

**QUESTION ON NOTICE**  
**No. 1815**  
**Asked on 12 November 2009**

**MS NELSON-CARR** asked the Minister for Primary Industries, Fisheries and Rural and Regional Queensland (MR MULHERIN)–

**QUESTION:**

What opportunities are available for students in Queensland schools to become acquainted with a career in primary industries?

**ANSWER:**

At a national level, it has been recognised that there is a need to coordinate promotion of careers in agriculture from primary schooling through to tertiary education, as well as increasing industry participation in further skills development. Consistent promotion of the agricultural industry with a diversity of challenging and rewarding careers is needed to attract more skilled labour into the industry.

The Primary Industries Education Foundation was established in 2008 and includes representatives from the education and training sector, agricultural sectors and government. The Foundation will provide national leadership and direction in raising awareness and promotion of primary industries in schools, including coordinating at a national level, the development and distribution of education information and resources.

The Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation, though Queensland Primary Industries and Fisheries, has supported a number of initiatives in Queensland to encourage today's students to consider a career in a rural industry.

**Agribusiness Gateway school project**

The Agribusiness Gateway school project aims to help young people make a successful transition from school into further education and/or employment in the agribusiness sector. The project also encourages meaningful collaboration between schools, training (VET), Universities and industry to provide career opportunities for young people.

The project provides opportunities for students and school communities to engage in the diverse range of careers across businesses based on primary industries. Students gain valuable experience in the industry while still at school, providing them with the tools and knowledge to make informed decisions about training and employment upon leaving school. At the same time, the project raises the profile of careers in the Agribusiness sector.

A gateway school in Agribusiness endeavours to include a range of Agribusiness related contexts and activities in their whole school curriculum.

Gateway schools in Agribusiness also work together in the sharing of information, ideas, teacher professional development and resources as well as strengthening their partnerships with Agribusiness industries. From these partnerships, opportunities for work experience, structured work placements and school based

traineeships or cadetships with Agribusiness industries at all levels become increasingly possible.

### **AgForce's School to Industry Partnership Program**

The Department of Education and Training and the Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation have provided funding to AgForce to employ a schools liaison officer to promote awareness of careers in agriculture by conducting career talks, farm tours, science days and other activities.

### **Australian Agricultural College Taste Program**

For the last three years, Australian Agricultural College Campuses have provided an opportunity for students in Year 10, 11 and 12 who are considering full-time and school based study and/or a career path in agriculture, horticulture and conservation and land management to participate in a live-in workshop on a college campus.

The four-day program is designed to help young people explore agricultural college life and engage in training for different types of careers in the rural industry. The Agricultural Skills and Technology Experience (TASTE) program gives students an appreciation of innovative technologies and the specific practical skills used across a wide range of career fields.

### **Revolutionary Science Event**

Each year, the Revolutionary Science event is staged in conjunction with our partner, the University of Queensland, and is aimed at capturing the imagination of some of the 200 strong audience of the State's brightest young science minds to make them consider the benefits of an agricultural science career choice.