

### **WHAT IS AGRICULTURAL DAY?**

On this day our school is open to our community, family and friends to celebrate our children's achievements, our rural identity and our agricultural heritage.

Agricultural Day is a very special day in our calendar and a learning opportunity for our whole school.

All students will have the opportunity to bring a farm animal to school, which they will have raised and cared for, to participate in the various judged events. Or, for our students who may not be able to bring an animal, they will take part in the many creative and exciting 'Horticultural Happenings' activities on offer.



### **WHY IS AG DAY SUCH A SPECIAL EVENT AT TMCS?**

Rearing your own animal is a very special opportunity, and a very close bond can develop between animal and child. Our children learn valuable life skills through raising an animal and the Ag Day process, such as; caring, nurturing, animal health and welfare, responsibility, leadership, confidence, project presentation (through diaries and performance to the judges), patience and resilience (especially if it's a wet day!).

The 'Horticultural Happening' activities provide possibilities of creating, growing, problem solving and presentation and a valuable sense of achievement.

### **WHAT ARE THE DIFFERENT SECTIONS YOU CAN ENTER?**

#### **Animal Diaries, Judging, Parades for:**

- Calves
- Lambs
- Kids
- Chickens
- Caged Pets
- Ponies

## Horticultural Happenings

More information will be sent home in hard copy form, closer to Ag Day regarding:

- Class activities
- Home activities/projects



## WHEN IS AGRICULTURAL DAY HELD?

Ag Day is an Annual Event in our school calendar, usually scheduled during the first week of Term 4. This year, Ag Day is on **Thursday 9th October 2025**.

## WHAT IS GROUP DAY?

Group Day is where we combine with other schools in our area (Newstead, Tauwhare & Matangi), to compete against each other in the animal judging categories. Group Day is usually scheduled for the week following the participating school's Ag Days, and prior to the Waikato A&P Show. Anyone can go on from our Ag Day to compete at Group Day representing our school. Often held a week later many animals, and their handlers perform better, as they have more experience.

## WHAT IS THE WAIKATO A & P SHOW?

Children who have done well at the school and Group Ag Days can choose to continue on to enter into the Waikato A&P Show. [Please click here](#) to link to their official website.

## HOW TO RAISE AN ANIMAL & PREPARE FOR AG DAY?

If you are new to Ag Day, welcome! There are a number of resources and information leaflets available on how to raise your animals, that can be found under the links below, or you can pick them up from our school reception, or your local vets.

### **ANIMAL INFORMATION SHEETS:**

**Please click here** for rearing **LAMBS**

**Please click here** for rearing **CALVES**

**Please click here** for rearing **KIDS**

**Please click here** for rearing **CHICKENS**

### **ANIMAL HANDLING**

Avoid catching diseases from animals with good health and hygiene practices. Make sure young children wash their hands properly after handling animals. Please click here for more details [Safe Animal Handling.docx](#)

### **ORDERING CHICKS TO RAISE FOR AG DAY**

Chicks are in high demand this year and we are looking to source some for families to raise as part of Ag Day. Please keep an eye on the school newsletter. Other places you can look are TradeMe and Facebook Marketplace.

Be sure to have more than one chick, as they are social animals and will get stressed alone. Keep them warm, feeding them chick crumb (chicken feed will make them sick) and allow them access to fresh water.



Please email [agday@tamahere.school.nz](mailto:agday@tamahere.school.nz) if you have any questions.

### **HOW TO ENTER AN ANIMAL?**

Every child that wishes to enter an animal into Ag Day will need to complete an entry form, which can be accessed by clicking on the links below:

**[LAMB - Entry Form Link](#)**

**[CALF - Entry Form Link](#)**

**[KID GOAT - Entry Form Link](#)**

**[CHICKENS - Raising Chicks Entry Form Link](#)**

**[CHICKENS - Showing Chickens Entry Form Link](#)**

### **ANIMAL DEMO & JUDGES VISIT:**

We will be holding an Animal Demo and Judges Visit day (usually scheduled early Sept), to give advice on how to look after the animals and prepare for Ag Day. All children with animals should attend and parents are also very welcome.

### **PONIES:**

Due to the space requirements, we are limiting entries this year and we are asking that you only bring a pony along that is yours or that you care for. Please do not just borrow a pony for this day, it is for children who look after ponies on a daily basis.



Every child that wishes to enter a Pony into Ag Day will need to complete an entry form, which can be accessed by clicking the link below:

[\*\*PONIES - Entry Form Link\*\*](#)

### **CAGED PETS:**

A caged pet is an animal that is happy to be caged, so no cats or dogs please. Any questions as to whether it is appropriate, please ask your classroom teacher.

Every child that wishes to enter a Caged Pet into Ag Day will need to complete an entry form, which can be accessed by clicking the link below:



[\*\*CAGED PET - Entry Form Link\*\*](#)

### **PET DIARY:**

Children are encouraged to keep a 'Pet Diary', which can include details about their Pet's breed, date of birth, feeding and health details, as well as photos and drawings. It is up to the child as to what they choose to submit for this, as there is no set criteria.

This year children have two options:

**OPTION 1:** Hard copy notebook, clear file, etc

**OPTION 2:** Create a Google Slide pet diary, which they would share electronically

Pet Diaries can be submitted for judging on the Monday following Ag Day, to allow children to write in them right up to Ag Day itself.

### **LOOKING FOR AN ANIMAL?**

If you do not already have your own animal/s, then these will be shared in the school newsletter closer to the time, as farmers need support with orphans or you are welcome to email [agday@tamahere.school.nz](mailto:agday@tamahere.school.nz)



### **VEGE GARDEN COMPETITION:**

Gardening is a skill that used to be readily passed on from one generation to the next but with changing lifestyles, many children grow up without learning any basic gardening skills. Getting them into the garden is a wonderful way to teach them about nature and where their food comes from. It also helps to gain an appreciation of the importance of plants and of the natural world in our lives.

This year, we are making changes to the format of the Vege Gardening competition, further details will be provided in next week's newsletter.

### **HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED?**

Ag Day would not be possible without the amazing support of parents. Whether you want to join the Ag Day Committee or simply offer your time to help set up or pack up on the day, all offers of assistance are gratefully accepted.

If you would like to become involved, please email [agday@tamahere.school.nz](mailto:agday@tamahere.school.nz)



### **UNANSWERED QUESTIONS:**

Any questions you may have about Ag Day that we haven't covered here, we would love to hear from you.

- If you have a question about **Ag Day**, please email [agday@tamahere.school.nz](mailto:agday@tamahere.school.nz)
- If your question relates to **Horticultural Happenings**, please email [reception@tamahere.school.nz](mailto:reception@tamahere.school.nz)