



Muka Tangata is the **standards-setting body** for People, Food and Fibre industries. **We work closely with our industries** to develop qualifications and standards, endorse programmes, moderate assessments, and provide skills leadership and TEC funding advice

Did you know?

Support Services is the largest industry across the food and fibre sector, **employing over 60,000 people** in a range of industries that largely support our **agricultural and horticultural sectors** but also include interesting industries such as landscape construction, hunting and trapping, gardening and arboriculture.

Future Skills Spotlight: Machinery Operator

A key aspect of rural contracting roles is the operation of agricultural machinery such as tractors, harvesters and trucks. Skilled drivers bring expertise in handling advanced equipment to complete tasks, often under tight seasonal deadlines. Check out this awesome video about [Machinery Operation and Agri-Chem Application](#).

The World Economic Forum forecasts significant growth in frontline agricultural roles, including farm workers, labourers, and equipment operators, over the next five years. Skilled mechanics and machinery repairers are also in high demand, and Agricultural and Horticultural Mobile Plant Operators are in the top 10 jobs across food and fibre industries.

To learn more about the many specialised career opportunities in this industry check out:

- [Rural Contractors NZ](#)
- [Pest Management Association NZ](#)
- [Groundspread NZ](#)
- [Fencing Contractors Association NZ](#)
- [Irrigation NZ](#)

Maniapoto Fencing - Introducing: Patea Muraahi

Maniapoto Fencing Ltd is a Māori-owned, whānau-based fencing company with two crews currently servicing the wider King Country and Waikato region.

Patea Muraahi (*Ngāti Maniapoto*) is the Owner, Director, and Fencing Crew Leader of Maniapoto Fencing. He has strong whānau and cultural connections to the King Country / Maniapoto region. He started in the fencing industry for many reasons but his main WHY was for his whānau “to be able to give back and provide employment and knowledge for whānau and friends”.

To find out more about Patea and his success story go to:
manipotofencing.co.nz/meet-the-team/.

Industry Spotlight - Rural Contractors

Rural contractors play a crucial role in supporting Aotearoa New Zealand’s dairy, livestock (sheep, beef cattle, and deer), horticulture, and crop production industries. They help farmers complete crucial tasks efficiently and cost-effectively, particularly during busy seasons.

These services include providing expert knowledge and skills in technical, mechanical, design, and management roles, as well as labouring, and driving and operating specialised machinery. Contractors are often self-employed and in recent years there has been an increased demand for workers.

Read about Jessica Bills - [Rural Contractors Trainee of the Year 2023](#).

Geraldine High School - supporting students into jobs and best practice assessment

Sarah Foley-Smith has taught the Primary Industry Academy at Geraldine High school since its inception 13 years ago. It is a 100% practical class, covering NCEA Levels 1-3 and now has 40+ students. Sarah believes every student is a superstar in the making and reminds students daily that “**attitude is everything**”.



Sarah has a passion for all things Ag, loves that every day is different and her students say she is “quite competitive”. 99% of Sarah’s students achieve Level 2 NCEA and 86 % become employed in the food and fibre sector, but all her students go on to further training or employment.

Sarah penned some of her thoughts on [best practice](#) and [student pathways](#) for us, or watch [this YouTube clip](#) where she discusses these in detail.

Getting started in work or training

Find links to jobs, training, and taster courses to get started in a career in the food and fibre sector. **Visit:** [Opportunity Grows Here](#).

Looking for a scholarship?

A wide range of scholarship information is available through the Horticulture and Agriculture Teachers Association (HATA) website: [Scholarships to help you fund your future](#).

Professional development for schools and providers

Muka Tangata has just released our series of **online professional development seminars** to support providers and schools in best practice assessment and more. **Please join us for these by registering [here](#).**

To directly receive these newsletters please complete this [subscription form](#) or email our Senior Career Pathways Advisor careerpathways@mukatangata.nz