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2006 SCHOLARSHIP SUPPORTERS
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5 October 2007

Nuffield scholarship for Gundagai cattle producer

Beef and sheep producer Sam Archer from Gundagai, NSW, will tonight be awarded Australia's leading farming scholarship, a Nuffield Australia Farming Scholarship.

Mr Archer 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 Archer will use his scholarship, sponsored by Meat and Livestock Australia, to improve the farm sector's understanding of the use of Market Based Instruments (MBIs) – economic market mechanisms to positively influence behaviour – in Natural Resource Management (NRM). He will study price-based MBIs such as rebates and tax incentives, quantity-based MBIs such as carbon cap and trade schemes and MBIs that rely on making private markets more efficient.

Mr Archer, who farms 1500 hectares at Gundagai, says the agricultural industry must take a proactive stance and promote sustainable, commercially viable, publicly acceptable NRM initiatives and that MBIs have the potential to deliver them.

His study will enable farmers to be more informed when advocating for more equitable models for funding society's NRM expectations while developing environmental management systems for their properties and implementing best management practices in their businesses. "The agricultural industry must take every opportunity to constructively influence environmental debate," he says. "If it chooses not to articulate its own comprehensive NRM strategy it faces the prospect of being ignored and relinquishing control of the resources at the core of its existence: land and water."

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 Archer hopes to travel to Ireland, the UK, the US and Canada.

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