

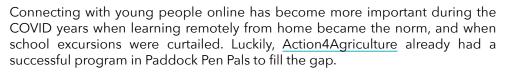
ACTION4YOUTH CASE-STUDY: EXPLORE PHASE - PADDOCK PEN PALS



The <u>Action4Youth</u> Explore phase introduces young people to role models within agriculture and shows them You Can BE, Who You Can SEE.

At the pinnacle of role model advocacy are the <u>Young Farming Champions</u> (YFC) who connect with young people both in-person and online.

Two great examples of in-person connection are when YFC go into schools (such as at <u>Lake Illawarra High School</u> when four YFC recently spoke to students about their agricultural experiences) and when YFC invite students to their workplaces (such when Tayla Field took students from Hurlstone Agricultural College to a salad packing plant).



In 2018, as part of her participation in <u>The Archibull Prize</u>, YFC Emma Ayliffe <u>beamed</u> into Parramatta Public School from a paddock of cotton stubble. Emma's live cross from the real-world of agriculture showed students how technology is used in the field and how data collected can be instantly uploaded. The paddock of stubble allowed Emma to 'trash' talk and explain the concept of crop rotation to 90 avid watchers.



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TAYLA FIELD CASE STUDY (CLICK TO DOWNLOAD)

EMMA AYLIFFE CASE STUDY (CLICK TO DOWNLOAD)



EXPLORE PHASE - PADDOCK PEN PALS

Emma's innovative way of connecting with students led to the formation, in association with Australian Wool Innovation, of the Paddock Pen Pals program in 2019. The program was <u>launched</u> at Carlingford West Public School where 300 Year 6 students gained insights into sheep and the wool supply chain from YFC Danila Marini, Dione Howard, Sam Wan and Chloe Dutschke.

Many of my students have little time outside and have never visited a farm," teacher Zoe Stephens said. "In order to make their learning relevant, I wanted to connect them to real farmers to share what they have learnt and see what real farms are actually doing in Australia. Every farmer brought a unique perspective to our students and opened windows into the world of agriculture that they had never experienced."

Paddock Pen Pals has gone on to be a successful partner to primary and secondary schools with the use of online audio and web conferencing programs particularly relevant in the COVID years.

Zoe Stephens now delivers teaching and learning programs for the <u>City</u> <u>Country Alliance of Schools</u> and has recommended Paddock Pen Pals to 60 new schools. She has written a Paddock Pen Pals Best Practice manual for teachers just as YFC Emily May has written a manual for fellow Young Farming Champions.

Paddock Pen Pals has also inspired spin-off events such as a virtual <u>Ag-Week</u> <u>conference</u> facilitated by the Centre of Excellence in Agricultural Education, which included presentations from 22 young people working in agriculture.

YFC Dr Danila Marini spoke about research and technology for animal welfare, Dr Jo Newton spoke about the future of dairy farming and Emily May gave insights into peri-urban agriculture.

The legacy of Paddock Pen Pals is its ability to be replicated as was shown in 2022 when farm blogger Alison Rutledge encouraged her daughters - Kaitlyn (KT) and Erin - to create a video showing life on their farm with their 3000 sheep, 200 cows, 13 chooks and working dogs. The video was published online and shared with Zoe's City Country Alliance community.

Paddock Pen Pals continues in schools participating in The Archibull Prize and <u>Kreative Koalas</u> and YFC <u>Emily May</u> recently spoke about the project on ABC radio.

I am really passionate about this program, which connects school students in urban areas with upcoming young rural leaders, allowing them to learn about the wonderful world of agriculture."



BOOK YOUR PADDOCK PEN PALS SESSION HERE.