

New Zealand Ag Tour Info & Tentative Itinerary

November 19th - November 29th, 2027



DAY 1: FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 19TH, 2027 (D*)

Depart United States and fly to Christchurch, New Zealand.

Attendees will fly from their own local airport to California and all fly to New Zealand together from there.

DAY 2: SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 21ST, 2027 (B*, L, D)

Morning: Arrive in Christchurch. Go through customs and meet our coach driver.

Afternoon: Visit **Lincoln University**. The oldest agriculture teaching institution in the Southern Hemisphere, Lincoln University has a wide variety of ag majors and study abroad partnerships with a number of US universities.

Overnight in Methven.

DAY 3: MONDAY, NOVEMBER 22ND, 2027 (B, L, D)

Morning: Tour with **Ashburton Lyndhurst Irrigation Limited**, a farmer-owned cooperative that delivers water to help their shareholders irrigate close to 75,000 acres, along with assisting them with land consents and environmental planning.

Afternoon: Tour **Align Farms**, a dairy-focused operation with 4,000 cows across 9 farms. Align has run a long-term regenerative agriculture study focusing on 5 main areas: financial, environmental, animal health, milk quality, and social impact.

Overnight in Methven.

DAY 4: TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 23RD, 2027 (B, L, D)

Morning: Tour with **Stewart Farms**. Jon Stewart farms arable crops (grass seed, peas, grains, and more) alongside his conventional dairy farm. His cows wear collars that allow them to graze without fencing and the dairy team can easily monitor their health.

Afternoon: Tour **Lovett Family Farms**. Greg and his family farm a wide variety of crops, including potatoes, onions, black currants, carrots, asparagus, and more.

Overnight in Ashburton.

DAY 5: WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 24TH, 2027 (B, L, D)

Morning: Tour TBD.

Afternoon: Tour **Whyte Farming**, a family operation that raises deer, elk, bison, sheep, and cattle. They produce venison, velvet, meat, wool, and stud animals.

Overnight in Ashburton.

DAY 6: THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 25TH, 2027 (B, L, D)

Morning: Tour **Slater Farms**. Guy and his family farm one-fifth of all New Zealand potatoes, along with growing grass seed. All of the Slater potatoes are grown for Talley's frozen vegetable business.

Afternoon: Tour **Talley's frozen vegetable facility**. In addition to potatoes, they freeze and sell corn, peas, carrots, and more.

Night: Visit **Tekapo Springs**. We will begin with learning about the night sky through telescope, followed by floating in the hot spring and star gazing while a guide shares stories and points out celestial features.

Overnight in Tekapo.

DAY 7: FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 26TH, 2027 (B, L, D)

Morning: Tour of **fruit tree orchard**. Cromwell is known for their wide variety of stone fruit, along with other orchard crops.

Afternoon: A fun evening in Queenstown. We will take a gondola up the mountainside to ride the **Skyline Luge** and take in the beautiful views of Lake Wakatipu. Afterward, we will have a Thanksgiving dinner of pizza in the park, since it will be Thanksgiving for our families back home - though ours will be a warm & summery celebration.

Overnight in Queenstown.

DAY 8: SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 27TH, (B)

Free Day! Queenstown is a safe and easily navigable town that provides a great opportunity for attendees to explore their own interests in small groups. Known for outdoor recreation, it's easy to find an activity for all adventure and leisure preferences! Attendees can sign up in advance for any of the variety of local activities, or just spend the day exploring with no itinerary. All attendees must be with at least one other group member at all times.

Overnight in Queenstown.

DAY 9: SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 28TH, 2027 (B, L, D)

All Day: A trip to **Milford Sound**. The drive to the sound will be filled with scenic view points and chances to get out of the bus to see the sites. Later, a boat cruise through Milford, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, will offer waterfalls, wildlife sightings, and an incredible, memorable experience.

Overnight in Queenstown.

DAY 10: MONDAY, NOVEMBER 29TH, (B, D*)

Return to United States. All attendees will fly back to California hub airport together and then split up to individual home airports.

MEAL CODE: B = breakfast, L = Lunch, D = dinner. *Indicates meal on airplane. Breakfast includes coffee or tea and other meals include a beverage. These meals are all included in the advertised tour cost. Meals in airports are not included in the tour cost, nor are lunch and dinner on the Queenstown free day.

*This itinerary is based on the 2023 New Zealand Ag Tour. Farm stops are subject to change based on availability and other extenuating circumstances. If substitutions are needed, they will be made thoughtfully to provide the best experience possible for attendees.

COST

\$5,450 - Cost for one student attendee, sharing a room with one other attendee. +\$625 for single occupancy room.

\$5,700 - Cost for one chaperone in single occupancy room.

The cost covers round-trip airfare, lodging, ground transportation, tours and activities, NZeTA, three meals per day (except for meals indicated above), travel insurance (chaperone cost does not include travel insurance, but can be added for an additional fee), tour management, and tips for the driver.

Snacks, incidentals, souvenirs, and free day activities are not included.

Cost is based on eleven (11) 18 - 22 year old attendees and one chaperone, in addition to the tour leader - the minimum number for the tour to take place.

ELIGIBILITY

Applicants who meet the requirements below will be selected on a first come, first served basis. The first 18 applicants who meet the criteria will be selected to attend.

- 18 to 22 years old as of November 19, 2027.
- High school graduate, from any state.
- A maximum of two (2) students per FFA chapter will be selected. Alternates and more than two per chapter will be eligible if there are spots available.

TRIP MINIMUM

At least 11 attendees must commit by July 1, 2027 for the trip to take place. There are 18 spots available.

FLIGHTS

It is too early to book flights for November 2027. Once fares open up, flights to NZ and back, from either SFO or LAX will be selected based on pricing and departure/arrival times. Attendees will need to purchase their own flights between their home airport and the hub airport (assistance in this process will be given to anyone who wants it). All attendees will be given a time to meet at the hub airport to fly to New Zealand together. Make sure to factor the extra flight into your trip budget/fundraising.

VISAS AND PASSPORTS

- US passport valid through at least February 29, 2028. Must have one fully blank page.
- [NZeTA](#) (you will pay for this with your own card, but the price is factored into the overall tour cost)

PAYMENT INFO

- \$250 non refundable deposit due within 14 days of acceptance
- \$1,000 payment due by July 1, 2027
- Balance of payment due by October 1, 2027

Payments may be made by check or credit card. Credit card payments will include a 3% transaction fee. Checks should be made out to Agrotours and sent to PO Box 29130 Richmond, VA 23242.

CANCELLATION POLICY

Cancellations ninety days [90] or more prior to tour departure will receive a full refund, less a \$250 cancellation charge per person. Cancellations between forty five [45] and ninety [90] days will forfeit the initial deposit amount and may also be subject to Supplier* cancellation fees. Cancellations within the forty five [45] day period prior to departure will not be refunded, except in the case that the participant can be replaced.

*The Supplier is an airline, hotel, charter coach company, restaurant, entrance fee, or unrecoverable administrative charges.

TOUR LEADER

JORDYN COON

Jordyn owns an agriculture marketing communications and event coordination business, which includes planning and leading agriculture tours. She is an experienced traveler herself and has previously led student tours to central California, New Zealand, and Italy.

She grew up on a farm in Oregon and was given many opportunities to travel during her upbringing, developing a deep appreciation for both ag and travel. After obtaining a degree in Agricultural Sciences from Oregon State University, Jordyn worked for Syngenta, a global crop protection and seed company, before starting her own business. During that time, she was able to gain an understanding of many diverse agriculture commodities and practices beyond what can be found in her home state. FFA was an important part of her life as a member and still is, as an alumni. Being able to combine her interests in ag and travel and share those with FFA members is an incredible opportunity for Jordyn.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

The safety of the participants is of the utmost importance. There are inherent risks in activities such as flying and touring working agricultural operations, but all measures possible will be taken to protect attendees and keep them safe. Parts of the risk management strategy include, but are not limited to:

Travel Insurance: Travel insurance will be purchased for each student, which will include medical treatment and medical transport coverage.

Chaperones: In addition to the trip leader, an appropriate number of chaperones will be selected based on the number of student attendees. All chaperones will be required to pass a background check. At least one chaperone will be CPR & First Aid trained.

Medical Information: Attendees will be required to provide medical information necessary to receive treatment in the event of an emergency. *All attendees will be required to provide proof of medical insurance.

Locations Sharing: All attendees will be required to download the Life 360 app and have their location available at all times.

Alcohol Consumption: Alcohol consumption is not allowed for students or chaperones and will result in termination from the tour.

APPLICATIONS MUST BE SUBMITTED BY JULY 1, 2027

Testimonials

Here's what parents and attendees had to say about past tours:

There was a lot of effort put into this trip to make sure all participants saw many different parts of the ag industry. With all travels, hotels, food, and tours covered, as parents we felt it was a great investment in our child's future.

~ Parent of Attendee

They were able to see many new to them parts of the agricultural community. Many networking possibilities were available to be pursued in the future. As well as new friends that could last a lifetime.

~ Parent of Attendee

I really appreciated the specific itinerary and communication. I also appreciated that students changed roommates. I think that allowed the group to bond and learn to be around other students from a variety of backgrounds.

~ Parent of Attendee

I really enjoyed the times we were driving and talking to the different students and chaperones on the trip. Listening to the different tour guide's stories on how they got involved with each company was extremely interesting.

~ Attendee

It was a great experience to travel around to a new environment and learn about different careers and a great place to meet new friends from around the state.

~ Attendee

The experience truly is a once in a lifetime opportunity. The agricultural companies and industries you get to see, along with the friends you get to make, is astronomical.

~ Attendee

It was such a fun trip and we got to see so much that we wouldn't have been able to without this trip. It was a great learning experience and we could use what we learned from the trip in real life.

~ Attendee

These tours are an amazing experience, and have so much to teach us about agriculture outside of Oregon. I think it is very important that we know more about agriculture outside of what we know.

~ Attendee