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Dear AgLinkEd reader

Welcome to the first issue of AgLinkEd e-news for 2011, published by the Department of Agriculture and Food Western Australia (DAFWA). AgLinkEd e-news is distributed to readers interested in education and training in agriculture. It features information on agricultural education and training activities, news, resources and other items of interest.

Your feedback and contribution is encouraged. If you have agricultural links or information to share with other readers of AgLinkEd e-news, please send it to education@agric.wa.gov.au

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AgLinkEd update

AgLinkEd student scholarships

The AgLinkEd Education Scholarships for 2011 will be presented by Minister for Agriculture and Food, the Honourable Terry Redmond, in a special ceremony at the [Crop Updates](#) in Perth on 23 February 2011. The Ag College scholarship winners **Katelyn Weinert (Denmark)** and **Hannah-Jane Armstrong (Harvey)** will receive \$1000 towards their Year 12 school fees.

The 2012 scholarships will be offered again in 2011, and will be broadened to include students from schools delivering agricultural education.

Collaboration for mini-Professional Development

AgLinkEd was happy to support a recent collaboration between Kelmscott, Lockridge and Hillside farms, putting together a mini-Professional Development (PD) workshop on 31 January 2011. Topics covered included [careers in agriculture](#) (5MB), the latest [DAFWA publications](#), developing a [livestock feeding plan](#) (7MB), and legislative requirements for animal welfare in WA ([Codes of Practice](#)) (5MB). For more details contact [AgLinkEd](#) or phone Kerry Regan on 0429 370 960.

A full PD program for all schools and colleges is currently being planned for June/July this year.

PICSE student work placements

The AgLinkEd project recently supported two year 11 students with their summer work-placements at the Department of Agriculture and Food WA (DAFWA). The Industry Placement Scholarship Program is offered by the [Primary Industry Centre for Science Education \(PICSE\)](#). Contact [Belinda Pope](#).

PIEF meeting in WA

A state meeting for the [Primary Industries Education Foundation \(PIEF\)](#) was hosted by AgLinkEd at the end of 2011. The meeting brought together a range of representatives including teachers, farm staff, curriculum staff, universities, institutes of technology, industry and government agencies to bring their views on what short and long term priorities are needed for the national network. The [presentation](#) (239KB pdf) and [workshop outcomes](#) (338KB pdf) are attached.

If you are interested in becoming involved with the national network contact us. The next meeting in WA is proposed for May 2011.

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What's new?

Science and Engineering Challenge

On 8 November 2010 Engineers Australia and sponsors ran the Great Southern's first Science and Engineering Challenge in Mt Barker. Department of Agriculture and Food WA staff assisted with activities at this community event. The winning school from Albany, John Calvin, will be travelling to the state finals on 26 February at Curtin University. The purpose of the Science and Engineering Challenge is to expose high school students to hands on science and engineering tasks in order to inspire them to continue studies in Science and Maths in upper high school. The challenge will be run again in the Great Southern, Perth, Kwinana, South West, Goldfields, Geraldton 2011.

Beazley Medal winner from Narrogin College of Agriculture

An agriculture student was awarded the Beazley Medal (the top educational award in WA) for her achievements in Vocational Education and Training in 2010. Student Jaclyn East studied agriculture, wool handling and equine at the WA College of Agriculture Narrogin.

Executive Manager appointed for PIEF

Ben Stockwin has been appointed Executive Manager of [Primary Industries Education Foundation](#) (PIEF). If you would like to share your ideas or have input into the national foundation, contact [Ben Stockwin](#).

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Resources

DAFWA education website - latest updates

A range of new links have been added to the [DAFWA Education website](#). The 'Resources' tab contains a range of links to great classroom resources and curriculum packages and 'Useful Links' has a collection of interesting and relevant websites for background information and assignment references.

Sheep condition scoring video clip

A great instructional video clip on [condition scoring sheep](#) is viewable on YouTube. *NOTE: We understand that YouTube is blocked through the Department of Education network, and AgLinkEd is endeavouring to get DAFWA clips on to alternate sites for use in the classroom.*

MLA launches 'Virtual Farm'

MLA has just launched a great educational tool – the [Virtual Farm Visit](#). Featuring three very different beef and sheep properties—the Kimberley, central west NSW and Gippsland, the producers at each location show the 'visitor' around their farm via a number of video clips. The clips are supported by fact sheets and a teacher's guide. All content is curriculum-aligned and grouped in subject areas ready for use in the classroom.

2011 Horticulture Careers Guide released

A second edition of the [Horticulture Careers Guide](#), has been released. The magazine, aimed at promoting career pathways and tertiary courses in horticulture to senior school students, contains stories and testimonials for people thinking about a career in horticulture, and includes a directory of horticulture courses that are available around Australia including TAFE and Universities.

Muresk campus 2011 and beyond

Agriculture students will be able to study vocational and short courses offered by CY O'Connor Institute (CYOC) at its new [Centre for Agribusiness and Farm Technology \(CAFT\)](#) at the Muresk campus for the first time this year.

The courses on offer are the first step in the move towards Muresk becoming a multi-use facility offering agricultural higher education qualifications, TAFE qualifications, short-term industry training and farm-based research. CYOC are relocating their agribusiness courses to Muresk which would give them the opportunity to expand the courses offered in future.

CYOC is developing an Associate Degree in Agribusiness and expects it to be accredited this calendar year ready for 2012.

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Coming up...

23 February AgLinkEd Education Scholarship presentations at [Crop Updates](#), Perth.

26/27 February Science and Engineering Challenge State Finals, Curtin University.

March [2011 Regional Crop Updates](#) (83KB pdf).

June/July AgLinkEd PD training workshop (details yet to be confirmed).

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Useful tips

2011 [Year of the Vet](#)

2011 [International Year of Chemistry](#)

Food Fibre and Timber Industries Training Council (FFTITC)

The FFTITC (WA) Inc promotes training to industry (including partnerships between industry and the training sector), supports innovation and workforce development, and provides advice to government on training needs and priorities for public funding. To find out more phone (08) 9477 5055 or visit the [FFTITC website](#).

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