

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE | December 21, 2021

PIEFA to support new gap year program for Australian agriculture.

The Primary Industries Education Foundation Australia, along with other industry leaders, will support the National Farmers' Federation in implementing and managing a new Australian Government gap year initiative – the AgCAREERSTART program.

AgCAREERSTART is a pilot, 24-month program for school leavers to try a job in agriculture and experience the unique opportunities the sector has to offer.

The initiative, funded by the Australian Government, will provide a comprehensive introduction to the vast range of careers in agriculture, as well as giving participants exposure to the types of opportunities that build skills and long-term connections in the industry.

Luciano Mesiti, CEO of PIEFA, said: "There are so many career pathways available in the agriculture industry, and it's fantastic that this program will make these opportunities accessible to school leavers. The knock-on effects will far exceed the duration of the program, and I'm excited to see the next generation of Australians embracing the many diverse and rewarding roles available in food and fibre and the broader Australian agriculture community."

With a focus on new experiences, learning, community and safety, AgCAREERSTART participants will be able to explore the Australian country-side, while receiving practical training and connecting with the highly supportive ag industry.

There will be two pilot intakes for the program, one in early 2022 and a second towards the start of 2023, with each placement lasting up to twelve months. Participants under the age of 24 are encouraged to apply, and if successful, will be assigned to a paid placement, as well as receive training and development, and access to attend significant industry events across the country.

To find out more about being a gap year participant or on-farm host, applicants can register their details here: <https://www.agcareerstart.com.au/home>

CONTACT:

If you have any further questions or queries please do not hesitate to contact Luciano Mesiti, CEO at PIEFA ceo@piefa.edu.au or Dianne Murray, Communications Officer at PIEFA office@piefa.edu.au

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