

**MEDIA RELEASE**  
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## Student's passion for horticulture rewarded

Horticulture student Leander Archer is bucking a trend – and she's just won a \$2,500 scholarship to help her do it.

The 20-year-old bachelor of agricultural science student at Massey University says that there aren't many students considering a future in horticulture, but she sees it as a great career path.

Growing up in Tawa, near Wellington, Leander decided that there wasn't enough horticulture, so moved to Palmerston North to pursue her interest in plant biology. At Massey, she has found her niche in plant and soil science. She has also become intrigued by the economics and marketing aspects of horticulture.



**1** Leander Archer with Agcarm chief executive Mark Ross at the Massey University awards ceremony

"Horticulture is a logical fit for my interests – my love of fresh produce, the environment and science. My interest has grown to a passion. The more I learn, the more I want to learn and that's how I know I'm in the right place," says Leander.

She is really excited to become part of the horticulture industry.

"As I go through each year at Massey, I discover something else I enjoy and new career paths I hadn't thought of. The industry is so diverse in its opportunities, yet there are so few people who consider it as a career. I love how horticulture allows science to become such an applied, practical and tangibly valuable discipline," says Leander.

The environment and sustainability are also topics close to Leander's heart and she is enthusiastic about ideas such as biogas generation - a system of producing electricity and gas from fermenting a portion of crops and organic waste. The result is a rich fertiliser which allows farmers to save on fuel.

"Horticulture is a career which gives me a chance to make a difference, and where I can enjoy going to work every day," says Leander, who has a particular interest in perennial fruit crops, including avocados and pipfruit.



2 Leander at Plant and Food Research in Havelock North

Leander intends to spend her winnings on practical investments – a new laptop and a contribution to her accommodation costs.

"The win is a massive help and highly appreciated. The scholarship reduces the stress I feel towards money so that I can focus my energy towards university and getting more involved in Horticulture Society activities," she says.

Agcarm chief executive Mark Ross said that the association is pleased to contribute toward the future of such a well-rounded, motivated, and enthusiastic student.

"Leander's application was of a very high calibre. We were impressed with her ideas, academic achievements, and dedication to horticulture," Mr Ross said.

Agcarm has two scholarships to support education and raise awareness about careers in Agcarm-related industries. The winner of the veterinary science scholarship is Calum Linton.

## About Agcarm

Agcarm is an industry association of companies which manufacture, distribute and sell products that keep animals healthy and crops thriving. Industry initiatives led by Agcarm include providing safe and sustainable animal health

and crop protection technology for the future of New Zealand, and educating the community about the industry's contribution.

**ENDS**

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