



Fieldays^{NZ}

STRATEGIC PARTNERS



MEDIA RELEASE

28 May 2014 - For immediate release

[STARTS]

Fieldays announces 2014 Rural Bachelor of the Year finalists

The battle of the bachelors is back!

Organisers of New Zealand National Agricultural Fieldays are pleased to announce the finalists who will compete for the prestigious title of Fieldays Rural Bachelor of the Year 2014.

The competition takes place at Fieldays, 11-14 June, however the action kicks off on Monday 9 June when the bachelor finalists set off on an 'Amazing Race' to Fieldays from a mystery location, completing several rural activities and tasks en-route.

The fun and games get serious at Fieldays when the eight rural guys battle it out to win the glory, the title, a huge prize pool worth \$23,000, and more importantly - the coveted Golden Gumboot Award. During Fieldays the finalists will compete in heats that are held over four days which test their agriculturally derived skills, No.8 wire innovative attitude and all-round good charisma.

Vicki Annison, Communications Executive at Fieldays says, "This really is the opportunity of a lifetime for these good rural blokes, who not only get to enjoy an all-expenses paid trip to Fieldays, but, with all eyes on the guys, will receive a lot of female attention at Fieldays!

"I'm sure we will see a great contest as they compete and showcase their skills, strength and character, as they try and prove they have what it takes to win the title of Fieldays 2014 Rural Bachelor of the Year," adds Mrs Annison.

This year's international line-up includes just one Aussie who will be up against seven of New Zealand's best rural guys.

FIELDAYS RURAL BACHELOR OF THE YEAR 2014 FINALISTS:



Brett Steeghs, Tirau NZ (25yrs)

This test engineer with a background in agricultural engineering has just made a long awaited move into dairy farming and is looking forward to an enjoyable and productive work-life balance as he pursues his plans for farm ownership.

Brett says his agricultural talents not only include practical skills such as machinery operation, but the ability to spend a large amount of time discussing the current, future and past weather situations in depth with others from the agricultural sector!

A member of Piarere Young Farmers Club, Brett says he's up for some challenges and is happy to give most things a crack. He enjoys a bit of banter so make sure you get down to see this guy during Fieldays!



Fraser Laird, Wanganui NZ (26yrs)

Fraser is no stranger to putting his rural skills to the test. Earlier this year the stock manager took part in the Taranaki Manawatu Young Farmer of the Year Regional Finals.

When he's not busy working on sheep, beef, cropping or velvet farms, Fraser has a strong involvement in the Central Region Deer Farmers Committee, Toast Masters, Wanganui Marist FC soccer team and is Chair of the Wanganui Young Farmers Club. It's surprising to hear that Fraser still has time to enjoy his other passions, including travel and music; but this guy says life is to be lived not wasted.

Fraser says the Rural Bachelor competition really appealed to him, "It looks like a heap of fun and gets me out of my comfort zone and pushes my boundaries which really appeals to me, also I was peer pressured into it by my Young Farmers Club and I folded!"



Jeff Peek, Morrinsville NZ (30yrs)

With a Diploma in Civil Engineering and several years spent in that industry and as an Ag Contractor, Jeff is now getting back to his dairy farm roots with his first year as a Farm Manager. It's been a massive year of learning for him but he says it's the right choice and he is now making big plans for the future. This includes finding that someone special that can be by his side to share the highs, lows and joys that a hard working life brings.

After a busy day on the farm, Jeff still has energy for after work activities and will regularly head out for a run, rugby training or socialising in the pub!

This Waikato guy says he's a good kiwi bloke who loves to laugh, have a good time and challenge himself. He reckons all those will be put to the test with the Rural Bachelor competition, plus he's keen to meet a new girl and is up for the free advertising!



Jimmy Bentham, Te Aroha NZ (28yrs)

This Dairy Farm Manager has a Bachelor of Civil Engineering with honours under his belt, is a member of Ngarua Young Farmers Club, and has managed to fit in time to crew in several Auckland yacht races.

A typical day for Jimmy involves an early start to milk the cows, back inside for breakfast and catching up on any paperwork and meetings, feeding the cows, farm maintenance, afternoon milking and general work on farm projects.

Jimmy is a well-rounded, well-travelled bloke who says he's serious about farming and committed to improving the New Zealand agricultural industry. He also reckons he can rock a pair of gumboots and show a girl a good time!



Josh Gilbert, NSW Aus (22yrs)

Hailing from Nabitac, New South Wales, Josh is our one and only Australian entrant. The energetic Aussie-farming bachelor is looking to showcase the best of Australian agriculture at Fieldays while fitting in time to look for a partner!

Currently the NSW Young Farmers' State Chair, Josh's passion for agriculture allows him to participate in many other activities including: University of Newcastle Law Students Association, Future Farmers Network and the Royal Agricultural Society.

The Law student and Commerce graduate helps manage and run the family cattle farm where he says no day is the same.

Besides finding a partner at Fieldays, his other ambition is to own Australia's largest privately owned mixed farming enterprise by the age of 40.



Matthew Smith, Patetonga NZ (22yrs)

Matthew is 2IC on a Morrinsville dairy farm where he enjoys days full of milking and farming chores. He is keen to become a lower order sharemilker in the future and believes that it's about time the Fieldays Rural Bachelor of the Year was won by someone bought up in town who can show the farm boys that it IS as easy as it looks!

Matthew is obviously up for the challenge, but come along to Fieldays to offer this Hauraki Young Farmers club member your support!



Michael Paton, Norsewood NZ (26yrs)

Our entrant from the Hawkes Bay region is an Ag Machinery Operations manager and 2IC Dairy Farm Hand who says he enjoys a good laugh and is up for any challenge that's thrown at him!

Michael's typical day doesn't exist as his job is very seasonal and changes considerably month to month. However the Norsewood Ashley Clinton Young Farmers member regularly milks, feeds out, moves stock, and undertakes daily repair and maintenance jobs both on the farm and in the workshop.

His future ambitions are to own and operate his own ag contracting business and of course to meet and settle down with a nice, down to earth country girl!



Thomas Denham, Harihari NZ (29yrs)

The only finalist from the South Island, farm worker Thomas says he is up for the challenge of the Rural Bachelor competition as he enjoys pushing himself in everything he does.

After six years military service, including three overseas tours, and four years spent in Canada, a move back to the West Coast family farm where he was brought up sees him helping his sister and brother in law and realising his interest in farming once again.

Thomas is working towards a Diploma in Production Management through Primary ITO and aims to manage his own farm in the next three years. A love of the outdoors sees him partaking in Southwestland rugby club, Bow Hunters and Alpine Club.

At Fieldays, 11-14 June:

From Wednesday to Friday there will be four heats a day with the winner announced at the official prize giving on the Village Green on Saturday at 12 noon. Refer to the Fieldays Mobile App to see the timetable and check out where you can see the guys in action.

For Fieldays tickets, more event information and further updates, head to www.fieldays.co.nz.

Bachelor prizes:

First place (valued at \$23k)

- Suzuki KingQuad bike
- ATV Safety Guard
- Swannndri voucher (\$2,000)
- STIHL voucher (\$2,000)
- Skellerup voucher \$1,000)

Second place

- Swannndri voucher (\$1,000)
- Skellerup voucher (500)
- STIHL voucher (\$500)

Fieldays Rural Bachelor of the Year is proudly supported by: Suzuki, Swannndri, Skellerup, Gun City, Kea Campers, Westfield Chartwell, STIHL, Lifeguard, and Fairbrother Industries.

[ENDS]

INFORMATION:

Fieldays 11-14 June 2014 www.fieldays.co.nz

The New Zealand National Fieldays® Society is a charitable organisation founded in 1968 for the purpose of advancing primary industry.

NZ National Fieldays will be held 11-14 June 2014 at Mystery Creek Events Centre. Located just ten minutes from Hamilton, Mystery Creek Event Centre's purpose built facility is the ideal venue for the largest agricultural expo in the Southern Hemisphere.

The event is proudly supported by strategic partners - ANZ and the University of Waikato.

For further comment or images please contact:

Vicki Anison, Communications Executive, New Zealand National Agricultural Fieldays

Phone: 07 843 4497

Mobile: 027 434 3651

Email: vickia@fieldays.co.nz