



Media release

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Ballance announces scholarship winners

Ballance Agri-Nutrients recently announced this year's scholarship recipients just in time for the start of the university year.

Rebekah Sargent from Balclutha, Laura Kidd from Tihoi, Rhys Hamilton from Oamaru and Natalie McEwan from Wyndham were thrilled to learn from Ballance Agri-Nutrients that they will each receive \$4,000 a year to support them during their university studies in agricultural related disciplines through the Ballance Agri-Nutrients Co-Operative Scholarship scheme.

Laura and Rhys will both use the scholarships to help fund their Bachelor of Agricultural Studies at Lincoln University and Rebekah is funding a Bachelor of Commerce (Agriculture) also at Lincoln University.

Each year one of the scholarships is awarded to an engineering student as engineering expertise is important to continually improve the outcome and environmental performance of manufacturing plants. Natalie McEwan is about to start a Bachelor of Engineering at Canterbury University with a view to applying her skills in the primary industries when she graduates.

The Ballance Agri-Nutrients Co-Operative Scholarship scheme was created to encourage young people to consider agriculture as a career. It subsidises tertiary level study that will enhance their skills and knowledge and enable them to contribute to the industry in the future.

Warwick Catto, Head of Agro-Sciences at Ballance, says the scholarship scheme is a very positive rural community initiative.

"This scholarship has a real community objective. By supporting young talent in the agricultural sector and encouraging their academic study we are fostering the future development of the agricultural industry, benefiting the rural community as a whole.

"When we first established the scholarship in 2002 the number of students interested in a course of study with an agricultural focus was low but this has definitely turned around since the scheme was introduced. Each year the number of scholarship applications increases and applicants are of an extremely high calibre.

“Rebekah, Natalie, Laura and Rhys fought off some tough competition to win the scholarships and were chosen from the more than forty applications received. It’s great to see young people like them passionate about the agricultural industry and keen to develop their talents to support and enhance the mainstay of New Zealand’s economy well into the future.”

In the four years the scholarship programme has been running 28 scholarships have been awarded worth up to \$12,000 each and the company has employed two previous scholarship winners.

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