“Fine, sunny weather and great community support saw a very successful Tocal Field Days with crowds out in force to enjoy a day in the country. Attendance was up on last years with a total of 24,000 people attending the event. It is wonderful to have so many people visit Tocal”, Dr Cameron Archer, Chair, Tocal Field Day’s Association said.

The event was made up of over 400 exhibitors and from all reports sales were strong and interest in everything agriculture was also strong. The Best Presented Exhibitor Awards went to Kentan Machinery, Agricultural Section; Newcastle Spas, Commercial Section; Horse Welfare, 1st and Mohair Australia, 2nd, Livestock Section; Charisma Imports, General Interest Section and Natures Care Nursery, Education and Informative Section.

The awards are to encourage excellence in presentation and the judges commented on the high standard of presentations.

Tocal Field Days aim to provide opportunities for people to learn about farming and related activities. The demonstration and talks program in a wide range of locations provide many opportunities to understand farming techniques and practices.
Attendance was at an all time high at the demonstrations. Visitors were very interested in the special feature of dairy. One visitor was interested to learn about where milk came from, they knew it was from cows but they weren't sure from where. Fortunately, a visit to Tocal Field Days cleared all that up.

“The Tocal Field Days are strongly supported by the farm machinery sector and there are plenty of choices for visitors to purchase and compare prices on equipment from the humblest of ride-on lawn mowers to some of the largest tractors you would want to use on a Hunter Valley farm”, Dr Archer said.

It is an excellent opportunity to do business and get the right equipment for farms and we could see that happening over the weekend.

The post splitting competition was a new event for this years Field Days and attracted a large crowd. Champion post splitters from the district and beyond demonstrated their expertise.

The Tocal Field Day’s Association appreciates the strong support of businesses who exhibit each year. We also appreciate the support of many community organisations who provide services to the Field Days. Their participation also enables them to raise money for their community purposes.

“The Field Days is committed to the importance of youth in the future of agriculture. Virtually all Tocal's students work as paid assistants at the Field Days and now the event is also free for children being accompanied by adults. We think it is important that young people learn as much about farming and food production as they can”, Dr Archer said.

Media contact:
Dr Cameron Archer
Principal, Tocal College
02 4939 8812
0427 202 948
cameron.archer@dpi.nsw.gov.au