



January 2020

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The Brian Aspin Memorial Scholarship

Background:

Brian Aspin was a passionate dairy farmer who had a 38 year association with LIC. He was an AB Technician, an AB Supervisor, Liaison Farmer and then a Shareholder Councillor. He died of cancer in 2011.

Brian's widow, Alma, has very generously asked for his legacy with LIC to continue through a Scholarship designed to build agricultural skills and disciplines, which will benefit the dairy industry of the future.

Livestock Improvement Corporation (LIC) is a cooperative. The company has a proud history, having pioneered several key initiatives that today provide New Zealand dairy farmers with their competitive edge on the world stage. Examples include the systematic herd testing of milk quality, the distribution of Long Last Liquid (fresh) semen, and the introduction of DNA technology to genomically identify and select elite sires.

LIC works to continuously improve dairy cow performance. A significant part of this responsibility is to provide reproductive solutions that suit the needs of individual farming customers. World-class research has been central to the success and standing of LIC both in New Zealand and internationally and is fundamental to its future.

LIC is privileged to match the \$5,000 donated by the Aspin family, generating a total scholarship fund of \$10,000 per year for two post-graduate students to undertake either Honours or Masters for up to two years study.

Scholarship Objectives:

- ✘ Signal the value of agricultural skills and disciplines and their importance to the future of the New Zealand dairy industry.
- ✘ Encourage stronger University/LIC linkages by providing incentives to education providers to actively seek stronger alliances with LIC.
- ✘ Increase the supply of graduates in the area of agriculture and animal science.

- × Develop a career in Agriculture.

Funding Provisions and Identification of Candidates:

- 1) The Aspin Family and LIC will offer scholarships each year to post graduate students. The scholarships will be advertised every December with applications due each year by 9th March.
- 2) Money will be distributed on the basis of a one-off yearly grant of \$5000 each to two Students studying one of the following at honours or masters level :
 - Agriculture
 - Agriculture Science
 - Science (majoring in areas such as, Agricultural Biotechnology, Biochemistry or Animal Science)

Students are welcome to reapply for a further years grant if their study is continuing beyond one year.

- 3) A report will be required within two months of the end of study outlining the progress and achievements made.
- 4) The three person selection committee will comprise of a member of the Aspin family and two members of LIC's Research and Development Group.

Criteria for selection:

- 1) Academic ability with special emphasis on agriculture. This should be accompanied by a completed referee report from the Head of the undergraduate department that has just been completed by the applicant.
- 2) A commitment to working in the agricultural disciplines arenas.
- 3) The student/s will use the scholarship grant towards completing his/her post-graduate study.
- 4) The student is a New Zealand citizen or resident legally able to work in New Zealand at the completion of study.

For further information please contact:

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Applications close on 9 March