

Local dairy trainee is cream of the camera crop

Dairy Youth Australia committee members, Emma Kay Visser and Hayley Anderson were last week announced as the winners of the Udderly Fantastic web forum competition for their video depicting the fun and social side of dairying.

The video, shot largely on the Clover Hill farm where Emma works, offers insights into teenagers' capacity for fun and freedom and a love of dairy, making them the cream of the creative crop.

Emma Kay Visser is a 17-year old student who splits her time between her HSC studies at Illawarra Christian School and work on the farm.

"Emma is a hard-working and dedicated student," said Lynne Strong from Clover Hill Dairies. "She is undertaking a traineeship in agriculture on our farm as part of her Higher School Certificate."

The traineeship provides basic farm knowledge covering all aspects of agriculture from fencing, to cattle handling to milking. The practical work is re-enforced with technical study units through the TAFE College at Nowra.

"The work Emma does goes beyond what you would expect from a student," said Lynne. "She loves dairy. And she wants others to share her passion. It is no surprise to me that her video work reflects the joy and fun she finds every day on the farm."

Emma first became interested in working in dairy when Lynne visited the school as part of the Cows Create Careers program.

"After hearing Lynne speak and being involved in calf rearing for a few weeks as part of Cows Create Careers, I decided to ask Lynne if I could do work experience with her," said Emma. "I really enjoyed having contact with the calves and wanted to do more."

Her Udderly Fantastic competition celebrates the passion and creativity in the dairy industry. The video uses both still and moving footage to depict life on the farm and fun-times with friends, both human and bovine. And there are lots of cute calf shots too.

The Udderly Fantastic judges said that the video "shows dairy in such a positive light; it is happy and vibrant and shows a strong sense of fun – with young and lively people being an intrinsic part of the dairy industry. It also provides a strong sense of dairying as a welcoming, sustaining and rewarding career."

Winners of the Udderly Fantastic web forum competition win one of the three great digital camcorder prizes from Dairy Australia and Australian Dairyfarmers.