

20th November 2018- Do kids know where their food comes from?

A New initiative launched today (20th November 2018) will make sure that they do.

The Royal Agricultural Society of NSW and NSW Department of Primary Industries, in conjunction with the Primary Industries Education Foundation Australia, is creating specially designed teacher professional development workshops to assist teachers present programs to their students about food and fibre production in 2019.

The Collaboration has been named *Knowing and Growing*, an apt description of what is an important element of learning for Australian school children.

With mandatory agricultural components being rolled out in the school curriculum in NSW from next year, the program aims to support teachers and prepare them to teach about food and fibre especially if they have never been on a farm themselves.

The initiative has been supported by the Primary Industries Education Foundation, Australia (PIEFA), a national not-for-profit organisation supported by primary industries, education sector and the Australian Government to improve learning about food and fibre production in Australian Schools.

The Knowing and Growing teacher workshops will introduce a series of hands on activities, strategies and resources to support the focus on agriculture in the classroom.

Workshops will focus on the satisfaction of growing your own food, from sowing seeds, propagation and land management all the way to harvesting and processing. It will also include information on the vast array of careers that are available across the entire supply chain.

Innovation and technologies will be explored through design projects and STEM participation to differentiate the curriculum.

Dr Cameron Archer, Chair of PIEFA and Knowing and Growing, says it is important for us to support our teachers as they explore the new curriculum and provide professional development that is achievable.

“We have been working on this for some time and it is wonderful to know that at last teachers will get the support they need in this vital area,” Dr Archer said

“Teacher’s time is precious, there is little time allocated for professional development because their work time is taken up on class. That means professional development has to be juggled around many constraints.

“Those designing the program were very conscious of making sure that teachers attending the program will feel that their time is well spent,” Dr Archer said.

The first Knowing and Growing program will be rolled out in 2019 for groups of teachers in both urban and rural areas.

The workshops will include the following content:

- Agriculture Bites: Tomato Time. This RAS workshop will introduce a series of hands on activities, strategies and resources surrounding tomatoes to support the focus on agriculture in the classroom. There is a satisfaction of growing your own food through sowing seeds, propagation, land management, harvesting and processing. Innovation and technologies is explored through design projects and STEM participation to differentiate the curriculum.
- PIEFA will be sharing their newly developed FREE resources related to both the technologies and the home economics curriculum. The resources included exploring eggs, nuts and many of our other daily food products in a truly ‘plate to paddock’ experience.
- DPI will showcase learning resources and student design projects that explore different primary industries and the products they grow including traditional and emerging industries. In addition DPI will showcase the Tocal Virtual Farm immersive resources designed to provide urban students with a virtual visit to the dairy, beef, sheep, egg and horse breeding enterprises.

For further information, please contact:

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