

QUESTION ON NOTICE
No. 302
Asked on Tuesday, 22 March 2005

MR FENLON asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Fisheries (MR PALASZCZUK)—

QUESTION:

With reference to the upcoming Primary Industries Week to be held from 2 to 9 April 2005—

What events are being held to educate urban children on the value of Queensland's primary industries in their daily lives?

ANSWER:

Primary Industries Week is an important, annual opportunity to promote the importance of our agriculture, forestry and fisheries industries to the life of all Queenslanders, including children living in the State's south east.

Primary Industries Week 2005 was a great success. It included a number of events aimed at increasing the awareness and appreciation of the farm sector among children.

Four Kids Fishing Clinics took place on 1 April in Crows Nest, Sarina, Yeppoon and Noosa. The clinics taught around 160 children how to fish successfully and sustainably, and each participant (children aged 8 to 15) received a rod, reel, some tackle, and a hat.

More than 1,500 school children from across south-east Queensland attended Rural Discovery Day on 7 April at the RNA Showgrounds. There they participated in around 24 presentations from industry groups such as AgForce, Queensland Farmers Federation, CANEGROWERS, AgAware, Sunny Queen Eggs, and of course the Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries (DPI&F).

Also during Primary Industries Week was a challenge to chefs to create a healthy and tasty restaurant meal for children. An initiative of the DPI&F and Restaurant and Catering Queensland, three Brisbane chefs competed for the tastiest and healthiest meal, and were judged by four children aged 8-12. This event took place at a Trade Show for Enterprising Women in Primary Industries, also on 7 April.

DPI&F lead the Fresh Futures – Careers in Agriculture forums to profile and promote careers in agriculture among school children in Cloncurry, Winton, Blackall, Barcaldine, and Longreach. The Forums promoted the diversity of careers in agriculture, and highlighted some of the rewarding jobs in rural industries that secondary school students may not be aware of.

Overall, 25 events hosted by industry groups and DPI&F took place during Primary Industries Week 2005. Those outlined here were particularly targeted at children, to raise their awareness of the great role of Queensland's primary industries and fisheries.

A range of information for children on topics such as animal welfare and fisheries is also available at the DPI&F website: www.dpi.qld.gov.au