



# Growing Future Farmers

Parent Webinar 2025

GROWING FUTURE FARMERS

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# Welcome to Growing Future Farmers Parents Webinar 2025



# Meet the Team at Growing Future Farmers:



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# Meet the Team at Growing Future Farmers:



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# Why we are here and what we will cover:



## **Key Topics Covered:**

- Skills development and certifications.
- Day-to-day life on the farm and safety protocols.
- Independent Living
- Communication channels with parents throughout the programme.

# Training Overview and Certificates:

## Year 1:

- **Orientation Week:**
  - Covers Health & Safety, Wellbeing, Independent Living, and soft skills development
  - Practical Vehicle Training
- **WOoF (Workplace Orientation on Farm):**
  - First 7 weeks on farm (3rd Feb – 31st Mar)
  - Familiarise with farm policies, routines, equipment, and safety
  - Build communication, teamwork, and relationship skills
- **Key Learning Areas (WOoF):**
  - Farm Policies & Procedures
  - Health & Safety Practices
  - Time Management & Routine
  - Understanding the Farm Business
  - Vehicles & Equipment Familiarisation
  - Communication & Teamwork
- **Semester 1:**
  - Hands-on training from February to July
  - Vehicle Refresher, Tractor Training, Crutching, Chainsaw Safety, and Fencing
  - First Aid training
  - Financial Literacy Module 1
- **Semester 2:**
  - Two-week holiday in July
  - Chainsaw & Fencing training
  - Financial Literacy Module 2
  - Complete online modules for NZ Certificates (Primary Industries, Operational Skills, Sustainable Practices)

## Year 2

- **Semester 3:**
  - January to July
  - Advanced training in Shearing, Vehicle Refresher, and Financial Literacy Module 3
  - Complete NZ Certificate in Agriculture (Meat and Fibre Strand)
- **Semester 4:**
  - July to November
  - Focus on refining practical skills
  - Financial Literacy Module 4 & CV/Interview preparation
  - Progress meetings, goal setting, and house inspections
- **Essential Farm Skills:**
  - Hands-on training in livestock management, machinery, fencing, animal health, and record-keeping
  - Key skills: Stockmanship, Machinery Operation, Animal Husbandry, Fencing & Maintenance
  - Personal attributes: Enthusiasm, work ethic, communication, responsibility, and empathy for animals.
- **Ongoing Support:**
  - Guidance from Farm Trainer and Student Success Advisor throughout the programme
  - Development of independence and career readiness.



# Life in the programme:

- **Living on the Farm:** Students will live on the farm for two years, fully immersed in farm life, which means adapting to the daily routines and demands of farming.

- **Farm Training Routine:** Students will follow a daily schedule, including early starts, physical tasks, needing self-management.

- **Farming Tasks:** Expect a wide range of tasks, from livestock care and machinery operation to fencing, maintenance, and farm safety procedures.

- **Health & Safety:** Safety is paramount, and students will need to follow strict health and safety guidelines. Proper Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is required for certain tasks.

- **Adaptability:** Weather and farm conditions can change quickly, so students must be prepared to work in all conditions – rain, wind, or sun.

- **Independence & Responsibility:** Students will be encouraged to take initiative, learn to manage time effectively, and be responsible for their own wellbeing and house duties.

- **Dog Care:** Students will be assigned a working dog, students will be responsible for its care, training, and welfare as part of their farming education.

- **Online Learning:** Students will balance practical farm training with online learning through EIT, requiring time management and discipline to stay on top of coursework.

- **Living Away from Home:** Students will need to adjust to living independently, preparing meals, managing budgets, and maintaining their living space.

- **Physical & Mental Wellbeing:** The physical demands of farm work are significant, so students should be prepared for long hours of physical activity. Mental resilience and a positive attitude are essential for handling challenges.

- **Communication & Support:** Parents are encouraged to stay in regular contact with their child and to support them in developing independence by encouraging them to address any concerns directly with their SSA. We believe in empowering students to take responsibility for their challenges, with guidance from their SSA as needed. If parents feel there is something important the SSA should be aware of, they are welcome to reach out. This collaborative approach helps ensure the student receives the right support while fostering their growth and self-reliance.

*Living on farm is a big step and requires commitment, independence, and adaptability. With the right support, students will thrive in this dynamic and rewarding environment.*

# Student Gear List:

- Gear List:** Students have been given a comprehensive gear list, which will be checked by the SSA during Orientation Week.
- Work Boots:** High-quality work boots are essential, as students will spend long hours on their feet, ensuring comfort, protection, and safety.
- Wet Weather Gear & Farming Clothes:** Durable, weatherproof clothing is required to keep students warm, dry, and comfortable while working outdoors in all conditions.
- Computer (with Microsoft Software):** A reliable computer is essential for online learning via EIT. Microsoft Office software is included with EIT enrolment, ensuring easy access to coursework.
- Reliable Vehicle:** A dependable vehicle is necessary for students living rurally to commute to training, town, and social occasions. Proper vehicle maintenance, including good tyres, is crucial for safety and reliability.
- Personal Locator Beacon (PLB):** All students must have a PLB on them at all times for safety, particularly in remote locations where emergencies may arise. This includes wearing it to off-farm trainings.
- Discounts Available:** Discounts on gear and equipment are offered to students, helping make necessary purchases more affordable.
- These items are essential for your child's success and safety during their farming journey. Please ensure that everything is in place and ready for Orientation Week.*

## Student Gear list 2025



### Footwear

**Leather Lace up boots.**

100% waterproof. Must be supportive boots for walking on the hills. E.g. Girtspor Apollo High Ankle, Sportiva Karakorum Evo/Nepal Evo Black, Dakar leather upper with support system.

**Gumboots**

Gumboots are good for wet weather and doing quick jobs like feeding dogs.

**Safety Boots**

Boots need to be adequate for chaffinching with a steel toe cap and steel midsole (or equivalent). These can be purchased at The Warehouse for \$300 if your work boots do not have steel caps.

**Shearing Moccasins**

Moccasins provide safety and comfort when shearing and crutching sheep.

**Casual dress boots or shoes**

These will be required for when you are reading to attend GFF occasions in your 'Number 1's'.

### Work clothing

**Wet weather Jacket & Wet weather pants**



You will be required to be out in all elements when farming, being dry and warm will make this a much more enjoyable experience. Please make sure you arrive with waterproof wet weather gear!

**Putties or Gaiters.**

Putties or gaiter's provide safety for your ankles, stop debris falling into your boots and keep your feet dry and warm.



**Wool Beanie**

A beanie will allow extra warmth when needed, all year round.



**Bucket hat**

NZ sun is harsh, you will be out in it for long periods of time, so we recommend a wide brimmed hat for your protection.



**Wool Jersey**

Wool is a natural product that provides warmth and ventilation needed when out on the farm.



**Waterproof gloves**

During the winter months it can get cold, having gloves will protect your hands while out on the farm.



**Oil skin vest or Swannndri**

Having a vest will provide another layer or warmth without restricting movement. The type needed will differ depending on your Region so maybe worth discussing with your Farm Trainer/Student Support Advisor prior to purchasing.



**Dress pants**

Dress pants are required as part of your 'Numbers 1's', required when asked to attend GFF occasions.



**Wool socks**

We recommended at least 3 pairs of quality woolen socks, you will be required to be on your feet for most of the day. These will provide protection and comfort in your work boots.



### Miscellaneous Items required

**Dog Whistle**

There are many types of whistles available, make sure you have the type you are comfortable using. Please make sure you put these on a lanyard, to be worn around your neck.



**Smart Phone**

A smart phone is needed to communicate and to complete your online time/sheets daily.



**Safety Glasses**

Safety glasses are required while performing activities such as fencing. These are easily lost or damaged, so you must have a pair of your own.



**Leather Pouch**

A leather pouch will be like an extra pocket on your knife belt for carrying things like your notebook or and phone.



**Knife, pouch and steel**

We recommended a Victorinox Butcher knife or Sward Drop Point Knife as these are better for beginners.



**Thermos, drink bottle & lunchbox**

When you leave home in the morning you will not get back until work finishes, so you will need something to take a hot and cold drink in as well as somewhere to transport your lunch.



**Laptop**

Your laptop needs to be Microsoft 365 compatible and have a camera for zoom lessons.



**5m Soft Rope**

Please have a dog clip attached to your rope, the rope will be one of your main aids when training your pup!



**Personal Locator Beacon (PLB) and case**

For your own personal safety, PLBs are a must before starting on farm. The case is to ensure these are carried on your belt and within reach at all times.



**Road legal vehicle.**

All students are required to have a road legal vehicle, this is required for them to attend trainings and be able to get around. We advise these vehicle has somewhere safe to transport their pup and highly recommended they are insured.

**Personal Items**

You will need clothing for when you are not on farm too, as well as any personal items, including all personal medication.



**Groceries**

You will need enough food to last at least a week at a time, farms are rural and there are no shops just down the road for the majority of GFF students. The Farm will supply you with meat.



### Household Items

**Bed Linen**

Your Farm Trainer will provide the bed, you will need to bring bed linen, pillows, blankets and towels.



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# Pup Care:

- Students will be provided with a Heading dog pup by the first week of March in Year 1.
- Based on the student's progress, a Huntaway pup may be provided by the first week of August in Year 1.
- This is a working animal, not a pet, and must be treated as such.
- They may appear lean, but this is necessary for optimal performance—overweight dogs can't work at their best and could face health issues.
- The farm owns the pups until the student graduates from the program. Upon graduation, the ownership of the dogs will transfer to the student.
- If the student leaves the programme for any reason, it is up to the Farm Trainer to decide what happens to the dog(s).
- The Farm Trainer will cover health care and feeding costs for the dog, including vaccinations, and worming.
- While students will be receiving hands-on training, having a support system in place for questions or concerns is key. Parents should encourage students to regularly communicate with their Farm Trainer and Student Success Advisor (SSA) if they need additional help with their pup.
- Encourage your child to stick to regular feeding, exercise, and training schedules to develop a well-behaved working dog.



## Online Learning:

- Students will complete their theory learning online through EIT's Moodle platform.
- Students are required to attend online sessions, typically on Fridays.
- If students need assistance with learning content, they can reach out to their EIT tutor, SSA, or Farm Trainer (FT) for support.
- As part of their EIT enrolment, students have access to Microsoft tools, which help make their online learning experience easier and more efficient. This is why it's important for their computer to be compatible with these tools.
- Students have access to one-on-one Student Success Tutors to support them with their studies. To arrange this, they simply need to discuss it with their SSA.



*As parents, you can help your child stay organised and ensure they stay focused on both their online learning and practical farm training.*

# Living Arrangements and Facilities:

- Depending on the farm, some students may be living alone, others with fellow students, and some with farm staff.
- All farm staff that students will be working or living with have been police checked.
- All accommodation meets the Healthy Homes standards.
- It is the student's responsibility to discuss with the Farm Trainer (FT) the requirements for maintaining the house and property.
- Students are expected to respect their living environment and adhere to the standards set by the Farm Trainer.
- There will be periodic house inspections conducted by both the Farm Trainer and the SSA, with 48 hours' notice provided in advance.
- If any issues arise, students must communicate with their SSA or FT as soon as possible.
- We cannot address issues we are not made aware of, so timely communication is crucial.



# Safety on Farm:

**Growing Future Farmers are committed to providing and maintaining a safe and healthy work and learning environment that promotes wellbeing for longevity, “For Everyone, Every Day, Back Home Safely”.**



- All accommodation and farm's health and safety policies have been GFF accredited prior to students moving on farm.
- We use the ThinkSafe app to record hours worked and track the tasks students are completing, helping us monitor their safety and wellbeing. Students are responsible for recording any incidents on the app, allowing us to monitor what is happening, identify trends, and implement measures to mitigate risks.
- Farm Trainers conduct regular risk assessments to identify and mitigate potential hazards on farm.
- Students are supervised by experienced Farm Trainers to ensure proper safety procedures are followed.
- Students receive ongoing health and safety training, including emergency procedures and safe farm practices.
- First aid kits and trained personnel are always available to handle any accidents or health concerns promptly.
- Students are enrolled in a first aid course during their time on the programme, equipping them with essential skills for handling emergencies.
- Students are required to carry their Personal Locator Beacon (PLB) at all times to ensure immediate assistance in case of emergencies.
- Clear channels of communication are in place, allowing students to report any safety concerns or incidents to their FT or/and SSA.
- Students are provided with the necessary PPE and must wear at all times to ensure their safety while performing tasks on the farm.
- Regular health and safety meetings are conducted on the farm and via GFF to ensure ongoing awareness and compliance.
- Students receive training from professional external trainers to ensure they know how to operate equipment safely before using it.

# Support Student Wellbeing:



- We offer discounts for students to purchase items from the required gear list before O-week begins, and we ensure all necessary items are checked off before students start on the farm.
- We assist students in finding available financial support options to help ease the financial burden during the programme.
- As Student Success Advisors, we mediate between students and farm trainers to resolve any issues or concerns that arise.
- Students have access to one-on-one assistance from learning support staff to help with academic work and ensure their success in book-based tasks, as well as support from their Farm trainers to help with their assessments.
- We implement various wellbeing initiatives to support students' mental and emotional health throughout the programme.
- We conduct regular check-ins with students to monitor their progress, address any concerns, and offer support as needed.
- GFF foster peer support networks, encouraging students to connect, collaborate, and support each other throughout the programme.
- We offer ongoing health and safety education to ensure students are aware of best practices on the farm and feel safe in their environment.
- We provide resources and strategies to help students manage stress and maintain a healthy work-life balance during their training.
- SSAs encourage students to be eating well-balanced meals and facilitate activities focused on preparing affordable, nutritious meals using the meat supplied on farm.

# Behavioral Expectations:

## **Respect & Integrity:**

- Treat all people, property, and animals with respect and kindness.
- Be honest in all interactions, both online and offline.

## **Academic Responsibility:**

- Complete all coursework and attend all farm and online sessions.
- Adhere to the dress code and maintain a professional appearance.

## **Health & Safety:**

- Follow all health and safety guidelines, including wearing provided PPE.
- Report any incidents or near misses via ThinkSafe.
- Adhering to health and safety protocols is a non-negotiable responsibility.

## **Attendance & Punctuality:**

- Be on time for farm duties, training events, and online sessions.

## **Conflict Resolution:**

- Resolve conflicts peacefully.
- Report any bullying or harassment to maintain a safe environment.

## **Substance Use:**

- The use of illegal substances or alcohol during training is strictly prohibited.



# Parental Involvement & Communication

## **When parents become involved:**

- Our Goal is to foster well-rounded individuals and prepare students for employment, ensuring they can graduate and transition into full-time roles.
- There may be times when we ask for parents' involvement, particularly in matters of discipline or when concerns about a student's progress arise.
- While we maintain regular contact with students, our role is not to provide updates to parents on their child's progress. We encourage students to keep their parents informed about their activities and experiences on farm.
- If involving parents supports student success, we will engage them as needed to help ensure the best possible outcome for the student.
- We encourage parents to attend the graduation ceremony at the end of the second year to celebrate their child's achievements and successes.

## **Communication:**

- If you have any questions or concerns about your child while they are with GFF, please reach out to your child's Regional Student Success Advisor (SSA) in the first instance.
- Why SSA: The SSA will be most familiar with your child and the region and is best placed to address your queries.
- If the SSA is unable to meet your needs, alternative communication channels and contact emails are provided on slides 3 & 4. Or you can call the GFF phonenumber on 021 315 534

*We are committed to ensuring your child's experience is positive and rewarding, and your partnership plays a vital role in that success.*



# Ways in which you can support your child's journey:

- Support your child by maintaining regular, open communication.
- Encourage your child to share their experiences and challenges with you. If you believe additional support from the SSA is needed, please feel free to communicate this to them.
- Allow your child the space to grow and develop their independence, offering guidance when needed but respecting their ability to handle tasks on their own.
- Be a sounding board for any frustrations or successes, offering emotional support.
- Reinforce the importance of personal responsibility, time management, and a strong work ethic as they progress through the programme and transition into full-time employment.
- Stay informed about your child's progress through regular conversations with them. Information regarding expectations, such as due dates for assessments, is readily available to them and can be shared with you—simply ask them for it.
- Support them in developing problem-solving skills by discussing options and letting them make decisions.
- Acknowledge and celebrate key milestones and achievements, reinforcing their growth and development.
- Encourage a healthy work-life balance, reminding them to take care of their physical and mental health.



*At GFF, these principles are actively encouraged and supported by our SSAs and Farm Trainers. We strongly encourage you as parents to support your child throughout their journey. If you are uncertain about any expectations for your child and they are not providing the necessary information, please reach out to the regional SSA for clarification. This will help ensure we are all aligned and on the right path towards student success.*



# Follow us on Social Media:

We regularly share photos and updates on our social media pages, and we encourage you to follow the links below and like our pages to stay informed. While we make every effort to provide updates across regions, please understand that your child may not always appear as frequently as you might hope. This is simply due to the nature of who happens to be in front of the camera on any given day. For more personal and consistent updates, we recommend connecting directly with your child to hear about their experiences firsthand.



For more information, please visit our website at [Home | Growing Future Farmers | NZ](#)



[Growing Future Farmers \(@growingfuturefarmersnz\)](#) • [Instagram photos and videos](#)



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## A Brief Recap:

- **GFF, SSAs, and Farm Trainers** are committed to ensuring student success and well-being.
- **Safety is our top priority:** Students are provided with the necessary PPE and are encouraged to communicate any concerns related to safety, equipment, or personal comfort as soon as they arise.
- **Gear list** is reviewed and checked by the SSA during Orientation Week—it's essential to have all required items.
- **Encourage students to reach out to their SSA** with any concerns or questions; parents are welcome to contact the SSA if necessary.
- **Balance online learning with farm tasks:** Effective time management is key to success in both academic and practical farm activities.
- **Farm life:** Students should embrace the farm lifestyle, adapting to the weather, physical work, and responsibilities.
- **Communication is critical:** We are here to support every student's success, but we can't address issues if we're not aware of them—communication is key!

*Thank you all so much for taking the time to join us. We truly hope you enjoyed the session and found the information helpful in easing any concerns you might have about your child's journey with the Growing Future Farmers programme.*

*We are excited to start this journey alongside your child and watch them grow and develop into a skilled, confident future farmer. It's going to be an incredible two years, and we're committed to supporting them every step of the way.*



# A Special Thank You to Our Generous Sponsors of GFF

*We encourage you to show your appreciation and support to these organisations whenever possible.*

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