

Media Release

An inspiring start to a career in agriculture



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June 2014

Twenty-four local year nine students are currently on a four-day journey into the agriculture industry as a part of 'Ag Inspirations' - a first for Western Australian under the banner of the Royalties for Regions funded, Southern Forests SEED program.

"SEED aims to expose young people to careers in agriculture, and the high response rate we received from students expressing an interest to participate in the Ag inspirations program, demonstrates a huge demand for this type of careers program in our region," said Ms Carstairs.

'Ag Inspirations' is giving students a behind-the-scenes look at agricultural careers to help them discover more about themselves, and career pathways in the sector. Students have been taking part in activities at the Department of Agriculture and Food WA in Manjimup, local farms and agribusiness providers.

Agrifood Skills Australia Ambassador, and program leader, Joanna Wren, said "Ag Inspirations is structured in a way that students have to engage with the growers and agribusiness people in order to learn more. This can be a huge challenge for young people, but this group has taken it in their stride."

Ms Wren is also impressed with the level of enthusiasm being demonstrated by the students, particularly those who are not from farming backgrounds. "What is really encouraging is that students are genuinely interested in the people they are meeting, excited about the activities they are taking part in, and keen to learn more about pathways to a career in agriculture," said Ms Wren.

Ag Inspirations concludes on Friday 6 June, and will run again later in the year with another group of year nine students from the region.

Photos:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/a6z17g0lh239pux/AAD1gKlOL2qMHfF3IVBzkMaua>

More information on the Southern Forests SEED program:

<http://www.manjimup.wa.gov.au/SEED>

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