



Media release

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Ballance scholarships up for grabs

Budding agricultural enthusiasts could have the opportunity to study for free as Ballance offers up to four more scholarships valued at \$4,000 a year to immediate family members of any Ballance shareholder or company employee.

Interested parties have until close of business on Friday 30 October to apply for the scholarship, which is aimed at encouraging people to enter the agricultural industry.

Ballance General Manager Sales and Marketing, Graeme Smith, says the scholarship scheme is an excellent rural community initiative.

'The co-operative recognises that the continued success of New Zealand's agricultural industry is dependent upon the quality of people it attracts. Increasing reliance on science and technology to assist farmers to maximise their businesses means that quality tertiary education plays an even greater role in the industry than in the past.

'The Ballance Scholarship programme offers up-and-coming agricultural recruits the chance to take advantage of the training on offer in this country.'

Since the scholarship programme began in 2002, 44 scholarships worth up to \$12,000 each have been awarded, and the company has employed two previous scholarship winners as full-time staff, as well as several others on temporary contract basis.

Each scholarship can be held for a maximum of three years. The awards are made to subsidise study at tertiary level in either the general primary industry field or in engineering. For more details or to apply visit www.ballance.co.nz

Winners will be notified in early December 2009 and results will be announced in early January 2010.