

Co-op scheme

Co-operative Farms lead the way with a national apprenticeship scheme

THE FUTURE OF FARMING

CO-OPERATIVE FARMS is launching a national agricultural apprenticeship scheme on six farms across England and Scotland.

The scheme is aimed at 17-19 year olds, and has been designed to help Co-operative Farms find and train the farming talent of the future.

And as no previous agricultural experience is required, it is a good way to get new entrants into the industry too.

Eight apprenticeships have been established and once on the scheme, students will get the chance to complete an agricultural NVQ up to level three at Reaseheath College in Cheshire.

In addition to their skills training, the apprentices will also benefit from a mentoring programme with existing staff.

Christine Tacon, managing director of The Co-operative Farms, said this

experience is immeasurable: "We've always attracted a very high calibre of employee, so there is an established wealth of knowledge that people working on our farms can pass onto the people who will step into their shoes.

"The mentoring aspect of the scheme is important, as there is more to farming than understanding technology and production. Talking to people who have farmed a specific area for a long time is often the quickest route to finding the best course of action."

Natalie Gascoyne, course manager for The Co-operative Farms' apprenticeship course at Reaseheath College, said: "We have been very impressed with the

commitment to training shown by The Co-operative Farms, and the importance they have placed on using the skilled staff already working on their farms as mentors for these new apprentices."

For more information visit:
www.co-operative.coop/farms/careers