

Admission

Admission to agricultural schools is by selection. Applications for selection should be made on forms available from Government secondary schools, or from the Education Department's Head Office. Applications close on 30 September each year for all schools.

Each applicant must have completed Year 10 of secondary education. Proof of medical and dental fitness must be provided on prescribed forms.

Students who apply for entry are selected on the following criteria:

- A confidential report from the student's previous school.
- Year 10 results with particular emphasis on core subjects.
- Whether the student has a genuine interest in a rural career.

Fees

No tuition fees are charged. However, a boarding fee is payable to the Education Department each term. Schools levy a fee to cover amenities, laundry and other expenses. All fees are payable at the school on the opening day. Details of current amounts for fees may be obtained from individual schools.

Parents of agricultural school students are eligible to claim from the Commonwealth Government's Assistance for Isolated Children scheme and also from the State Government for a boarding allowance.

School Rules

An undertaking that students will conform to the school's rules and regulations is required on the acceptance form. These apply to conduct, attendance and appearance. Each school has its own set of rules and regulations, a copy of which is provided to students.

It is important that parents and students are aware of the following general rules that apply in all schools.

The possession and/or consumption of alcohol or drugs is not permitted at any time while the student is in the charge of the school.

The harassment of any student by any other student or students will not be tolerated.

Breaches of these rules will almost certainly lead to termination of the student's course.

Students on leave who return to the school under the influence of drugs or alcohol will be subject to the above discipline.

Medical Treatment

Students who become ill will be taken to the local doctor and, if necessary, admitted to hospital. The Education Department recommends membership of a recognized hospital benefit fund.

Leave of Absence

Leave of absence can only be granted by the Principal. Students leaving without permission may forfeit the right to return. Permission will not be granted for students to return to home farms for seasonal duties.

School Dress

Each school has its own uniform which is worn by all students, and approved work clothing is worn for farm tasks. The full clothing list is supplied by the schools to successful applicants, together with information as to where special items such as blazers may be purchased.

Textbooks

Several textbooks are required. The books are procurable at the school when the course begins.

Religious Observance

Arrangements are made for students who wish to do so to attend church services.

Pocket Money

Pocket money is regulated and handled by various systems within the schools. Generally, this consists of an allowance at regular intervals; but in the event of an emergency, money can be made available. Parents are requested to remit money direct to the Principal.

Field and Open Days

The annual field and open days held at each school offer excellent opportunities to see the schools functioning. They are usually held towards the end of the year.

Further Information

Further information and application forms may be obtained from the

Cunderdin Agricultural College
PO Box 132
CUNDERDIN WA 6407
(Telephone: (096) 35 1302)

Denmark Agricultural District High School
DENMARK WA 6333
(Telephone: (098) 48 1100)

Harvey Agricultural Senior High School
HARVEY WA 6220
(Telephone: (097) 29 1302)

Morawa Agricultural District High School
MORAWA WA 6623
(Telephone: (099) 71 1206)

Narrogin Agricultural College
PO Box 38
NARROGIN WA 6312
(Telephone: (098) 81 1135)

Agricultural Education Section
Education Department of WA
151 Royal Street
EAST PERTH WA 6000
(Telephone: (09) 420 4937)

RESIDENTIAL AGRICULTURAL HIGH SCHOOLS



INFORMATION BROCHURE



THE SCHOOLS

There are five secondary schools that offer full-time residential courses in agriculture. All the schools offer the same basic two-year course; however, daily routines of the farm programmes vary according to the locality of the schools. Each school has its own boarding facilities and all students are expected to live in. On completion of the course, students are issued with a Certificate of Secondary Education from the Secondary Education Authority.

• Cunderdin Agricultural College

Cunderdin is 160 kilometres east of Perth in a 350 mm rainfall area which specializes in sheep and wheat farming. The College has accommodation for 96 students in double-unit rooms. One of the three boarding-houses was especially designed and built to cater for girls.

In addition to cropping and sheep-raising, the College has an intensive piggery, a beef herd, a stud angora goat herd and a small poultry section. The College campus and farm cover an area of 1 120 hectares.

• Denmark Agricultural District High School

Denmark is 400 kilometres south of Perth on the southern coast in a 900 mm rainfall area. The Agricultural Wing is two kilometres from the town and has two dormitories which provide accommodation for 40 boys in individual cubicles.

The farming activities on the 240-hectare farm include beef and dairy cattle, sheep for meat and carpet wool, pigs, poultry, fruit and vegetable production and fodder crops.

• Harvey Agricultural Senior High School

Harvey is 140 kilometres south of Perth on the Darling Scarp and is situated in the heart of the South-West farmlands.

The Agricultural Wing is set in beautiful surroundings on the banks of the Harvey River and modern dormitories provide accommodation for 48 boys in individual cubicles.

The 120-hectare farm comprises prime irrigation and hills country. Beef and dairy cattle, sheep, pigs and poultry are all run on the farm and a variety of fruit is grown in the orchard.

• Morawa Agricultural District High School

Morawa is 400 kilometres north of Perth in a 350 mm rainfall area. The school hostel is situated in the town and accommodation is provided for 40 students.

Cropping is the major activity on the 400-hectare farm; however, beef cattle, sheep, pigs and poultry are also run. The farm activities include skills relevant to the pastoral industry.

• Narrogin Agricultural College

Narrogin is 190 kilometres south-east of Perth in a 500 mm rainfall area which supports mixed farming enterprises. The College is nine kilometres from the town, and four dormitories provide accommodation for 108 students in individual cubicles.

In addition to extensive cropping and sheep raising, the 1 090-hectare farm has an intensive piggery, a dairy herd, two beef herds, an angora goat herd and a poultry section.

ADVISORY COMMITTEES

Each school has an Advisory Committee appointed by the Minister for Education. The Committee is made up of local farmers and business men, the area representative for the Department of Agriculture and the Principal as Chairman.

The Committees meet regularly and play a vital role in formulating the policy for the farm operation. The members provide a very useful link with the local farming community as well as a wealth of experience and expertise.

AGRICULTURAL SUBJECTS

All schools offer seven subjects each year which are accredited as Group B subjects by the Secondary Education Authority. Morawa also offers the subject Pastoral Industry Studies in Year 12.

Group B subjects do not normally lead on to study at a tertiary institution. A formal link has been established with the Muresk Institute of Agriculture which enables some students to progress to tertiary study.

GENERAL SUBJECTS

• General English

Development of skills of communication and of the students' awareness of themselves and the world in which they live are the course aims.

These are achieved by improvement of skills of observation, listening, oral fluency, reading ability, written communication and critical thinking.

• Animal Husbandry

Principles of physiology, nutrition and breeding are treated comprehensively before the more specific husbandry practices for sheep, cattle, pigs and poultry. Various aspects of animal health complete the course.

• Crops and Pastures

Introductory topics cover the development of cultivated plants, plant processes and nutritional requirements, and conditions for crop growth in W.A. Crop and pasture management, including soil conservation and pest control, are treated in detail.

• Farm Economics and Management

The farm business and techniques of planning, budgeting, controlling, recording and obtaining finance and information comprise the first year of the course.

The second year's work comprises forms of business and personal financial protection, taxation, marketing and various social aspects of farming.

Animal Husbandry, Crops and Pastures, and Farm Economics and Management all include demonstration programmes and study groups. Every opportunity is taken to utilize the expertise of persons from the farming community, particularly from the Department of Agriculture. Several visits to farms and farming organizations are arranged for student groups.

• Farm Practice

Students are allocated in rotation to each of the various farm sections, where they participate in routine and seasonal operations. This practical work is supplemented by the comprehensive programme of demonstrations of farm operations.

Proficiency tests are conducted for specific selected skills, with the emphasis on correct procedure and understanding rather than speed.

• Farm Constructions

The workshop operations necessary for bench, sheet metal, lathe and forge work, and particularly oxy-acetylene and electric welding, are taught as the necessary basic skills for building.

This work is covered in conjunction with the various planning procedures, site preparation, construction and maintenance of farm buildings.

• Motors and Machines

Principles of operation and maintenance of the piston-type internal combustion engine, and a motor vehicle's system, form the basis of the 'motors' part of the course. Other engines are also dealt with.

The 'machines' segment covers the agricultural tractor and the machinery used for cultivation, sowing, harvesting, earth-moving and specific purposes like shearing, pumping and milking. Principles of operation, routine care, maintenance, adjustment and repairs are covered.

Farm Constructions and Motors and Machines involve practical workshop activity and related theory work. Arrangements are made for experts in their fields to visit the schools and for students to visit relevant organizations.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Daily Programme

The school programme varies slightly between schools, but the following general outline applies to all schools.

Students spend half of each week on classroom work. The other half is divided evenly between the farm sections and the manual arts centre. A period of supervised sport is a part of the student's daily programme.

The evening programme during the week involves 'prep' from 7.00 to 8.30 p.m. After 'prep' the students may continue their studies or make use of the television and other recreational facilities.

During week-ends, students are encouraged to participate in a large number of school and community activities.