



21st Century  
Careers in  
Agriculture



THE  
AG SHED



North Central LLEN

## Dates

### July

- 27<sup>th</sup> Prime Super Agribusiness Scholarship closes
- 30<sup>th</sup> Marcus Oldham Open Day
- National Tree Day

### August

- 2<sup>nd</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> Speed Field Days
- 6<sup>th</sup> Longerenong Agricultural College Open Day
- 6<sup>th</sup> Charles Sturt University Open Day Wagga Wagga - Agriculture
- 6<sup>th</sup> La Trobe University Open Day Melbourne - Agriculture
- 13<sup>th</sup> La Trobe University Open Day Albury Wodonga – Agriculture (transfer to Melbourne after first year)
- 14<sup>th</sup> Ag Gap Year Student Applications open
- 20<sup>th</sup> University of Melbourne, Open Day - Agriculture
- 27<sup>th</sup> La Trobe University Open Day Bendigo – Agribusiness

### September

- 3-6<sup>th</sup> Elmore Field Days
- 11<sup>th</sup> Dookie Open Day
- 13<sup>th</sup> Birchip Cropping Group Main Field Day including a student stream

### October

- 7<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> St Arnaud Ag Show
- 13<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> Donald Ag Show
- 14<sup>th</sup> Boort Ag Show
- 21<sup>st</sup> Charlton Ag Show

### November

- 17<sup>th</sup> National Agriculture Day.



#AgDayAU



# Victorian Farmers Federation Conference

I attended the VFF Annual Conference at the MCG on Monday. Agriculture Minister Gayle Tierney emphasised that agriculture education and training continues to be a priority for the State government.

We are fortunate that Nutrien offered bursaries to young farmers to attend the conference. Thanks to the work of Kim Tupper (local VFF Regional Engagement Representative), five young Wedderburn farmers attended the conference. Exposing young people to political advocacy and the VFF will no doubt bode well for the region's agricultural future.



Wedderburn young farmers with Ag Watchers team



Nutrien Staff with young agriculture aspirants.

# Climate Action –Farming Stories

Farming practices have been under intense scrutiny as the world moves to reduce carbon emissions. This presents many opportunities for young people to apply science, research and innovation to agriculture. Following a career in agriculture can provide the opportunity to make a genuine difference to the future world.

There are some inspiring stories of farmers taking climate action. These stories could be used as case studies in agriculture classes or as stimuli for discussion.

## Pearse Family Farm, Donald



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SUSTAINABLE  
**FOOD**  
AWARDS  
**2022**  
RUNNER-UP

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The Pearse family have been acknowledged globally by being Runner-Up in the Ecovia Sustainable Food Awards in Amsterdam. Their certified sustainable malt barley was grown with a 77% reduction in Co<sub>2</sub> emissions compared to the Australian average. To meet the stringent certified-sustainable standard, they had to make significant steps including

- Ensuring the traceability of their grain,
- Improving soil health
- Conserving water
- Boosting biodiversity
- Cutting emissions
- Using no Group B chemicals or fungicides
- Keeping detailed farm records
- Accepting quality rather than quantity.

The barley is headed to Boortmalt to be malted, after which it will be distributed by Buntani to micro breweries through-out Australia.

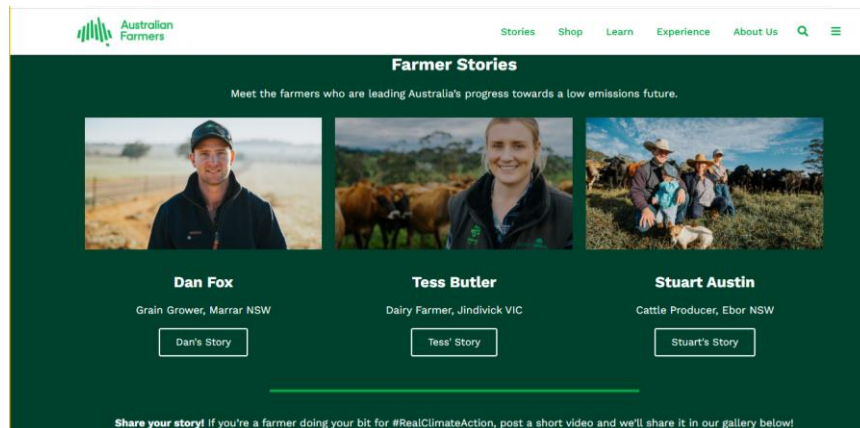
Kyle and Teghan Pearse are very generous community people and are happy to present and talk to students (in-person or zoom) about their work. They can be contacted on 0477 228 778 (Kyle)

*Some of the information above came from The Weekly Times (July 12, 2023)*



# National Farmers Federation

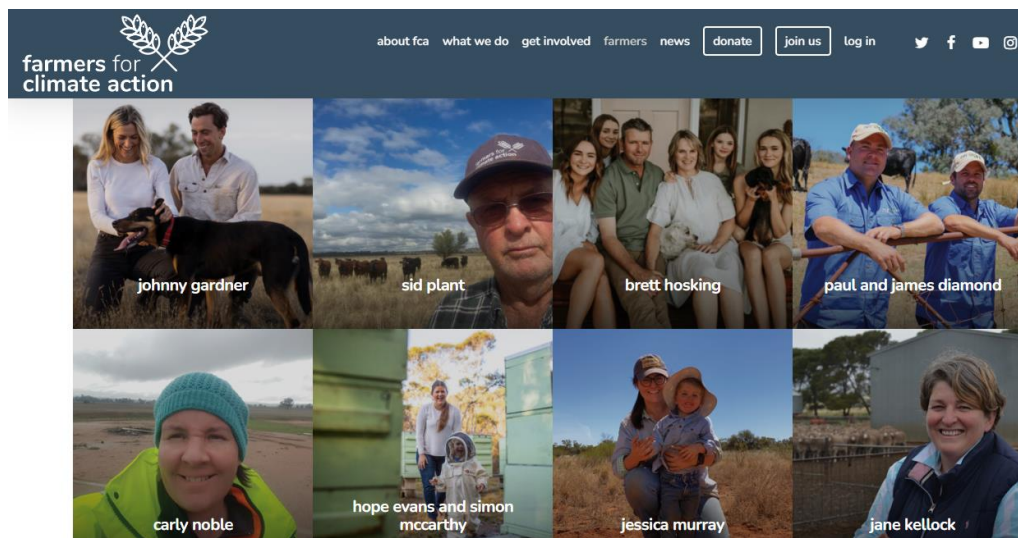
For stories of climate action and innovation, go to <https://farmers.org.au/realclimateaction/#stories>



# Farmers for Climate Action

This pioneering organisation also has some valuable resources and farmer stories that can also be used in classes.

<https://farmersforclimateaction.org.au/farmers/>



# National Tree Day

Trees can reduce carbon emissions. Planting 10-15 trees, may sequester 1 tonne of CO<sub>2</sub>e over 25 years

After spending time in the UK, and hearing from Nutrien's Head of Commercial Sustainability at the VFF Conference, it seems to me, that tree planting and stewardship of remnant vegetation will a future requirement for farmers to balance their carbon emissions. Encouraging tree planting activities at school will be assisting the farmers of the future!



# A glimpse of English agriculture

Recently I was in England on annual leave and was fortunate to spend some time in rural Yorkshire. We stayed on a dairy farm near Skipton and visited a sheep farm nearby.

## Our observations of Yorkshire farming

- The rainfall ranged from 42 inches to 72 inches a year.
- It appeared that they have experienced a few prosperous years just like Australian farmers, with strong commodity prices.
- Long term leasing of land was common and seemed to be a way to help young people get into farming. One couple we spoke to were building brand new dairy on leased land.
- The government is involved in many farming decisions, for example on the dairy farm where we stayed, the farmer got a payment for each day he had his cows outside the barn, on pasture.
- The British government has also a payment system for farmers to ensure they practice good stewardship of their land - paying farmers to improve the environment, improve animal health and welfare, and reduce carbon emissions.
- The fallout from the Foot and Mouth disease (20 years ago) was still very raw. The converted barn where we stayed, had been totally stripped of all its inside fittings during the outbreak. The farm also had to euthanize all its cattle at this time. Some farmers in the area could never bring themselves to get back into farming after the trauma of slaughtering their stock.
- Farming is very regional. Some of the people we met had never been to London. Each small town still has its own saleyards. The regional breeds of sheep dominant in each area. In Yorkshire, it is the Swale Dale breed.



We also went to a farmer discussion panel organised by the Future Farmers of Yorkshire. The focus of the panel was - **Bounce without breaking: Building Resilient Farm Businesses.**



## Key messages

- Formal mentor programs are highly effective for young farmers
- Frustration at the lack of formal agricultural education in schools
- Farmers were experiencing a labour shortage (similar to Australia).
- Businesses should be solution-focussed rather than wasting energy and damaging staff morale, by blaming/shaming when things go wrong.
- No matter how experienced or educated you are, farm decisions are usually the right decision only 80% of the time!



**Great Yorkshire Show**

An absolute highlight. No tacky rides, no showbags, no sideshow amusements. The Show included many educational and hands-on agricultural activities for all ages. While the budget for this Show was in the millions of pounds, very different to our local Shows, it did remind me of how lucky we are that St Arnaud, Donald, Charlton and Boort still have an agricultural show.



## In the Garden

Brassicas were in full flight when I returned from my break which is a healthy change to my diet after three weeks of English pub meals of dark ale pies, and fish & chips.

I'm also thinking that maybe it's also time for me to relinquish the English cottage garden ideal!

My son greeted me at the airport with a crude bunch of golden wattle, and my heart sang. In late winter, as the wattle, hardenbergia and emu bushes flower, I am resloved to embrace their beauty and their ability to put on a show without any cosseted attention.



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