

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



Vege Garden Competition:

Please see further details below.

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 our Ag Day will be held on **Thursday 15th October 2026**.

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.

This year, our school will be the hosts of Group Day, which will be held on **Wednesday 21st October 2026**.

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 link below, or you can a sheet up from our school reception, or your local vets.

ANIMAL INFORMATION SHEETS:

[Please click here](#) for information on rearing LAMBS, CALVES & KID GOATS.



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 usually in high demand 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 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 will be shared via a link in the school newsletter - please keep an eye out or email agday@tamahere.school.nz, if you have any questions.

Entry forms will need to be completed by the end of Term 3, to allow for data to be collated, number of judges requested and ribbons ordered.

ANIMAL DEMO & JUDGES VISIT:

We will be holding an Animal Demo and Judges Visit day (usually scheduled early September, on a Friday lunchtime outside the Tamahere Community Centre) 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.

Please check the school calendar and newsletter for the judges demo date this year.

VET HEALTH CHECK:

Once you have your animal, if you have any health concerns, need to get it vaccinated or banded (castrated), please come along to our Vet Health Check Day, usually held in September on a Saturday from 9.00am to 10.00am, in the car park by the Tamahere Community Centre (TCC). (Please check the school calendar and newsletter for this years date)

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 on the link in the school newsletter available, or contacting agday@tamahere.school.nz

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 on the link in the school newsletter, or contacting agday@tamahere.school.nz



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

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.

Vege Garden Competition Timeframe:

The competition opens around the end of August (see specified date in School newsletter for this year). Gardens must be started on or after this date, and can run until judging, which will take place in mid-October. Prize winners will be announced at a School Assembly, after the judging has been completed.

The criteria is open to the children to decide what they would like to create. Get inventive and use your imagination! Gardens are not intended to be brought to school and will be judged at the location of the garden (home/residence).

Entries can be something as simple as lettuce grown in an upcycled container, through to a project carefully thought through with an elderly neighbour or grandparent.



Children will need to keep a diary containing details on what, and when, they have planted. Plants may be started as seeds or seedlings and children should understand basic principles, such as planning the garden, preparing the soil, watering, pest and weed management.

Other than that we are keen to see our children outside enjoying the fresh air, hands on and getting creative!

How to enter the Veg Garden Competition:

Any child who wishes to enter must complete an entry form: which can be accessed by clicking on the link in the school newsletter, or contacting agday@tamahere.school.nz

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

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
- If your question relates to **Horticultural Happenings**, please email reception@tamahere.school.nz