



MEDIA RELEASE

Timboon P-12 students make agriculture links

Timboon P-12 students are moving out into the farming world for help to develop a unique agricultural precinct at the school.

The school is forging strong links with local farms and agricultural businesses which will include a group of Year 9 students getting first-hand experience at the Sungold Field Days on February 15.

The students will be getting hints for the type of agricultural project they will develop at the school while also learning how service providers support the dairy industry and about the technical, processing and capital equipment decisions farmers have to make.

The Timboon P-12 Agriculture Project (TAP) is being rolled out in the school this year with support from WestVic Dairy, the Gardiner Foundation, a State Government Empowering Local Communities grant and the local community.

The project aims to develop a greater understanding of the impact that agriculture, particularly dairy, has in the region, how it relates to different facets of education and to increase student awareness of careers in agriculture.

One of the major goals of the program is to engage students and the broader in community in developing an agricultural enterprise on an unused school oval.

The school has already established community links to make this a reality, with TG Drains of Colac upgrading the oval's drainage over summer and Agrimac donating a 150-litre spot sprayer to help with the preparations.

Signs have been erected to draw attention to the agricultural precinct

Timboon P 12 Assistant Principal Sean Fitzpatrick said the school was building strong relationships with agricultural businesses and the community and students would see the learning benefits from the innovative program.

Teacher Carlyne Wakefield will lead the group to the Sungold Field Days on Friday February 15 where students will investigate industry links to agriculture.



“We will be researching what we can do on the oval as we establish an agriculture-related business over the next few years,” Ms Wakefield said.

The field trip will also help students to understand the wider impact of agriculture, the involvement of secondary supply industries and the input costs need to run a successful dairy business.

WestVic Dairy Project Coordinator Andrea Vallance said TAP would give young people the skills to become effective in one of the most successful dairy industries in the world.

“Times are tight now but dairy is a cyclic industry. The TAP is a great opportunity to teach students who want to be involved in agriculture in the future,” she said.

“Agriculture is a fantastic vehicle for engaging students in the real world, using maths and science in a practical sense.”

The TAP includes activities such as connecting maths with mapping flood plains, equipment cost and spreading ratios, science with nutrition and animal welfare and also develops small business and food units.

Ms Vallance said a number of generous local business mentors would be involved in classroom and precinct learning with the children.

