

Media Release
Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry – Hon. Tony Burke MP

Rudd Government promoting careers in agriculture

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The Rudd Government is encouraging young people to consider a career in our primary industries through its support for the new Primary Industries Education Foundation and the Careers in Agriculture Expo at the Sydney Royal Easter Show.

The Primary Industries Education Foundation, a partnership between government, industry and educators, will help to encourage school students to learn about agriculture.

The Foundation will increase awareness of the contribution primary industries make to our society and the range of training and career opportunities in the sector.

The Rudd Government has committed \$175,000 in funding for the Foundation and \$5,000 for the Agriculture Expo.

Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Tony Burke said the Foundation and the Expo will provide great opportunities for young people to learn about the importance of our agricultural industries and the enormous range of careers in agriculture.

“Our farmers have a critical role in feeding and clothing the nation,” Mr Burke said.

“It is important children learn where their food and clothing comes from – that farmers provide the ingredients for their hot cross buns and their chocolate eggs.

“With the median age of farmers now over 50 years, it is important to ensure the next generation realises the career pathways available for those wanting to work in our agricultural industries.

“Working in agriculture goes beyond being on the land - we also need scientists, agricultural economists and environmental professionals.

“A vibrant and sustainable agricultural sector is key to the future prosperity of Australia and the world.”

The Careers in Agriculture Expo, with its theme of “Agriculture is MY Future,” will be hosted by the Royal Agricultural Society of New South Wales, with support from the Grain Growers Association.

It will be held on Tuesday, 14 April 2009, from 10am to 5pm, on the Cattle Judging Lawns at the Sydney Showground.