

Jack Hopkins – June 2009

My first year at the RAC has flown-by. After the apprehension of going back into academia, I have surprised myself by enjoying all of the varied aspects that College life has thrown at me and being close to my 'old friends' at Hartpury College has helped enormously.

I have been able to take time in learning the theoretical part of Agriculture even though crop science has presented me with some challenges! During the year I have completed my PA 4 Slug Pelletting certificate which will be put to good use both at Court Farm, where I have headed for weekend work and also in my coming harvest job at Cirencester Park Farms. I have enjoyed joining up with the Gloucester Young Farmers for both camaraderie and challenges. The challenge that I have let myself in for at present is a Farm Business Plan Competition (A Goat Enterprise) which is to be judged at this year's Royal Show on the 8th July. Fingers crossed we make it, as the work has been a huge commitment which has required the use of my team building, interpersonal and ICT skills.

With the exams having finished in early June I have been able to visit various Agriculture events, namely Cereals which I find both technologically interesting and may be used as an educational resource in writing of assignments. As I mentioned earlier, this harvest I will be spent in Gloucestershire. The harvest job will broaden my experience of farming units and the different approaches of employment. I have a Lady boss this time so I'm expecting some differences to what I have been used to on a family unit.

Once again I would like to thank the Bowyer Trust for its generosity in its award to me. It has mainly been used with financing up to date agriculture text books which are giving me plenty of food for thought!

