

Emyr Owen – Scholarship Report

I applied for a scholarship in May 2006 so I could gain an insight in to how farmers who produce the same product as us on the other side of the world can sell it in the UK for the same price. That's why I travelled to New Zealand for my study.

The help and contacts I got before I went were very helpful, but the welcome I got off all the people I visited in New Zealand was unbelievable, I made friends for life when I was there. I got an insight into their method of farming and learnt a lot about cutting costs and knowing the cost of production. I thought we had cut our cost to a minimum but we hadn't really started. We are now keeping our own replacements and only keep ewe lambs out of the twin bearing ewes that are born by themselves with no assistance required.

The farm now carries no passengers, if ewes are not rearing lambs they are not given a second chance and any ewes that loose a lot of condition in winter are not kept the following season. I also learnt a lot about worm counts and resistance to drench. We have learnt we also have a problem on our farm and have faced it head on and now we have it under control.

Although these are only small changes I hope they will make a big difference in the way we run our farm and business. My trip to New Zealand was a life changing experience that I thoroughly enjoyed and will never forget, and without the HCC scholarship I would never got the chance to see and experience what I did. I would urge anybody with an interest in livestock and farming to apply for a scholarship to study agriculture and learn new and different ways and gain an unforgettable experience and make new friends.