Tocal Agricultural College opens its doors to interested students

People considering a career in agriculture are encouraged to attend a series of open days at the Tocal Agricultural College these school holidays.

Department of Primary Industries, Dr Cameron Archer, Tocal College Principal, said the open days will be held on 27 September and 4 October.

“The open days begin with a talk and outline about the course offerings, lunch and a tour around the farm,” Dr Archer said.

“Prospective students are then able to speak with college staff about the courses that they are interested in.”

Mr Archer said Tocal’s graduates are highly sought after by many prospective employers.

"Students gain practical experience on the College’s own 2,200 hectare farm as well as other commercial farms around Australia," Dr Archer said.

"Students also develop diverse skills in a number of farm areas, including crops and pasture production, farm safety, animal health and welfare and beef, sheep, horse and dairy production.

"Our graduates go on to gain employment right around the country on farms and rural businesses, in management, education, research, business or environmental areas.

“Through partnerships with universities, including Charles Sturt University and University of New England, many of our students continue their studies in a range of degree programs.”

Dr Archer said the future of agriculture is strong and the wages and conditions for people managing and working on farms are higher than many people think.

“A survey by Holmes Sackett shows that salaries for people who work on farms are equivalent or above many other salaries in the community,” Dr Archer said.

“People working on farms often enjoy extra fringe benefits such as subsidised accommodation, food and fuel.

“This research supports what our ex-students and primary producers tell us.

“Primary producers are looking for well trained and competent people to work on their properties.

“They need less staff but better skilled staff and that’s why a tertiary education is important. “

Students interested in attending the open days should contact the College on 1800 025 520.

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