



Rabobank

**Media Release
April 10, 2013**

Last call for applications for leading farm business management program

Applications close at the end of this month for this year's Rabobank Farm Managers Program, Australasia's leading agricultural business management course for the next generation of farm leaders.

Now in its eighth year, the prestigious Rabobank program offers young farmers from across Australia and New Zealand, and a range of agricultural sectors, the opportunity to develop and enhance their business management skills.

Rabobank business programs manager Nerida Sweetapple says the Farm Managers Program is constantly evolving to reflect the changing challenges and opportunities in agriculture.

"We make adjustments each year to the program content to reflect feedback from participants and our own research," Ms Sweetapple says.

"The recently-added Attitudinal Health sessions have been very valuable. It is important for farm managers of the future to be healthy – both physically and mentally – so they can properly run their businesses."

Delivered in one week-long residential module, the program covers the latest practices in business management, leadership, planning, finance, and communication and how these can be applied directly to participants' farm businesses.

Only a limited selection of high-calibre applicants are accepted for each year's intake, selected from a group of leading farmers from a range of commodities and geographical locations in Australia and New Zealand.

Ms Sweetapple says many past participants credit the Farm Managers Program with giving them the tools and inspiration to develop their farm career and take their plans to the next level.

"Participants take away many new skills and techniques from the program. They are also guided to develop a commercially-driven perspective on farm management and the ability to put systems and structures in place to manage growth. Participants also gain clarity and confidence from the course and the exchange of information between their fellow participants," she says.

Applications for the 2013 Rabobank Farm Managers Program are open until 26 April. This year's program will be held at the Grange Cleveland Winery, Lancefield, Victoria from Monday 17 to Friday 21 June, 2013.



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Primary producers interested in further information on the program or an application form can contact Nerida Sweetapple on 02 8115 4139 or visit www.rabobank.com.au/bmp.

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Rabobank Australia & New Zealand is a part of the international Rabobank Group, the world's leading specialist in food and agribusiness banking. Rabobank has more than 110 years' experience providing customised banking and finance solutions to businesses involved in all aspects of food and agribusiness. Rabobank is structured as a cooperative and operates in 47 countries, servicing the needs of approximately 10 million clients worldwide through a network of more than 1600 offices and branches. Rabobank Australia & New Zealand is one of Australasia's leading rural lenders and a significant provider of business and corporate banking and financial services to the region's food and agribusiness sector. The bank has 93 branches throughout Australia and New Zealand.

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