

Hinuera School Ag-Day- 22 Sept 2020

Dear Parents/Caregivers/Children

Our Hinuera School Agriculture Day is always a real highlight on the school calendar and once again we would love to see as many children involved as possible. This year we are focusing on animal entries for Ag Day, and won't be running a plant growing section. Any children not able to enter an animal will be involved in supporting the day in other ways, and getting out and seeing the animals on display.

This is a great event for children, as it teaches responsibility and commitment to complete a task, as well as being a lot of fun. This year we will be holding all categories—**Calf, Lamb and Kid**. It is very exciting to have the calves involved again. Families entering calves will need to follow some bio security guidelines, and there is information about this from the Matamata Group Ag Day team on the back of this newsletter. Entry forms will be available next term, and these need to be in by **Friday 21st August**.

We ask all families intending to enter an animal this year to please complete this short survey—
<https://forms.gle/vaRangCLnSNt6ENJA>

The dates which animals must be born after are listed below. Several years ago we moved our Ag Day from Term 4 into late Term 3. With that change it is recommended that you don't leave it too late to choose your animal, to ensure your child's animal isn't too young on the day and has had time to "bloom". **Lambs and Kids should be born from 1st July.**

If you are new to raising an animal for Ag Day, we have videos available that you can get a copy of. Just send a memory stick into school with a note requesting this. If you are a Facebook user, it is also a great idea to join the "Matamata Agricultural Group" page. This is a team that co-ordinates local Ag Days. They often have tips and ideas that can help you.

If you have trouble obtaining an animal or have animals to spare please contact Karen Lind on 021 035 8548.

If you would like further information or tips for your chosen pet, please collect this from the school office. Some topics covered are: Selecting a pet and recommendations, Care and feeding of your chosen pet, Handling/grooming and ringwork and Events that your chosen pet will be entered in.

HINUERA SCHOOL AG DAY RULES

The prime focus for our agriculture day is child effort and the relationship between the animal and its owner.

LAMBS & KIDS

The following rules apply to both **lambs and kids** other than dates.

1. **Lambs:** must be born from 1st July to 19th August (Early) and 20th August to 20th September (Late).
2. **Kids:** must be born from 1st July to 19th August (Early) and 20th August to 20th September (Late).
(Early & Late classification is used at some competitions for the rearing section)
3. The criteria for setting rings may differ at Hinuera School from year to year depending on numbers, but Group Day entries will need to be indexed to Group Day criteria, i.e. The child may be in a different ring at our school to Group Day.
4. In the rearing ring the lambs and kids will be judged on cleanliness, obvious care and general condition.
5. Pet lambs and kids must be bottle fed.
6. No child may enter more than one animal.
7. No animal to be entered by more than one member of the same family.
8. We will have champion and reserve champion of each "ring" i.e. senior, junior and/or intermediate and there will be a champion and reserve champion class winner. ie rearing, leading, and calling. We will also have an overall champion and reserve champion for both lambs and kids.

Lambs Only: Washing of lambs, applying of detergent and the use of wire brushes is **not permitted**.

Clipping and crutching of lambs is **not permitted**.

Dry combing, brushing and covering is **permitted**.

Kids Only: Kid Goats can be either doe, wether or bucks.

Fibre Goats must **NOT** be washed or brushed with a wire brush.

Goats may be washed and brushed like a calf.



CALVES

1. All calves should be born from 1 June to 24 August and will be eligible for leading, rearing and obstacle course events. Late born calves will obviously be at a disadvantage.
2. All calves that come to school **must have** the TB/NAT documentation required by authorities.
3. The calf need not be the property of the competitor, but competitors are encouraged to take charge of the calf within one week of birth and should take an active role in rearing it.
4. Each calf is to be individually identified – brass tags, plastic tags or tattoo.

5. No calf to be entered by different members of a family, 1 child per calf.
6. No child to enter more than one calf.
7. Calves partly or fully reared on nurse cows are excluded from competition.
8. Grooming of calves is the child's responsibility, but the removal of travel dirt by washing by an adult is permissible.
9. All calves are eligible to enter Group Day competition.
11. All calves qualify for selection for teams events at Group Day.
12. Only judges on the official list will be appointed by the Group Committee as our judges.
13. All competitors will receive a ribbon.
14. The leading event for calves is to include a compulsory stop and a clover leaf for junior, intermediate & senior leading.
15. Competitors must wear protective footwear on our day and on Group Day.
16. No clipping or trimming of calves allowed.
17. No calf is to be fed milk once the judging commences on the day.
18. Beef calves are accepted for both Ag Day and Group Day.



BIO-SECURITY NEW ZEALAND

MYCOPLASMA BOVIS - minimising risk at shows & events

Mycoplasma Bovis is a bacterial disease that only affects cattle. The main way Mycoplasma Bovis spreads is through close and prolonged contact between cattle; and calves drinking milk from infected cows. The risk of Mycoplasma bovis spreading at A&P shows, calf days, rodeo and other events where cattle are present is quite low, but there is still a risk wherever cattle may mingle. Event organisers need to take these risks into account and manage mitigations when deciding to hold their event while Mycoplasma bovis is being eradicated in New Zealand. Animals on known infected farms are under movement control, and cannot be moved without MPI's permission. However through efforts to eradicate this disease we are still tracing movements of animals, and we expect there are some we have not reached and tested. So it is important you take extra precautions to reduce your chances of spreading Mycoplasma Bovis.

What can exhibitors do?

- * Animals on properties under any suspicion of exposure to Mycoplasma Bovis should not be transported to shows and events.
- * Animals showing clinical signs of **ANY** disease should not be transported to shows, as per normal bio-security practice.
- * Make sure your cattle are tagged and registered with NAIT.
- * Keep your NAIT movements up-to-date and accurate and record movements to and from the event. Guidance is available on naait.co.nz
- * Practice good on-farm bio-security and clean and disinfect outerwear, boots, and equipment before attending a show or event. On your return, clean and disinfect again before taking outerwear, boots and equipment back onto your farm. For more information refer to the guidance on mpi.govt.nz/bovis
- * Ensure that exhibitors and participants are aware of your bio-security and hygiene recommendations and their NAIT obligations.
- * Animals without a NAIT tag should be denied entry and non-compliance reported to MPI.
- * Ensure stalls are cleaned out before you put cattle in them, and after cattle are removed.
- * Where possible, don't use the same stalls for cattle belonging to different competitors
- * Provide hand sanitizer for anyone likely to be handling the heads of animals from different owners.
- * Any milking equipment used at the show should be cleaned and disinfected between uses on animals from different exhibitors.
- * Give animal's individual water – do not allow animals to drink from shared troughs.
- * Best practice is to separate animals of the same species where possible, to prevent the spread of any disease. This can be by separating animals with walkways, using empty pens, and using outriggers or double barriers where animals are in adjacent pens.
- * Don't keep animals in show pens for long, to reduce stress and nose-to-nose contact.
- * Keep animals from different herds separate and avoid their nose-to-nose contact.
- * Ensure pens are secure, and that when animals are out they are tethered or being securely managed by somebody who is strong and skilled enough (this could mean supervising children with calves)
- * It's an opportunity to teach people about on-farm bio-security. There's more on www.mpi.govt.nz/bovis