

First for farm health

Risks in focus

HAMILTON
By **ALEXANDRA WEAVER**

FORGOTTEN health problems faced by farmers are under the microscope as part of a new course which started yesterday.

The five-day program examines agricultural health and medicine and is the first of its kind in Australia.

Led by the Hamilton-based National Centre for Farmer Health (NCFH), it links experienced practitioners with people working in regional communities and aims to develop a new generation of medical leaders.

The centre's director Sue Brumby said those on the

land had traditionally overlooked health concerns.

"Farming people often don't know they're at risk because we have this whole image of it being a healthy, strong, vibrant (industry)," she said. "They miss the signs, I think, or they don't expect them."

The new post-graduate course builds on work already done by the NCFH to develop a sustainable farm families program, an initiative that has been adopted across the nation.

Twenty-five students from four states will learn about health, safety and social problems unique to rural Australia.



Sue Brumby has helped launch a new health course.