

Rangiora High School Farm – A Brief History

- 1910 Mr Cresswell of RHS suggests leasing land for agriculture course practical experiments and the school Board arranged for half an acre at 25 shillings opposite the school.
- 1912 The school Board purchased an acre from Mr Pollock and received support from locals with seed, donations and fertilizer.
- 1916 RHS leased a further six acres on East Belt and the following year established a farm committee.
- 1926 RHS leased a further fourteen acres on East Belt, five of which formed sports fields and the rest was farmed.
- 1930 With a Government subsidy of three thousand pounds and an equal amount of community raised funds, the school purchased 38 acres from Mr W R Young for 2,370 pounds and 45 acres from Mr R H Watkin for 3,158 pounds. This larger farm was officially opened by the Governor-General on 28 November 1930.
- 1937 Due to down turn in farming, the Education Department lent 485 pound to assist the school and the Mortgage Corporation of NZ suspended payment for the 1936 year. It was not until 1954 that the farm was able to pay off the mortgage and become debt free.
- 1947 A farm manager's house was built with a Government subsidy of 2,000 pounds.
- 1950 Government grant to purchase tractor and further assistance to fund the manager's wages.
- 1956 Government granted the school a loan of 2,500 pounds to build a house on Woodend Road.
- 1959 A shift in focus to having the farm used more specifically for agriculture education rather than have students work on the farm.
- 1967 Ongoing staffing issues and financial pressure resulted in decisions to stop pig production and that the school do not renew the lease on the Ashley property when it ran out in 1969 and to cease using the lease land at Loburn immediately. This resulted in RHS no longer being involved in dairy farming.

The farm was established in 1930 and the board had the view it was to perform two major functions:

- To give practical experience to pupils taking the agriculture course
- To supplement the theoretical teaching of the agriculture instructors

“While it was intended the farm be a viable economic unit, the education aims were to prevail if there was a conflict”.

Source: “Rangiora High School 1884-1984: A Centennial History” David Gunby