end of the plank is 10 cms off the ground. The goat should be lead up the ramp, with the child walking on the ground beside it. It should pause at the top and jump off the end.

Rearing: The best-reared goat is judged on condition, growth, skin and bloom, and handling. You will be asked questions about your animal, dependent on your age.

Most Obvious Pet: The friendliest and easily handled. Does not contribute towards the Champion or Reserve Champion points.

Goats are very intelligent and learn readily. You can teach your goat to follow almost immediately and it will enjoy performing tricks such as jumping onto a log from about 6 weeks of age.

Goats love company. They are a herd animal. Don't let your goat get lonely or frightened by the roadside. Move your goat onto fresh pasture regularly and rest the grazed areas for 4-6 weeks to eliminate worm infestation.

Requirements

Vaccinations and Drenching

Vaccinate at 4 - 6 weeks for pulpy kidney. Drench against worms at 12 weeks of age and regularly after that.

Dehorning

Seek advice from breeder or Vet on de-horning. Horns can also be tipped instead of removed.

Feet

Feet should be first trimmed at 2 months and then every 4 - 6 weeks thereafter.

This information has been compiled from reliable sources, however we recommend that you seek expert advice about any aspect of kid rearing you are not familiar with.

RD 1, Wrightsons, Falloons and your local Vet are good sources for information.

FARM BIRDS

To be eligible for Agricultural Day your farm bird must be hatched between **July 1st and September 15th**.

This category is for any bird that is commercially 'farmed' i.e. chickens, ducks, geese, emus, ostriches etc.

Raising Chickens

The following instructions apply to raising chickens only. For other farm birds and exotic species, information will need to be obtained from other sources.

Your Chick will need:

Chick starter feed, water dish, (not too deep), lamp or hanging light bulb over a box or unused small fish pond/tank, newspaper.

A larger area is needed as the chicks grow, (rabbit/guinea pig hutch is a good alternative) leading to chook house and run. They will of course reward you with eggs around 5 months of age.

You will have to provide a dry and draught free area, which can be cleaned easily. For the first few weeks you will have to provide a lamp for warmth. Put a hole in a small cardboard box and put a normal light bulb in, making sure it is secure and cannot burn the chicks. By using a cardboard box, you can simply throw it out and replace it with a clean one.

For the first few weeks keep them indoors. After that, on a warm, sunny day they would enjoy being put outside on the grass to have a scratch around. Be sure that they are safe from cats and dogs.

As they get bigger you can leave them in a sheltered place in a rabbit/guinea pig run with a house for shade and warmth, bringing them in at night. By Agricultural Day they should be in a run with a chook house.

Hens do not necessarily need to be free range all day, if they are allowed out during the afternoon they have time to exercise, feed on grass and insects. This shorter time-span can also help prevent them from getting close to the house and garden. They can be most unwelcome houseguests.

Feeding should be little but frequent. In the first few weeks, feed your chick starter pellets or mash mixed with water; bread/weetbix soaked in milk; cooked rice etc. After about 4 weeks you can add pellets and wheat to their diet and feed them 3 -4 times a day. After 2 months you can cut the feeding down to twice daily and add household scraps, which they love to scratch around in. Chickens must have access to fresh water at all times. Put a large rock in the water container so it can't be tipped over and also so the chick can't fall in and drown.

How long you keep them under a lamp will depend on how many you have and what the weather is up to. In a draught free chook house and a shaded area they could be left outside after 2 months, but once you have put them outside don't bring them back inside.

If you are putting them into an existing chicken run with other older chooks never add a single bird. One bird will be picked on by the others and probably killed. It is better to add a number of new birds together. The new birds will protect each other from the older birds. Birds establish a "pecking order". Older birds usually dominate younger birds. But the hierarchy is normally from strongest to the weakest. This usually sorts itself out fairly quickly with no need for you to worry over petty squabbles.

On Agricultural Day

Judging will be divided into the following groups; Junior, Intermediate, Senior.

Which group you are put into will be dependent on how many children have entered each category.

On Ag Day you will be judged on

- best pet farm bird,
- best-reared farm bird
- knowledge.

Best Pet Farm Bird: The friendliest and easily handled. This can be accomplished by handling the bird as much as possible. A chicken will happily sit on your lap for long periods.

Best Reared Farm Bird: Farm birds are judged on general condition.

Knowledge: The judge will also ask the child questions regarding their farm bird. These will be dependent on the child's age.

This information has been compiled from reliable sources, however we recommend that you seek expert advice about any aspect of farm bird rearing you are not familiar with.

RD1, Wrightsons, Falloons and your local Vet are good sources for information.

PETS

Must be **at least 1 month old** and can **only be entered once in its lifetime**

DOGS, horses and donkeys are not permitted on Ag Day.

"Farm friendly" animals are strongly encouraged.

Children must be involved in the nurturing and raising of the pet.

On Agricultural Day

On Ag Day you will be judged on

- best cared for pet,
- most unusual pet and
- knowledge.

Best Cared for Pet: Pet will be judged on its general condition and disposition.

Most Unusual Pet: "Farm friendly" animals only.

Knowledge: The judge will also ask the child questions regarding their pet. These will be dependent on the child's age.

PLANTS

To be eligible for Agricultural Day your plants must be planted between **July 1st and September 15th**.

It is important that the majority of input is the child's, from concept, through to the nurturing of their plant.

Ribbons will be awarded for the following categories:

Edible

- **Best Knowledge**
- **Most Cared for**
- **Most Imaginative**

Decorative

- **Best Knowledge**
- **Most Cared for**
- **Most Imaginative**

On Agricultural Day

Judging will be divided into the following groups; Junior, Intermediate, Senior.

Which group you are put into will be dependent on how many children have entered each category.

On Ag Day you will be judged on

- Imagination
- That you have cared for your plant
- Your input - NOT your parents or caregivers
- That your creation was not planted just before Ag Day (they can easily tell)

How to get the Best Results

All containers must have drainage holes. Use potting mix appropriate to the plant. Don't use soil from your garden.

Don't over-plant. Plants need plenty of space for their roots to grow. Make sure that your container is big enough.

Choose your seedlings carefully and make sure that the plants you choose like the same conditions. Some plants like lots of water, others, like cacti, likes to be kept a little dry. Some like sun, while others must have shade. Have you picked a good position for your plant? Is it protected from the wind or a frost?

Check your plants regularly to see if they need watering, especially when it starts getting hotter. Watering is best done in the evening or the morning. Don't over water. This can kill a plant as quickly as not giving enough water. Use a watering can or hose that has a shower attachment so that you don't damage your plants.

If your plants flower, cut off the dead flower heads. Doing this, and cutting off yellowing leaves will encourage your plant to produce more flowers and keep healthy.

Watch out for slugs and snails and get rid of any that you see. They can devour plants overnight!

Any plant store or nursery would be happy to give you advice.

PRESCHOOLERS

Over the years we have found that the younger members of the family also like to get involved in raising an animal or a plant. For this reason we have created a section just for them.

All preschoolers, no matter what they have brought, will be in the same tent, plants and animals together.

They are not judged as such, but each child will be presented with a participation ribbon, just like their older siblings.

Please ensure that you let us know if your pre-schooler will be participating so that we can accommodate them on Ag Day by contacting the office before the end of Term 3.

RURAL TRADITIONS

Projects reflecting our rural heritage - self-sufficiency and inventiveness

This will be an opportunity for parents/relatives to teach children skills, pass on knowledge and make time to spend together. Therefore, adults may demonstrate skills, and then children copy skills. Ownership must still remain with the children.

All children entering this category will be required to verbally share their 'learning journey' – their involvement with their project.

They need to share: **what they have learnt**
 aspects they found interesting
 their successes and/or failures
 aspects they would do differently next time

Children may want to share their 'learning journey' in written and/or visual form also. This is perfectly acceptable and is strongly encouraged but is not a requirement of entry.

Their record may include photos/diagrams/illustrations. It may be presented in a variety of forms, e.g. hand written and presented in book or chart format or students may select to record and present using an ipad/laptop.

Presentation and judging of rural traditions projects will take place on the Friday prior to Ag Day so that students are present to answer questions from the judges. Therefore, they will need to bring their projects to school by 9.00am on the Friday to allow time for setting up of displays in classes prior to judging.

As space is at a premium, we ask that size be a consideration when planning the project. Larger items could be displayed outside, weather permitting, and then stored inside overnight. There should also be provision for storing food items overnight eg in an air tight container. They will be available for viewing on Ag Day.

The options are limitless - use your imagination, but think about rural traditions. The idea must fit into one of the following categories:

The Kitchen Project Example of ideas:

- 5 ways to cook with eggs and where they come from...
- 5 uses for day old bread...
- a day's menu plan – a healthy balance, recipes and illustrations
- an adaptation of a scone/muffin/pikelet recipe



The Arts and Crafts Project Example of ideas:

- Patchwork
- Dressmaking
- Potato printing
- Knitting/crochet



The Handyperson Project Example of ideas:

- Building a dog kennel/ letter box / guinea pig cage
- How to check the oil and maintain the truck...
- Building a raised boxed vegetable garden...



Judging

Judging will be divided into the following groups; Junior, Intermediate, Senior.

Which group you are put into will be dependent on how many children have entered each category.

For all categories, you will be judged on the following;

- Best Knowledge
- Best Concept and Creativity
- Best Presentation

They need to share:

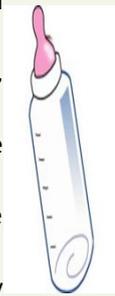
- what they have learnt
- aspects they found interesting
- their successes and/or failures
- aspects they would do differently next time.

If you have any questions please speak contact the school office on (09) 415-9218 or office@coatesville.school.nz

Appendix – Additional information on raising animals

BOTTLE RAISING ORPHAN LAMBS and KIDS FEEDING

- An easy starter bottle is a 250ml soft drink bottle with a teat screwed on in place of a cap.
- Feed as close to nature as possible - little and often. Starting from under 1 week old feed 6 times daily between when you get up and bed time. By doing this there is no need to feed through the night.
- Feed volume depends on age and size, and increasing to the lamb's appetite.
- As a guideline feed an absolute minimum of 10% bodyweight per day i.e. a 5kg lamb should have at least 500ml per day.
- As the lamb grows you can increase the total volume of each feed and decrease the frequency of feeds.
- Colostrum is the very rich and creamy first milk which contains protective antibodies, these antibodies can only be absorbed by the lamb for the first 24hrs of life.
- Colostrum can be fed as part, but not all, of the feed for lambs up to 4 or 5 days of age as it is very nutritious and provides some protection against bugs in their guts (one potential route of infection for joint ill). Feeding to older lambs will not give them a "boost" and can often cause scours because it is too rich for them.
- Take care to mix the milk powder exactly as directed on the packet, and try to stick with one brand for the duration. Over or under diluted milk powder can be difficult for the lamb to digest and can cause scours (diarrhoea).
- Lambs can be fully weaned from about 3 months of age (15kg).



GENERAL CARE

- **WARMTH** keeping your lamb warm will reduce its susceptibility to illness and make sure that all the milk you are feeding it goes towards growth not keeping warm. Your lamb will need to spend time outside on good quality grass as it will naturally start to nibble from a very young age. It is vital that a warm dry shelter is provided; Woolovers are available from the clinic for extra warmth and waterproofing.
- **VACCINATION** all lambs should be vaccinated against clostridial diseases such as tetanus and pulpy kidney, these are all covered in the one vaccine "5 in 1". 2 injections should be given 4 weeks apart to give full cover, the first injection is normally given at docking. To give immediate protection against tetanus at docking Lamb Vaccine is also given if you are not sure if the mother was correctly vaccinated.
- **DOCKING AND RINGING** this is the application of rubber bands to the tail and around the testicles so that they drop off. Docking the tail should be done so that there is enough tail left to cover the exposed skin of the perineal area (around the anus and vulva) Care should be taken when ringing the testicles to include all of both testicles (not always as easy as it sounds) and not to include the nipples. Rings can be applied at any age once the lamb is thriving – usually between 1 and 2 weeks old but up to 8 weeks is acceptable, after this pain relief should be given. You can expect your lamb to be off colour for a few hours after the ring has been applied, but should recover within the same day. If you are not happy with the position of the ring cut it off and replace it. If you are not confident of ringing (or vaccinating) the lamb can be brought into the clinic for it to be done instead.



HEALTH

- **STOPPING FEEDING** – this can be very serious in young lambs as their blood sugars drop very quickly, making them too weak to recover on their own. Check if their body temperature is raised above or dropped below normal (38 – 39.5) and also if their abdomen seems tight and bloated or empty and hollow.
- **HIGH TEMPERATURE AND/OR “RATTLES”** (noisy breathing) suggests a bacterial infection, pneumonia is very common. This needs immediate veterinary attention.
- **SCOURING** (diarrhoea) there are a number of causes of diarrhoea, most commonly in very young lambs it is a result of over feeding or poor mixing of milk powder. Alternate milk feeds with electrolytes, do not dilute the milk powder with electrolytes as this will not clot in the stomach and make the scours worse. If this does not improve within 24hrs contact the clinic for advice.
- **JOINT/NAVEL ILL**– this is when an infection enters the lamb’s body through the umbilicus (belly button) and settles into a joint. Lambs are usually very lame and often run a temperature, this needs immediate veterinary attention.
- **BLOAT** is caused by bacteria producing too much gas in the rumen, the lamb will develop a very tight tummy, especially on the left hand side behind the ribs and be quite uncomfortable. Massaging the abdomen to encourage gas to be passed at either end can relieve the problem, if this does not help then veterinary attention is needed as bloat can lead to a twisted stomach and both conditions can be fatal.
- **ENTROPION** looks like an eye infection but is actually caused by the edge of the eyelid turning in and rubbing on the surface of the eyeball. This is a very painful condition; treatment gives immediate relief and if it is noticed quickly is very simple for the vet to do.
- **COLLAPSE/WEAKNESS** – in very young lambs this can be the result of drop in body temperature (hypothermia) or drop in blood sugar. It requires immediate attention to prevent the lamb falling into a coma. If the lamb’s body temperature is close to normal rub some honey or glucose into its mouth to try and raise the blood sugar levels and call the clinic for advice.

Thank you to Diary Flat Vets for providing this information

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