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Embargoed to midday Friday 5 October AEST

5 October 2007

## Nuffield scholarship for NT fodder producer

Fodder producer Jarrod Ryan from Douglas Daly, south west of Darwin, will tonight be awarded Australia's leading farming scholarship, a Nuffield Australia Farming Scholarship.

Mr Ryan is one of only 16 Australians to receive a 2007 Nuffield Scholarship. He will be presented with his award tonight at the Innovative Farming Australia awards dinner, part of the Nuffield Australia Spring Tour being held in Fremantle, WA.

Nuffield Farming Scholarships, each worth \$25,000, give young Australian farmers the opportunity to travel internationally and explore agricultural issues and opportunities in a global context. There are about 1300 Nuffield scholars worldwide.

Mr Ryan will use his scholarship, sponsored by the Northern Territory Department of Primary Industry, Fisheries and Mines, to study dryland and irrigated fodder production in tropical environments.

He wants to broaden his understanding of tropical fodder varieties and where these products fit within the world market. "Innovation in tropical fodder production, reducing production costs and an insight export markets' demands will also be focuses," he says.

As general manager of family-owned enterprise Northern Australia Fodder Exports, Mr Ryan says northern Australia presents many agricultural opportunities, especially given the continuing drought in traditional farming regions.

The Ryan family's NT property – Early Storms, which comprises 200 hectares of irrigated fodder production, 100ha of dryland cropping and 300ha of bushland used for wiener fattening – has been used to research the feasibility of a NT-based export processing facility.

Nuffield Australia CEO Mr Jim Geltch says many Nuffield Scholars go on to become active leaders in agriculture and the community.

"For many, the scholarship experience changes their lives by opening their eyes to the wider world and giving them the confidence to pursue their goals," Mr Geltch says.

The 16 2007 Australian Nuffield Scholars will leave Australia in either February or June 2008 for a compulsory Global Focus Program. This will involve travel to China, North America, South America and Europe investigating agricultural marketing and trade issues, environmental issues and experiencing the different social and cultural aspects of each region.

Following the initial six-week program, the scholars will go their individual ways to pursue specific study programs in the country or countries of their choice. Mr Ryan hopes to travel to South America which has a similar climate to Northern Australia.

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