

Attracting university students to the meat industry

A project at Charles Sturt University
Wagga Wagga Campus





Meat safety and QA training for Undergraduates

The propositions:

- The processing sector will be looking for university graduates into the future to manage food safety, quality assurance and the supply chain.
- 2. If we expose undergraduates to the career opportunities at processing plants then they are more likely to seek employment in the industry.
- 3. The university would be keen to participate.



The target students

- 1. Undergraduates or recent graduates
- Agricultural, veterinary and animal science students
- 3. Second –fourth year students
- 4. Regional and rural background





Participating students

- Sixty students attended the information day
- Fifteen students selected
- First to fourth year students, one post grad student
- Ag, animal and veterinary (2) science students
- 13 females 2 males





Course Partners

- CSU organized interaction with the students and give course credits on the basis of completion of the Cert III and IV
- Verto was the RTO for this course
- Participating abattoirs included Teys Wagga Wagga, Gundagai Meat Processors, Cowra Abattoir, Oberon Abattoir



Course Structure

Certificate III in Meat processing (Meat safety)

- Five days intensive on core and anatomy and knife sharpening
- Approximately 120 hours on the floor with an onplant mentor and RTO oversight
- Other content delivered by distance education





Course Structure

Certificate IV in Meat Processing (Meat safety)

- Delivererd by distance education
- Units QA focused

Plus.....

Opportunities for practical experience back at their participating abattoir to "do" another species.



Results to date

- 14 of the 15 students still in the program
- 2 graduates in employment
- 1 job offer on graduation
- 12 have finished their Cert III and 2 their Cert IV





What have we learned

- Students are keen
- Knife sharpening is critical
- Plants were cooperative and have identified individuals they are likely to seek to employ
- Gender is no barrier and the CSU students broke down barriers in some plants
- Work experience has to be heavily supported and investment in mentoring is critical and expensive



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