



THE 2017 INTERNS

Nicholas Davidson, 16
Kate Sellar, 16
Owen MacKintosh, 17
Murray Reid, 16
William King, 16
Joe Avis, 16
Robert Auchnie, 17
Niko Jasieniecki, 16
Murray Bell, 16
Ruari Wild-Wood, 18
Megan Thom, 16
Shaun Buckle, 16
Lewis Peters, 17
Aidan Yule, 16
Blair Robertson, 16.



Risk Assessments
Emergency
First Aid
Manual Handling
Tractor Driving
Telescopic Forklift
Introduction
to livestock
Certificate of
Work Readiness
(CWR)

Farmers of our future?

Ringlink's successful Internship programme provides young people with rural skills and training making them ready for employment in land-based mentor businesses

Scotland's largest machinery ring, Ringlink Scotland, has just placed this year's fifteen young interns into land-based mentor businesses for a six-month work placement across the North-East, Morayshire, Perthshire and Angus. The youngsters, aged between 16 and 18 have recently completed a three week residential induction at the Scottish Rural College (SRUC) at Craibstone Campus in Aberdeen. They are now qualified to take 26 weeks of fully paid work experience with a mentor business.

The Internship programme, now in its fifth year, provides young people with essential certificated skills training and the opportunity to gain vital work experience and mentoring. This year, applications have increased by 46 per cent.

Many of the interns have remained with their mentor placements on a full-time basis; eight have pursued further education or apprenticeships, whilst the others have secured other full-time employment following their valuable training and experience.

The success of the programme has been based around locating mentor placements close to home for the interns, as the majority of applicants are not independently mobile. Most placements will be within a 10-mile radius of where

the interns live, therefore continued support from mentor businesses throughout the land-based sector is crucial to allow youngsters from non-agricultural backgrounds to enter the industry. SRUC Assistant Principal, Kyrsten Black, said the scheme had the potential to benefit everyone in the industry: "SRUC needs to be meeting the requirements of the industry at a range of levels. I don't think the industry will survive on farmers' sons and daughters; the industry needs new blood."

SRUC has formally recognised the programme as the Land-based Pre-Apprenticeship qualification which more accurately reflects that candidates can progress on to a modern apprenticeship afterwards, should they wish to do so.

Ringlink Managing Director, Graham Bruce, commented: "Working in partnership with SRUC we currently await for Skills Development Scotland to formally recognise the Land-based Pre-apprenticeship as a mainstream Pre-apprenticeship programme in agriculture. It is our hope to achieve national accreditation by the end of the year and attract educational funding which will provide long-term security and a recognised route for youngsters to enter the sector."

Ringlink urges all businesses in the land-based sector to support our industries future workforce and consider whether they can offer a six month work placement. gail@ringlinkscotland.co.uk or 01561 377790. Recruitment for the Pre-Apprenticeship 2018 will commence from November 2017.