

Ardmore School

Agricultural Day

Saturday 24th September 2011



Want to know what animal you should take to this years Agricultural Day?

Look no further. All you need to know about choosing an animal and looking after it.

All children are expected to participate in at least one agricultural activity for the day. All information relating to Ag Day will be posted on the school website.

More information to follow.



Ag Day Entries 2011

Agricultural Day is an important feature of our school year here at Ardmore School. Children are given the opportunity to be involved in the care and upbringing of a pet and/ or the care and nurturing of a garden. We would encourage all students to take part in the Agricultural activities of the day.

You may be thinking about letting your child enter into one of this year's categories for Agricultural Day on **Saturday 24 September 2011**. The following information is provided so that you have some background information before making your decision.

Entry forms will be available at the end of Term 2.

Children can only enter **one animal** i.e. calf, goat or kid, lamb, dog or small animal and also a mini garden or decorated gumboot garden if they wish.

This year the school has decided to commence the Animal Judging at 9am whereby all Ardmore School students will partake as either a participant or spectator. Those students not participating will be guided by their Teachers to watch and support their fellow students, showing their animals and gardens. Once the animal and garden judging has concluded the Gala Activities will commence at **10.30am**.

Programme Changes

9am - 9.15am	Assembly / Roll Call
9am - 10.30am	Animal and Garden Judging & Prizegiving (weather permitting for prizegiving)
10.30am - 2.30pm	Gala Activities and Stalls

Lamb Creche

Children will be able to care for their lambs during lunchtime. Facilities for storing milk and heating bottles will be available. Children will be required to bring their lambs milk to school in a labeled bottle, and all lambs will need to have collars.

If you are interested in taking up this unique opportunity, and are available to help in the lamb crèche please contact:

Leanne Wise ph: 021 720 800



Dogs



Judging Criteria:

- Leading
- Grooming / Care

Only family dogs over the age of 6 months may be entered. i.e. no dogs belonging to neighbours, grandparents, etc. Students should be actively involved in the care of their dog.

Pedigree and non-pedigree dogs will be judged in the same category. Please consider your pets temperament and size in relation to the age of the handler as smaller children can find it upsetting and frustrating if the dog is too strong or has not been socialised well with other animals.

As there will be a number of other animals present on Ag Day such as lambs, goats and calves, as well as a large number of children present, we ask that you carefully consider whether your dog will be able to handle the environment and situation it will be presented with.


Dogs also need to be up to date with their vaccination. We will request a copy of their vaccination card with each entry.

Small Animals



Judging Criteria:

- Most Obvious Pet
- Grooming / Care

Any animal can be entered, e.g. birds, cats, rabbits, mice etc. 

All animals must be in a suitable cage (large enough to provide comfort for your pet) and have food and drinking water provided throughout the day.


This year there will be additional housing for the small animals given the large number of entries we receive each year. Animals will be strategically placed to ensure the stress levels are minimised.

Chickens



Keeping chickens is an excellent hobby for children, teaching them responsibility through feeding and general care, and also about food production and biology. So why not bring along a chicken for Ag Day this year!

Keeping a few hens in your garden doesn't have to be complicated. Chickens and bantams are not time-consuming to look after, however they do appreciate a routine and like to be let out and fed at regular times.

More information on caring for chickens will be available at the end of Term 2. 

Calves



Judging Criteria:

- Leading
- Grooming
- Rearing
- Dairy type—set aspects of Dairy Breeds leading to milk production or
- Beef type—growth for Beef breed.

NB: Calves must not be clipped or have

Tips for Raising Calves:

Selecting your Animal:

Select an animal appropriate to the size, experience and age of your child. For small children, a Jersey calf is small and easy to lead, a Guernsey calf is bigger but gentle to handle.

Calves need to be born between **1st June and 31st August 2011** for our Agricultural Day. If you are planning to take your calf to group day, the calves need to be born after the **1st July 2011**. Group day will be held at a later date after our Ag Day.

Ear tags for Calves:

New health and TB regulations require calves to be ear tagged from one month old. This means you will need to arrange with your farmer that appropriate tags are supplied and attached prior to Ag Day. All bulls must be ringed.

Shelter:

Young calves need to be covered and, for the first 6 weeks, housed at night, have plenty of grass, water and a reasonably large area to move in.

Feeding:

There is no substitute for fresh cow's milk and all pets need the initial colostrum mother's milk. However, powdered formula milk is available from dairy companies and farming outlets such as Profarm and Clevedon Rural Supplies. It is expensive and the average calf will need about two bags. So, avoid wastage! Add the odd beaten egg for extra nutritional value if desired.

For the first week, a calf will drink about 2/3 of a large beer bottle/wine bottle. Usually a calf teat (bought from one of the outlets mentioned) will fit nicely into these bottles. Some calves take time to start drinking. **Never force feed** the animal. If it doesn't want it at feed time, try again later!

Feed calves twice daily at approximately 8am and 4pm.

Goats



Judging Criteria:

- Leading and Calling
- Rearing
- Most Obvious Pet

NB: Kid goats must not have their coat clipped or cut.

Tips for Raising Goats:

A kid can be easily raised on a small town section. You will need to ensure they are either tethered on a lead or alternatively well fenced as goats do like to jump and climb. If you have roaming dogs in your area, it is advisable to have a secure area for your pet at night.

You will need:

- A small soft drink bottle which must be kept clean
- A lamb's teat
- A bag of lamb or kid milk powder (Follow directions very carefully and feed 'a little, often')
- A small collar and lead

Most of the above items are available from farming outlets such as Profarm and Clevedon Rural Supplies.

Shelter:

If your child decides to have a kid goat, the first thing you need is a small fenced area and a roomy, waterproof wooden box. Goats typically do not like to get wet and will need some shelter from the elements

Feeding:

It is preferable for goats to receive the initial colostrum from their mothers milk. Milk powder can be purchased from farming outlets.

Categories for Judging—Mini Garden/Gumboot Garden

This year there will be a new category for gardens that students can enter. Students will also have the option of entering a mini garden grown from seedlings in either the wooden container purchased from school or in a decorated gumboot . The two categories are:

Edible (vegetables / herbs)

Non- Edible (flowers / natives)

You can purchase a container kit-set (as pictured below) from the School Office for \$10 per kit or preferably re-use last years wooden kitset. Small bags of potting mix will be available during the last week of this term. Gumboot gardens will have the same categories as the wooden gardens.

The gardens should be planted from seedlings (no seeds) in time for Ag Day, preferably during the holidays. Students can submit photos to accompany their diary and garden for judging if they wish. There is to be only one garden per child. More detailed information will be sent home with entry forms.



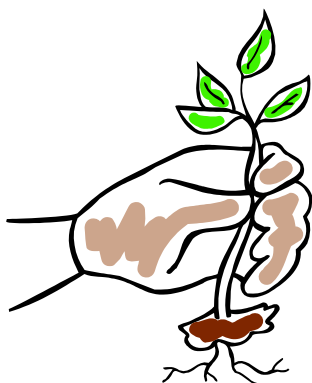
Miniature Garden/Gumboot Garden Criteria:

Decoration of Gumboot.

Grown in a wooden container or decorated Gumboot.

Grown from seedling.

Diary to be submitted with the garden detailing activities undertaken to care for your garden. (which may include photos)



Lambs

Judging Criteria:

- Leading
- Rearing
- Calling
- Most Obvious Pet



If your child decides to have a lamb, the first thing you need is a small fenced area and a roomy, waterproof wooden box. A lamb can be easily raised on a small town section. If you have roaming dogs in your area, it is advisable to have a secure area for your pet at night. If you do not have space or appropriate fencing to house a lamb after Ag Day, many farmers are happy to loan lambs, which are to be returned after Ag Day.

You will need:

- A small soft drink bottle which must be kept clean
- A lamb's teat

A bag of lamb or kid milk powder (Follow directions very carefully and feed 'a little, often')

A small collar and lead

Most of the above items are available from farming outlets as previously mentioned.

You may need to put your name down on a waiting list now, for lambs born from now until late July.

NB: Remember the "Lamb Crèche" (dependent on parent help)

Lambs must not be shampooed (it removes the lanolin from the wool and leaves them susceptible to pneumonia in the first rainfall).

It is important to remember that animals identify most closely with whoever feeds them, so parents should only take over feeds when children are unable to do so. When selecting a pet for Agricultural Day, it is wise to take into account the age and size of your child, and the suitability of the animal.

Looking to acquire Animals?

Lambs/Goats

David Arvidson—Ph: 296-0597

Barry Jones—Ph 292-7800