

Primary Industries

New Zealand aims to double the value of Primary Industry exports by 2025. This puts growing pressure and demand for more educated and skilled workers at all levels across the industries.

To help grow and develop an educated workforce, we need to ensure that all young people have the skills and competencies, including literacy and numeracy, to progress into tertiary education, training and work.

Approximately 70% of school leavers do not enter degree level study, so there are many students looking at alternative options and careers via a different pathway.

NCEA Level 2 or an equivalent qualification is the minimum qualification that young people now need to succeed in New Zealand's economy. Achieving this means they are better prepared to enter tertiary study, training or work.

Education initiatives such as the Vocational Pathways and Trades Academies provide opportunities for students to learn more about the Primary Industry and get the hands-on practical learning.

The Government has set a target that 85% of 18 year olds will have NCEA Level 2 or equivalent in 2017. Growing the number of young people progressing through the education system with qualifications will make a positive contribution to growing the future labour market.

The Vocational Pathways

The Vocational Pathways were developed in collaboration with industry and education to ensure students 16-19 years have a better understanding of the workplace, and the qualifications and skills required by industry. Students can get NCEA Level 2 with Vocational Pathways, which shows they have a broad knowledge and relevant skills that are relevant to the industries.

There are six industries in the Vocational Pathways:



*I enjoy being outdoors
and working on the farm.
My path is Green.*



High aspirations

Tayla is in Year 12 at Wairarapa College and wants to study agricultural science at university. Tayla grew up on a beef and sheep farm outside Masterton and knows that she wants to take the knowledge she picked in her youth and make it her career.

Last year, Tayla started this process and following a successful application and interview was selected to join the Primary Industries Vocational Pathway at Taratahi Primary Industry Trades Academy. This meant that one day a week she went onsite to Taratahi to learn the theory of farming or went on placement to a farm where she had to roll up her sleeves and learn on the job.

Tayla is now in her second year of the programme and through her work on the farms is learning about building relationships, how to succeed as a team and is being treated like any other farm worker – like an adult. Tayla is learning real life skills.

Tayla's interest is beef and lamb and she says that she is not afraid of handling big cattle nor does she shy away from the tough jobs like fencing. Tayla knows that she has to prove she can do the basics if she wants to further her career and move into tertiary study and specialise.

'I like that the programme is practical' says Tayla,

I like that I can learn outside the classroom.

Tayla has two younger brothers and two younger sisters and she knows she is setting an example to them that if you work hard and focus on a certain career path you can get to where you want to go.

Tayla is getting a solid foundation at Taratahi and it is raising her confidence, encouraging Tayla to pursue agricultural education at a higher level.

Primary Industries Vocational Pathway

The Primary Industries pathway offers a broad range of study options for students such as:

- maintain and assist in laying agricultural/horticultural drains
- demonstrate knowledge of the New Zealand primary sectors
- demonstrate knowledge of income, taxation, and other deductions for personal financial management
- perform general servicing checks on a motor vehicle
- demonstrate understanding of advanced plant propagation techniques used for commercial production in New Zealand

- demonstrate knowledge of farm dairy design, and the effluent system
- demonstrate knowledge of principles of quality systems in the wood manufacturing industries
- demonstrate knowledge of soil management practices.

The flexibility of NCEA Level 2 qualifications with Vocational Pathways enables young people to easily change their study options, and many options are applicable to multiple pathways. Students can choose subjects which interest them, or suit their learning style, or help them with their career choice.

If you want to know how a student's learning relates to the Primary Industries, ask a young person for their Vocational Profile. It's a good way to understand how their learning relates to opportunities across the industry.

A student with NCEA Level 2 with a Primary Industries pathway will have:

- a foundation qualification: NCEA Level 2 (or equivalent qualification), recognised as the minimum qualification a young person needs
- a Vocational Pathway in one or more industries
- the minimum level of literacy and numeracy required, or more
- a broad understanding and some relevant skills in the Primary industries.



Sources

- www.dol.govt.nz/publications/research/forces-for-change/forces-for-change-06.asp
- *NZ Manufacturing Sector: its Dynamics and Competitiveness* by Castalia Advisory group is on businessnz.org.nz.