

Rural Studies

Agriculture and horticulture connect people to locations of purposeful production. Agricultural and horticultural production has a purposeful nature. Every product is grown in a particular place to be used for a particular purpose. This purpose may be, for example, providing for future generations, making a profit, or providing food for a community.

The use of these products should improve wellbeing for individuals, communities, and wider collectives, which can include economic, social, cultural, legal, technological, and environmental outcomes.

In year 9 and 10 you can choose to take academies. There are academies that allow you to develop your skills working on the land and with animals preparing you for future study in Agriculture or Horticulture.

Primary producers manage life processes and the growing environment

Primary producers should understand how primary products relate to their growing environment in order to achieve optimal conditions and output. Plants and livestock have multiple connections with the growing environment and other living things. Relating this understanding to knowledge of life processes and natural cycles allows for management of plants and livestock to gain particular product outcomes.

Respect and care of the growing environment is an important concept in food production. Producers should understand that if they care for an interconnected growing environment, then the land will reward them. When considering a concept such as tūhononga, growing primary produce is situated within an interconnected environment.

Primary producers make informed decisions about sustainability

Through sustainable practices of health and wellbeing of people, earth, and the ecosystem, ākonga cultivate and protect the whenua through the practice of mahi māra.

Cultivation of the land is seen as a way of exercising tiakitanga and manaakitanga.

Production systems are connected to the land and growing environment, and are affected by seasonal and climate changes, cultural practices, markets, and ethical considerations. Primary producers take into account all of these factors, as they consider the sustainability of their production system over the short-term and the long-term. They have environmental sustainability responsibilities as their everyday decisions will impact the sustainability of resources, ecosystems, and enterprises.

This knowledge is important for Aotearoa New Zealand and Pacific countries as we make our production systems resilient in order to manage limited resources and the needs of growing populations.

