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2006 SCHOLARSHIP SUPPORTERS

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Innovative farming the focus for Nuffield Spring Tour

Solutions to Australia's ageing rural workforce and the practicalities of large-scale biological farming will be among the topics presented by Nuffield Scholars during this year's Innovative Farming Australia conference. The conference forms part of Nuffield Australia's Spring Tour, which is being held in Fremantle, Western Australia, from 4-7 October 2007.

Innovative Farming Australia will see eight of the 14 2006 Nuffield Scholars give presentations on the farm practices they studied while overseas on their scholarships.

Nuffield Australia awards scholarships each year to Australian farmers, giving them the opportunity to travel overseas to increase their practical farming knowledge, management skills and techniques by studying farming practices in Europe, Asia, North America and other countries.

The Spring Tour attracts participants from across Australia. This year's attendees will hear returning Scholars present on water use efficiency, prescription livestock feeding, how to improve the Australian maternal ewe base, the importance of native vegetation in rice growing areas, how farmers can influence industry and government, corporate farming and continuous cropping systems.

The presentations will be followed by the Innovative Farming Australia awards dinner where the 16 new Scholars for 2007 will be announced.

The Nuffield Spring Tour will offer participants tours of ABB Grain, Joe White Malting and the Metro Grain Centre as well as trips to local attractions such as the Kulin bush races and Wave Rock.

Nuffield Australia CEO Mr Jim Geltch said the tour was an opportunity for people to be introduced to Nuffield Australia as well as hear what the scholars learnt while overseas.

"It presents an opportunity to learn firsthand, from primary producers who have traveled overseas, the latest farming technologies and issues surrounding global agriculture," he said.

The Nuffield Spring Tour is sponsored by Bayer Crop Science, Ausplow, Australian Wool Innovation Limited, Rabobank and the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry.

The returning Scholars presenting at the tour are sponsored by Australian Wool Innovation, the Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation, Rice Research Committee, Grains Research and Development Corporation, Sidney Myer Fund, ABB Ltd and Landmark.

Further information:

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