Interactive expo for students

TIMBOON P-12 School students will be involved in an interactive expo this month designed to highlight the role maths and science play in agricultural jobs.

The expo at COPAC in Colac will feature more than 20 presentations which will give Year 7 students from Timboon P-12, Camperdown College and Colac Secondary College experiences of how maths and science are applied in a range of dairy industry occupations.

Project co-ordinator Libby Swayne said the project was designed to make maths and science relevant and exciting for Year 7 students, and ultimately aimed to address the decline in the number of students studying maths and science in senior secondary school levels.

"By building stronger links between the education sector and the dairy industry, we will increase subject interest in agricultural careers and increase their interest in undertaking maths and science subjects at VCE level," Ms Swayne said.

West Vic Dairy has secured funds from Schools Connect Australia to deliver the program over the next three years. Further expos will be held in Timboon and Camperdown in 2014 and 2015 respectively.

The project is the first of its type in Australia. "It will feature hands-on activities from the farm to the processors and everything in between," Ms Swayne said.

She said presenters will include feed company representatives, vets, dairy builders, spraying contractors, processors, herd improvement operators, research scientists, farmers, financial advisors and cattle breeders.

"A lot of students might not associate the dairy industry with such a diverse range of careers."

The interactive expo will be held on May 28.

Timboon P-12 launched a focus on agriculture last year with the start up of the Timboon Agriculture Project.