



Working in a land down under

It's practically mandatory now for young Irish people to head off and see the world before settling down. And why not! It's challenging, it's exciting and for many it's a rite of passage to independent adulthood. New Zealand is a favourite destination for young farmers wishing to broaden their horizons and expertise by working on large dairy farms. Demand is high for people with farming experience to work at milking, cow management and health control, calving and calf rearing, tractor work and a host of other jobs.

One organisation that

recruits for positions on New Zealand farms, and a host of other areas, is Intern Options. They have a range of positions for experienced farm workers and agricultural students who want to gain paid experience working alongside New Zealand farmers who are willing to teach and share their experiences. You could work for a few weeks and the money you earn will allow you to buy a cheap car and take three or four weeks off to see some of the country before taking on another job. Your accommodation, food and travel to jobs are taken care of so the money you earn can be used for travel if

you want to see the country. You will be paid a minimum of €245 per week.

You need at least two years' farming experience or to be a graduate of or currently enrolled on an agricultural degree or diploma course. So long as you have direct experience, perhaps from growing up on a farm, there are positions available but the more experience you have the better the job you can get.

Positions are available all year round but, according to Intern Options, the best time to arrive is before July/August to catch the calving period. The advantage in choosing

this time is that by assisting a farmer during those six to 10 weeks, newcomers into New Zealand can settle into the way of farming and then move on to jobs with more responsibility. You then have the potential to work up to farm management positions.

For more information, log on their website at www.internoptions.com, give them a call on 0044-207-353-7699 or send an email to info@internoptions.com.

Alternatively you can chat to them direct at their stand at the Down Under Expo at the RDS in Dublin this Saturday and Sunday, 27 and 28 September.