

# FARM TRADER



TEST: Manitou MLT-840



TEST: Fencepro Ultra G3



TEST: Farm King grader blade

**+ FARM  
MAINTENANCE  
+ FIELD DAY  
PREVIEWS**

## SPREAD

# THE LOAD

### SHELBOURNE POWERSPREAD PRO



# Northland Field Days

**E**xhibitors at the 2015 Northland Field Days are offering a wide range of new vehicles, tools and information.

Northland Field Days event coordinator Meagan Edmonds says exhibitors rushed to book a spot in this year's event, with over 90 percent of available sites booked before the end of January.

"Many of the people coming promised new devices never seen before right around New Zealand," says Edmonds.

"Companies have also made plans to bring their biggest, brightest and latest machinery and products to the event, with many companies talking about launching new inventions for the very first time."

Fast growing farm machinery company Mahindra will use the Northland Field Days to launch three new vehicles, the Mahindra mForce 100p, the company's first 100hp tractor in New Zealand and a new 20hp tractor.

Cervus Northland manager Tim Ormond says John Deere also has plans for the event, which he hopes will be the launching spot of a completely new transmission system.

Exhibitors will also be attempting to let visitors get hands on with implements, with several companies hoping to run live demonstrations.

Early interest has also been strong in Northland Field Days five scholarships.

The committee made up to five scholarships worth \$2000 available to agricultural students from Northland for the



first time last year, with a number of high quality entries coming in this year.

A similar number of good quality entrants are expected this year. Everybody who's called in seems really excited by the prospect of these grants," says Edmonds.

Continuing the education theme, a select group of Northland secondary school students will be able to get a hands on experience of the infrastructure, quarrying, forestry and agriculture industries at the Northland Field Days this year, according to Youth Into Industry representatives.

Thirty-two high schools students from the Kaipara, Whangarei, lower-Far North and Rodney Districts will learn the ins and outs of operating diggers, trucks and construction equipment as part of a drive to increase the awareness of the professional career paths offered within these industries.

Alistair McIntyre, author of the famous children's book *Doug the Digger* and founder of the Youth into Industry initiative, says he wanted to give Northland school leavers a look into potential career options. "Students are given an opportunity to work alongside industry representatives in a safe, supportive worksite environment to gain knowledge that helps them make informed decisions on their future careers and what they need to do to achieve their personal goals."

The event will be held on the Kaipara Vintage Machinery Club site at the Northland Field Days on Thursday 26 February, with Alistair calling it a truly collaborative experience for everyone involved.

Students will learn lessons in eight categories including Health and Safety compliance, workplace safety awareness,



# FIELD DAYS PREVIEW



# Careers Day at Northland Field Days

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The event will be held on the Kaipara Vintage Machinery Club site at the Northland Field Days on Thursday 26 February, with McIntyre calling it a truly collaborative experience for everyone involved.

He floated the idea with the Kaipara Vintage Machinery Club at the end of the 2014 Field Days, at a wrap-up barbeque, where it was strongly welcomed by all members.

McIntyre and the club patron Bruce Galloway then approached the Northland Field Days committee about the potential of hosting a careers open day at their 2015 event, quoting a similar careers day held at Auckland's MOTAT (Museum Of Transport and Technology) in 2014, which McIntyre says was extremely successful. "Thirty-one eager students turned up who were so keen they ignored several rain showers to carry on with activities."

Northland Field Days' president, Lew Duggan says the committee jumped in almost immediately, as it felt the day would be an excellent way to get Northland's youth involved in some of the region's fastest growing industries. "We offer Northland's

youth scholarships to study agriculture, therefore the Youth Into Industry initiative was a perfect fit for us," he says. "We are really looking forward to seeing some of the area's brightest students at the Northland Field Days learning about New Zealand's most exciting and essential industries."

The Kaipara Vintage Machinery Club won't only offer space but club members will assist as tutors as well as being involved in various other supportive roles.

Students will learn lessons in eight categories including health and safety compliance; workplace safety awareness; weights and measures; vehicle safety compliances; as well as operating mini excavators, and small plant and equipment.

McIntyre says each category consists of two activities with industry representatives sharing their knowledge about their specific areas of expertise and helping students complete associated paperwork. ■

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