

Ag (Agricultural) Day – Saturday 28th October

Rearing an animal

Although a few months off yet, it's now time for our children to be thinking about the animal they'd like to raise for Ag day. Will it be a calf, lamb or goat? **Remember** the animal must be born after the 1st of July so anytime from now onwards!



For all families new to Waitoki School this year, Ag Day is a traditional annual event in rural schools. Children are given the exciting opportunity to rear a calf, lamb or goat and bring it along to show/compete at Ag Day. Just like having a new dog/cat in the household, the animal becomes their 'pet' and is given a name. Your child trains their animal to come when called and walk by their side on a lead. There are a few other things you teach them and these are detailed in the information pack. To teach responsibility, your child cares for the animal by feeding regularly (making up the bottles of milk) and giving lots of love and attention.

Last year we built our very own lamb daycare, and children enrolled their woolly friends and brought them to school each day for a couple of months leading up to Ag day. This way they were able to look after the lambs themselves rather than Mum or Dad having to be on call for feeds during the day. We hope to have more 'four legged pupils' joining us again this year! For more information on raising/training an Ag day animal and contacts for animals please see Kerry in the office.



Lamb day care



In action at Ag Day last year



Chickens

For children who haven't got space to raise a four legged Ag Day animal, they may want to consider raising a 'day old' chicken or two! Although they can't really train it to walk by their side, your child can care for it...make it a home, feed and water it etc. We ask that they keep a chicken diary to monitor growth and changes over the weeks leading up to Ag Day. The chicken diaries will be judged at school by Mrs Kemp and Mrs Croft a couple of days before Ag Day and displayed alongside the chickens on the day. We will be placing an order for Brown Shaver Chicks on Monday 31st July and they will be ready for collection from school on Monday 14th August. Cost is \$6.50 per chick. Please complete the order form in this week's newsletter and return with money by Friday 28th July (first week back in term 3) if you wish to raise a chicken.