AgCAREERSTART

Building the Future of Australia's Agricultural Workforce

AG CAREER START
LEARN. GROW. FARM.

2027 Prospectus

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2026 Sponsor Acknowledgement

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GRAINS RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

AgriFutures®
Australia

Piñata
FARMS

National Farmers Federation

Australian Government
Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Executive Summary

Australia's agriculture sector is targeting $100 billion in farm gate output by 2030, but achieving this goal requires a strong, skilled workforce. The sector faces an ageing demographic, workforce shortages, and low awareness among young people of careers in agriculture.

AgCAREERSTART is the only national program designed to provide a structured pathway for young Australians into agriculture. The program is delivered by the National Farmers' Federation (NFF) and funded by industry partners in conjunction with the Commonwealth Government Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry. **AgCAREERSTART** offers an immersive, supported on-farm experience complemented by training, networking, and career development opportunities.

We are now seeking partners to co-invest in the next phase of **AgCAREERSTART** to secure the agricultural workforce pipeline and strengthen regional and rural communities.

Over the last 5 years, AgCAREERSTART has:

273
PARTICIPANTS NATIONWIDE

77%
COMPLETION RATE

90%
INDUSTRY RETENTION

$5.56
RETURN PER $1 INVESTED

The Challenge

Australia's agricultural sector stands as one of the country's primary economic foundations; however, it is confronting a workforce crisis. If immediate action is not taken, these challenges will jeopardise our capacity to maintain agricultural productivity improvements in the future.

NATIONAL CHALLENGES

- **Ageing Workforce**
- **Skills Shortage**
- **Low Career Awareness**
- **Outdated Perceptions**

Our Solution

A national pathways program connecting young Australians aged 18 to 25 with a **10 - 12 Month Paid Placement.**

Features:

- **Paid Placement**
  FULL TIME
- **$3,000**
  TRAINING & DEVELOPMENT BURSARY
- **Industry Networking**
  EVENTS
- **Orientation**
  WEEK
- **Pastoral Care Support**
  FOR PARTICIPANTS & HOSTS

Impact to Date

AgCAREERSTART has delivered measurable success since the first cohort in 2022. Independent evaluation confirms that the program is achieving its goals of building workforce capability, supporting diversity, and delivering strong economic value.

(2025 External Monitoring and Evaluation Report)

90%
RETENTION IN AGRICULTURE

44%
FROM METRO AREAS

10%
IDENTIFIED AS DISABLED

7%
WERE BORN OVERSEAS

6%
ABORIGINAL & TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER

3%
NON-ENGLISH SPEAKING BACKGROUNDS

273
PARTICIPANTS PLACED

58%
FEMALE PLACEMENT

$5.56
RETURN ON INVESTMENT

Future Vision

AgCAREERSTART is committed to evolving with the needs of industry, producers, and participants. As we plan for the future, our focus is on delivering greater impact, improved flexibility, and cost-efficiency, while maintaining the high standards of participant and host producer support that define the **AgCAREERSTART** program.

$3,000
BURSARY MODEL

Improved First Nations
ACCESSIBILITY

Domestic Workforce
PIPELINE

Why Partner With Us?

The agriculture sector is a major pillar of the Australian economy, but success depends on attracting, training, and retaining the next generation of skilled workers and ag leaders.

By partnering with **AgCAREERSTART**, you're not just funding a program - you're investing in the future of a young Australian with a keen passion for agriculture.

Partner with us today to:

- **SECURE**
  FUTURE WORKFORCE
- **CREATE**
  AGRICULTURAL CAREER PATHWAYS
- **STRENGTHEN**
  REGIONAL COMMUNITIES
- **SUPPORT**
  AG2030 GOALS

Call to Action

Join us in shaping the future of Australian Agriculture.

We are seeking co-investments to sustain and expand **AgCAREERSTART**, ensuring a skilled workforce pipeline for all commodities across Australian Agriculture.

Funding will directly support:

- **PARTICIPANT PLACEMENTS** *NATIONWIDE*
- **TRAINING & DEVELOPMENT** *BURSARIES*
- **PASTORAL CARE** *SUPPORT*
- **INDUSTRY NETWORKING** *EVENTS*

Partner with **AgCAREERSTART** to build capacity across rural and regional farming communities, strengthen workforce availability and secure the future of agriculture.

2027 Partnership Opportunities

Please look through the following pages to confirm if there is a suitable option for your industry or organisation.

Bespoke packages are open for discussion, please reach out to Project Manager Tim Bradley to evaluate further.

Participant Buy-in:

SUPPORT A YOUNG PERSON IN AG

$17,000

SUPPORTS ONE PARTICIPANT

NFF seeking 50% government co-contribution.

What does it involve?

- $3,000 Training and Engagement Bursary
- A committed delivery team
- Pastoral support for participants and host producers
- Broad industry connections
- Tailored recruitment and matching process

You will also receive the following:

- Social media partnership shoutout
- Logo on participant jacket
- Voice on the program steering committee
- Promotion/presentation at O-week
- Logo on all print collateral and AgCS website
- Exclusive promotion of your industry event (to participants)

Program Partner:

Support the program with one of our tailored packages

GOLD
$81,000+

- Logo on website
- Social media partnership shout out
- 30 mins presentation at O week
- Large logo on participant jacket
- 5 social media posts/collabs
- 2 ‘good news’ stories
- 1 participant farm tour for a GM
- Bi-monthly catch up with NFF CEO

SILVER
$41,000 - $80,000

- Logo on website
- Social media partnership shout out
- 20 mins presentation at O week
- Medium logo on participant jacket
- 3 social media posts/collabs
- 1 ‘good news’ story

BRONZE
UNDER $40,000

- Logo on website
- Social media partnership shout out
- 15 mins presentation at O week
- Small logo on participant jacket

Exclusive Opportunities:

Sponsor an **AgCAREERSTART** event and gain exclusive benefits

$50,000
ORIENTATION WEEK SPONSOR
1

- Event naming rights
- Talking spot (at O Week, start of year)
- Collateral to distribute
- Contact details provided for participants to use
- Follow-up online session to talk to cohort
  (join one of our cohort catch ups through the year)

$30,000
GROUP TRAINING WEEK SPONSOR
2

- Event naming rights
- Talking spot (at Training Week, mid year)
- Collateral to distribute
- Contact details provided for participants to use

$25,000
COHORT GRADUATION SPONSOR
3

- Event naming rights
- Guest Speaker at Graduation
- Collateral to distribute
- 2 x Tickets to Graduation Event

Participant Journey

Home State:	Placement:	Industry:
WA	QLD	Beef

Vienna

Coming from Metro-Perth, joining the **AgCAREERSTART** program has changed Vienna's life. "I really wanted to be in Agriculture, but I just didn't have the right connections or know the right people".

After just 12 months on an extensive beef operation, Vienna has had exposure to horses, yard work, lick runs, trucking, oxy cutting, welding and of course - fencing.

In 2026, Vienna has decided to stay on farm and continue to build her skillset, hoping to eventually gain leadership within the team.

COMPLETED PROGRAM IN 2025

- **BEEF** FUNDAMENTALS
- **MOTORBIKE** SCHOOL
- **HORSEMANSHIP** SCHOOL
- **INNOVATION** GENERATION

Host Producer Experience

Location:

VIC

Industry:

Dairy

3 of Richard's participants:

Annie Brown, ABC Rural

4 PARTICIPANTS HOSTED
OVER 3 YEARS

Richard

With 800 dairy cows and 1,000 head of beef, Richard has found the **AgCAREERSTART** program nothing short of "fantastic".

Having 4 participants over the last 3 years, he has been able to maintain a steady workforce that not only benefits his company, but the agriculture industry as a whole. "I enjoy employing the younger generation mainly because they're smart, they're keen, they want to work...we pride ourselves on producing the next leaders in Australian agriculture".

Richard is a firm beliver in fostering the next generation;

"if you give young people the opportunity, they can pretty much do anything".

Contact Us

National Farmers Federation

AG CAREER START

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Australian Government
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