Farming it Up in the Land Down Under: Adult Agricultural Education in New Zealand

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Abstract
New Zealand Young Farmers, an organization modeled after the 4-H program, brings together agriculturalists aged 15-31 to discuss farming issues, develop personal and practical skills, and become a positive voice for agriculture in the country. This poster showcases an effective model for young adult education in New Zealand.

New Zealand Young Farmers provides an environment for young adults to learn and improve farming skills, form friendships, and collaborate over economical, political and social challenges, whereby developing a strong network for farming in an ever changing world.

New Zealand Young Farmers is a growing organization that offers its members opportunities in leadership roles, exchange programs, scholarships, competitions and shearing fundraisers among other club activities. YFCs have brought a sense of community pride and have given a positive face to farming. This is largely due to The National Bank Young Farmer Contest. At the district level, individuals are tested on the multi-facets of farming such as psychomotor skills, financial management and communication abilities with time reserved for review and correction. Regional and national levels bring more challenges including agri-sports and an evening show of questions in front of a live audience. The national winner becomes a figurehead for farming, exhibiting agricultural and worldly knowledge as well as physical farming capabilities.

New Zealand YFCs and, specifically, The Young Farmer Contest provides excellent training for farmers and is an educational tool for the public as it gives a holistic view of agriculture. A united front and an educated public are integral to the success of farming in New Zealand.

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