



Future Farmers Student Connect program finishes strong.

Samantha Cullen, Memberships Officer, SCF

What a year this has been! It might have taken us a bit to get going once restrictions came in, but I am happy to report that the Student Connect program has finished strong.

Mount Barker students recently managed a smart farm visit to Slade's just before Livestock 20. Phil Honey introduced the students to some of the equipment on the farm, such as weather stations, soil moisture probes and how that data can be used to make informed and timely decisions. Andrew Slade provided an insight on how the technology is assisting their operation and where they want to go in the next few years. Following this the students wandered out into the field to view a demonstration site of different mixed pastures and Phill Mackie gave a drone demo of how paddock imagery can be used as a sampling technique to analyse NDVI and ground cover.

The event of the year, Livestock '20, went off without a hitch and Denmark Ag managed to bring some students to the on-farm field demonstrations on Day 1. They arrived in time to hear the MLA update by David Beatty and watch the lamb break down by the meat specialist Rafael Ramirez before heading out to check out the demonstrations and displays. There were plenty of demonstrations to see with Clipex, Barenbrug, Axistech, Gallagher, Hitachi and Pivotal all showcasing varying technologies and products. Overall, there was a great turnout and many opportunities for networking. Students thoroughly enjoyed an afternoon out of the classroom as did their teachers, I hear.



Thank you to the students who took the effort to apply for the SCF Scholarship. The standard was once again high making the decision process difficult. Recipients are to be announced at their graduation ceremonies, respectively. Congratulations to Jas Cugley and Toby Manson as the recipients from Denmark Agricultural College and Great Southern Grammar, announced at their Graduation ceremony the other week.

Ag career info sessions have been held at Denmark and Mount Barker. I would like to thank all the speakers for sharing their experience and passing on some advice to the next generation of Ag professionals. Speakers included Kristine Rayner and Carla Milazzo DPIRD, Rodney Scott CBH, Simon Bigwood and Ian Donaldson Rabobank, Mark Ladney Summit Fertilizers, Scott Sedgwick Nutrien, Hannah Gaffney Elders, Phill Griffiths PF Olsen, Phil Honey and Phill Mackie SCF. Once again thank you to all speakers, your advice and experience is invaluable to the students and we really appreciate the time you took to share your personal career journeys.

Unfortunately, this is the final year for our Future Farmers Student Connect program made possible through the Federal Government's National Landcare Program Smart Farms Small Grants. We have thoroughly enjoyed partnering with the local schools, WA College of Agriculture Denmark, Mount Barker Community College and Great Southern Grammar and we look forward to possible future collaboration, when the opportunity arises



Mount Barker Smart Farm visit.



Schools Ag Career info sessions Denmark and Mt Barker.