



Kids to Farms



Agriculture in Tasmania

Why teach Food and Fibre Production?

Agriculture plays a vital role in Tasmania, contributing to our social, economic, and environmental sustainability. Agriculture utilises new technology, employs thousands of people and keeps many rural communities alive. Tasmania produces quality fresh food that Tasmanian families and those across the country and the world enjoy.

Teaching food and fibre can seem overwhelming when you are not an expert in the area. Rest assured you do not need to be! Many of the units available are designed in such a way that you, as the teacher are a co-learner, provided with teacher notes, plus readily available resources that are mainly web-based. Most importantly, you will find that you learn and make genuine discoveries with your students. If you would like some further training Primezone academy has a great little [course](#).

In Tasmania, Agricultural education is underpinned by the [Tasmanian Agricultural Education Framework](#) You may find the planning guides useful to show where food and fibre sits within the curriculum - [Food and Fibre planning guides](#).

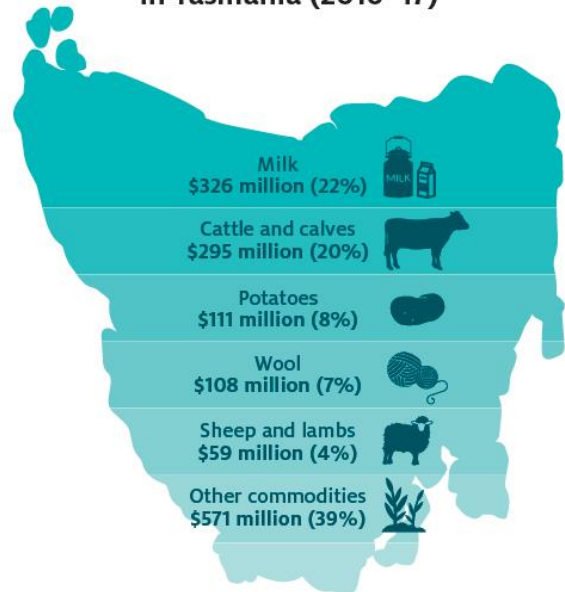
What's produced in Tasmania?

Around 28% of Tasmania's land is devoted to Agriculture, with most of this in the north, east and midlands areas of Tasmania. 7% of Tasmanian's workforce, work in Agriculture.

<https://www.agriculture.gov.au/abares/research-topics/aboutmyregion/tas#regional-overview>

The most important commodities produced in Tas, based on their gross value are Milk; Cattle and calves; Potatoes; and Wool. Sheep and Lambs; and other Vegetables are also notable commodities.

Value of agricultural production in Tasmania (2016-17)



Source: ABARES, Data from Australian Bureau of Statistics: Value of Agricultural Commodities Produced, Australia, 2016-17 (cat. no. 7503.0)

Forestry

Forestry employs 1.2% of Tasmania's workforce. (2016)

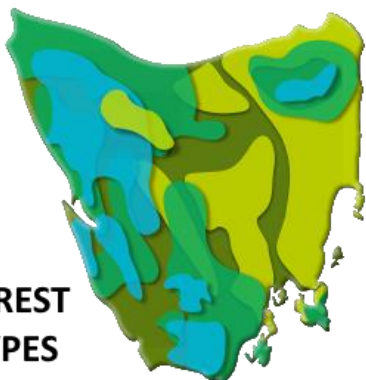
Timber is harvested both from plantation forests and native

forests. The main hardwood species planted are blue gum (*Eucalyptus globulus*) and shining gum (*Eucalyptus nitens*).

The main softwood species planted is radiata pine (*Pinus radiata*).

Tasmania's main forest types are Dry Eucalypt, Wet Eucalypt and Cool Temperate Rainforest.

A great way to explore forestry with your students is with the [Forest Education Foundation](#). They offer excursions and units of work you can run with your students. [Image source](#)



FOREST TYPES

- Dry Eucalypt Forest
- Wet Eucalypt Forest
- Cool Temperate Rainforest




Fisheries

Tasmania is a large contributor to Australian fisheries production, at around 34%. With around 80% of this is via aquaculture, mainly farmed Salmonid species. Fishcare Tasmania is a program funded by fishing licence fees that educates the community about sustainable fishing practices.

Recreational fishing is also very popular in Tasmania, with approximately ¼ of the population estimated to participate. This can be a great discussion point with your class, as often many students have been fishing.

Tasmanian gross value of production fisheries and aquaculture 2017-18



TAS key species		
		
Salmonids (aquaculture)	Southern Rock Lobster (wild-catch)	Abalone (wild-catch)
2017-18		
Wild-catch	\$194.3 million	5,314 tonnes
Aquaculture	\$873.5 million	63,729 tonnes
Total	\$1.07 billion	69,043 tonnes

Source https://www.agriculture.gov.au/sites/default/files/images/afs-graphic_7.png

Where to get further info

[PIEFA unit Finding Farms](#)

[Agricultural infographics](#)

[National Farmers Federation](#) – fast facts

[Tasmanian Farmers and Graziers Association](#)

[Department of Agriculture, about my region \(Tas\)](#)

[Australian Agricultural outlook](#)

Resources – unit plans and other activities

[Mapping through Agriculture](#)

[Online student courses through Primezone Academy](#) (cotton, grains, soil science)

[Investigating food and fibre](#)

Excursions

[Forest Education Foundation](#)

[Hagley Farm School Visitor Centre](#)

[Government House](#)

[Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens](#)

[Spring Bay Mill](#)

[Kids to Farms Excursion Site ideas](#)

Activity – Engaging with Food and Fibre Production – My Farm

Much of the food and materials we use in day-to-day life, started as some form of agriculture. Whether it came from a field, a forest, a fishery, a piggery or a farm, there was a natural or managed environment responsible for its growth.

Capture student interest

FIND OUT what they know about farms, forestry, or fisheries.
Have they visited a farm, or know someone who works on one?

DISCUSS the diversity of farms that exist in Australia.

INTRODUCE terms like fishery; forest; piggery; free range farm; cattle station; dairy farm; sheep farm; oyster farm; tree farm; vineyard; mixed farm etc.

VIEW this short video on [Fast Agriculture facts](#), with the class or locate another suitable one of [your choice](#)

RECORD some information about their own fictional farm, where they are located, what they produce and its use.

Use the activity sheet provided on the next page of this document. This brief activity begins students thinking about agriculture and the wide variety of produce that are farmed.

Excursions for hands-on food and fibre production learning!

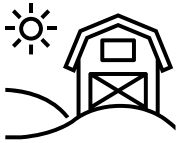
The **Kids to Farms project** can offer you support with Food and Fibre production learning both in the classroom and out and about on [exciting excursions](#).

Bus subsidies are available for kinder to grade 6 excursions. Find out more [here](#).

Or contact Claire at kids2farms@tfga.com.au

Student name:

Date:



Create your own farm!

Invent your own farm of any kind. Think about what you might be growing or producing on this farm.

Where is it located? What are some special features on your farm? Fill out the sections below.

Farm Name – often farms have creative names. It might be based on your family name; what the farm produces; or something you have just made up!

Location in Tasmania – e.g. Northern Tasmania, East Coast of Tasmania. Is it inland, or by the coast?

Type of farm – what do you farm there? Often farms in Tasmania are mixed farms – like sheep and crops.

What are your products used for? e.g. is your milk used for a gourmet ice cream?

You might like to draw a picture or a map of your farm.