

AG DAY 2024



Saturday 19 October

'GROWING, NURTURING, CREATING':

Focusing on our school and community's rural identity and heritage

Ag Day is considered an **official school day**. We expect all students to attend. It is one of the biggest days of our school year.

We feel it is important to use this day to promote 'new' learning and for students to all **complete one project to a high standard**.

We expect ALL children to complete one Ag Day 'project'.

Choose **ONE** 'project' from the following 'rural' categories:

- **Animal** project
- **Plant** project
- **Kitchen** project
- **Arts & Crafts** project
- **Handyperson** project

For each project there will be the following categories:

- **Junior (Yr 0-2)**
- **Intermediate (Yr 3-4)**
- **Senior (Yr 5-6)**

Links to classroom learning

Teachers will be asking students during Term 3 about their Ag Day project. Students will be asked to share progress with their project.

Presentation & Judging

All projects will be presented and judged. All participants receive a ribbon. **Rural Traditions projects (Kitchen, Arts & Crafts and Handyperson)** will be judged on the **Friday before Ag Day** (18 October).

Animal and Plant projects will be judged on Ag Day (Saturday).

Students will be asked to reflect upon, and evaluate, their project after Ag Day. If your child is unable to complete an Ag Day project please let your child's teacher know as soon as possible.

Registering an Ag Day Project for 2024

Register your Ag Day project online.

Registrations must be **received by the end of Week 6, Term 3 (30 August)**.

If you have any questions please contact lmckinlay@coatesvilleschool.nz in the school office.

ANIMALS:

Animal projects will be judged on Ag Day (Saturday).

Farm animals

Categories:

- Calves
- Lambs
- Kid goats
- Farm birds

Animals must be born after 1st July.

Students must be significantly involved in the nurturing and raising of the animal.

Each student will be required to verbally share their 'learning journey' with a judge.

Children may want to share their 'learning journey' in written and/or visual form.

This is perfectly acceptable but is not a requirement of entry.

Click for further details on the **rearing and judging** of:

- [Calves](#)
- [Lambs](#)
- [Kid Goats](#)
- [Farm birds](#)

[Click here to register your Ag Day project.](#)

Pets

Must be **at least 1 month old**

Pets can **only be entered once** in their lifetime (ie. can only come once to Ag Day).

All pets must be well controlled on the day.

"Farm friendly" animals are strongly encouraged. (Please check with the school office if you are unsure.)

DOGS, HORSES and DONKEYS are not permitted on Ag Day.

Children must be significantly involved in the nurturing and raising of the animal.

Children will be required to verbally share their 'learning journey' with a judge.

Children may want to share their 'learning journey' in written and/or visual form.

This is perfectly acceptable but is not a requirement of entry.

Judging

Ag Day ribbons will be awarded for the following:

- Best cared for (general condition and disposition)
- Most unusual ("Farm friendly" animals only)
- Best knowledge (answering questions)

[Click here to register your Ag Day project.](#)

PLANTS Plant projects will be judged on Ag Day (Saturday).

Categories:

- **Edible**
- **Decorative**

Your plant is to be planted after **1st July** (from seed or seedling).

Children will be required to verbally share their 'learning journey' with a judge.

Children may want to share their 'learning journey' in written and/or visual form.

This is perfectly acceptable but is not a requirement of entry.

Sharing the 'journey' will include:

- what they have learnt from their project
- aspects they found interesting during their project
- the successes and/or failures of their project
- aspects they would do differently next time if they repeated the 'project'

Judging

Ag Day ribbons will be awarded for the following:

- Best cared for (general condition)
- Best knowledge (answer questions)
- Most imaginative (display of plant)

[Click here to register your Ag Day project.](#)

RURAL TRADITIONS Projects will be judged on FRIDAY 18 October

Categories:

- **'Kitchen'** (create an edible project)
- **'Arts and Crafts' Category** (create a decorative project)
- **'Handyperson' Category** (create a usable project)

Adults may support children to learn new skills and knowledge.

Children will be required to verbally share their 'learning journey' with a judge.

Children may want to share their 'learning journey' in written and/or visual form.

This is perfectly acceptable but is not a requirement of entry.

This 'journey' will include:

- what they have learnt from their project
- aspects they found interesting during their project
- the successes and/or failures of their project
- aspects they would do differently next time if they repeated the 'project'

Judging

Ag Day ribbons will be awarded for the following:

- Understanding of the project - what was learned?
- Engagement and enthusiasm for the project
- Originality and innovation of the project (where possible)

[Click here to register your Ag Day project.](#)

CALVES

Please be aware that if you wish to bring a calf to Ag Day you must follow the requirements that have been established by MAF and Vets to ensure that Mycoplasma Bovis is not spread in our area. These requirements will be emailed to you when you register.

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

All calves, regardless of age, must be ear-tagged for Ag Day. This is an Animal Health Board TB regulation. Calves not complying will not be allowed on school property.

If you buy a calf, it should be at least four days old and have its first milk from its mother. This is colostrum, which gives the calf immunity against diseases and is essential for a healthy start in life. Check that the mother has had its 5 in 1 inoculation.

For your Calf you will need:

Feed - 1.5 bags milk powder - Denkavit or similar. Bag of Meal (Optional).

Feeding equipment, halter, lead and brush.

Calves require feeding twice daily, (three times if the calf is very small). Remember to keep mixing utensils and buckets scrupulously clean. From seven days old a calf should be given good quality hay and run on a green pasture and at six weeks can be given meal. Calves are usually not weaned until after Ag Day. Your calf will need shelter, a clean, dry draught free area big enough to move around in and a dry sunny paddock. You can make a cover for your calf out of a sack, (not hessian), and this will help to keep your calf's coat soft, clean and warm.

Calves need inoculations at 6 weeks and 10 weeks of age against Leptospirosis and between 3 and 5 months of age against Brucellosis, Blackleg and IBR (your vet will give you more information on these inoculations). Calves need worming at weaning and regularly as they grow. Your vet will advise on a worming programme to suit your conditions.

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,
- rearing,
- dairy type,
- beef type,
- most obvious pet.

Leading: You will be required to lead your calf in an 'L' shaped course. The calf should be on the right hand side of the child. A halter must be used (no collars), with a lead approximately 1.5 metres long. Chains are not permitted.

Rearing: Calves are judged on condition, growth, skin and bloom, and handling. You will be asked questions about your animal, dependent on your age.

Dairy Type: Calf most suitable for dairy farming. No bulls in this class.

Beef Type: Calf most suitable for beef farming.

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

Whether a calf has been well handled, soon becomes obvious on Agricultural Day. Handle your calf often from the beginning and brush it regularly. Do not pull your calf when you start to teach it to lead but have someone walk behind to gently push it. Stand to the left of the calf's head and hold the lead about 15cms from the halter, walk with the calf when it walks.

You may brush your calf and use warm water to wash off any marks. No clipping, trimming, oiling or singeing is permitted.

Calves may be heifers or bulls.

Scours

One of the biggest problems in hand rearing of young calves is scours, (offensive smelling diarrhoea). The causes can be divided into three groups:

- A. Infectious - bacteria of many different strains can attack the gut usually within the first week of its life.
- B. Non-infectious - Lack of warmth, i.e. wet, cold draughty conditions, transport stress.
- C. Nutritional - method of feeding, amount/regularity of feeding, sudden change.

Treatment of Scouring Calves:

- A. Isolate the sick calf into a warm dry shed.
- B. Withhold milk completely for 24 hours.
- C. Have appropriate medication on hand to treat the infection and administer according to instructions.
- D. For the first 24 - 48 hours feed your calf on an electrolyte replacer mixed with warm water, twice daily.
- E. Reintroduce milk gradually.
 - i.e. 2nd day - 1/4 milk and 3/4 water/electrolyte mix
 - 3rd day - 1/2 milk and 1/2 water/electrolyte mix
 - 4th day - 3/4 milk and 1/4 water/electrolyte mix
 - 5th day - normal strength milk

Other signs of ill health to watch for:

- Eyes sunken
- Muzzle hot and dry
- Calf listless

If you are uncertain what the problem is, contact your Vet for advice. While they are scouring young calves lose massive amounts of fluids and electrolytes and this can lead very quickly to dehydration and then death.

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

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

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.

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.

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

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 cm off the ground. The goat should be led 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 a 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.

Farm Source, 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.

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