

# Future Feeders

growing young farmers from the ground up



Agriculture is an ageing and undervalued profession for which there is a declining interest among young people.

The median age of farmers is now 53 years and aging. With less than 1% of our population engaged in farming and a population that is set to double in the next 50 years, there is one question hanging over our communities:

## Who will feed a growing Australia and how?



As key stakeholders of the future, we the youth must be proactive and involved in order to tackle this issue.

Future Feeders is an initiative providing young people with opportunities for mentorship in small scale farm management and agricultural skills development.

It aims to provide a supporting bridge for young people eager to move into careers in sustainable food production, with an emphasis on local food security.

Our task is not an easy one, but it is necessary.

The time is right for evolutionary ideas within the food movement. Globally channels are opening for young people to take responsibility for the future of their food and we now have momentum and positive examples of productive and collaborative community supported agricultural projects to follow.

Our region's rich soils, rainfall and access to infrastructure provides us with huge potential to act as a significant food production hub for the larger populations of our urban neighbors in both Brisbane and the Gold Coast. More importantly we can secure our own communities local food resilience from an imminent regional population explosion.

The next generation of 'feeders' will do things drastically differently and can be confident that given the right opportunities, that this project has potential beyond our region to provide an example of innovative change in food production systems.

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Future Feeders is a platform rather than a total solution. Its aim is to gather young people committed to feeding our community to be participating owner/members of a food production co-operative.

**Together we can foster an enterprise which acknowledges the power of the collective unity and ideas of the next generation of food producers.**

Some primary objectives of Future Feeders are:

To ensure consumers and farmers can work together on behalf of the Earth and each other.

We must all take responsibility for the sustainability of our productive farmlands and agro-ecosystems.



To develop a profit share model of small scale agriculture so that together we can combat the pivotal issues of access to capital and productive land for farming.

Profit sharing provides additional incentives for participation beyond the normalised employee/employer relationship and provides all members with opportunities to gain experience at all levels of the enterprise.

To use long term land agreements under the "Landshare" model.

The use of small pieces of land at multiple locations provides a range of advantages to both land providers and land users.

Development of a local CSA systems encourages community participation

and establishes a community approach to the access of sustainable food and land.

Co-operative farm management provides many advantages including access to a shared labor pool, market access, equipment and resources, buying power and distribution efficiency.

**Certainly the most difficult hurdle is getting the initial support for this project.**



Your endorsement and participation ensures that we can cultivate young farmers and nourishing them with experience and support.

I encourage you to contact Future Feeders for any additional information or details of how you can support, sponsor or partner this program.

We look forward to hearing from you.

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