



Media release

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Tihoi student wins Ballance scholarship

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

Laura Kidd was thrilled to learn from Ballance Agri-Nutrients that she will receive \$4,000 a year to support her for the remainder of her Bachelor of Agricultural Science Degree at Lincoln University.

Laura grew up on her family's farm at Tihoi, helping out with milking and general farm work when not at school. She has already started her degree and spent the past summer working on a 700-cow dairy farm near Taupo to fund her studies. Once qualified, Laura hopes to pursue a career in either research or consultancy in the agricultural industry.

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. Laura 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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