

Media Release



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Teaching the big cheese

Chemistry and biology class will be much more exciting with cheese making becoming a prominent lesson in Queensland schools.

The RNA, through its innovative Royal Queensland Food and Wine Show, is conducting cheese making workshops - the only program of its kind in Australia - at the RNA Showgrounds this week for 40 Queensland teachers from 23 different schools.

Teachers are coming from as far as Bundaberg, Dalby and Mackay to learn from internationally renowned cheese expert Russell Smith.

RNA Chief Executive Jonathan Tunny said it was the second year the RNA had hosted these educational workshops which offer teachers the rare chance to learn from the best and in turn go back to the classroom and engage students in this hands on curriculum activity.

"After these workshops, teachers show their students how to produce award-winning camembert and blue style cheeses for entry into the Student Cheese Making Competition at the Royal Queensland Food and Wine Show," he said.

"Students must strive to achieve the industry standard benchmark, following a formal appraisal process gaining valuable feedback and comments from experts."

Mr Tunny said the workshops will provide primary students with a great educational experience as they discover how cheese is made, where it comes from and the workings of the dairy industry.

"Education is a cornerstone of the RNA and these workshops have almost doubled in popularity with schools reporting an increase in students wanting to participate in cheese making classes."

The workshops will be held daily until this Friday February 11, 2011.

Media Enquiries:

RNA Media and Communications Officer Katie Johnston – 07 3253 3931 or 0433 376 713

Editors please note:

Russell Smith is Chief Judge of the Royal Queensland Food and Wine Show's Dairy Produce Competition, plus Deputy Chief Judge for the Australian Grand Dairy Awards and Master Judge for the New Zealand Cheese Awards. **He is available for interview on 0413 010 400. Interviews with teachers can also be arranged.**

