



Media release

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Balclutha student wins Ballance scholarship

Starting back at university will be made easier for a Balclutha student selected as one of the recipients of a scholarship award through the Ballance Agri-Nutrients Co-Operative Scholarship scheme.

Rebekah Sargent, was thrilled to learn from Ballance Agri-Nutrients that she will receive \$4,000 a year to support her during the remaining two years of her Bachelor of Commerce (Agriculture) Degree at Lincoln University.

Rebekah grew up on her parents' sheep and beef farm near Balclutha, and began her degree at Lincoln University last year. The influx of dairy farms in the South Island has triggered her interest in this aspect of farming, and she hopes to pursue a consultancy career in the dairy industry 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 rural sector and encouraging their academic study we are fostering the future development of the agricultural industry, benefiting the rural community as a whole.

"Each year the number of scholarship applications increases and applicants are of an extremely high calibre. Rebekah fought off some tough competition to win the scholarship and it's great to see young people like her passionate about developing 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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