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2009 SCHOLARSHIP SUPPORTERS

Australian Wool Innovation
Fisheries Research and Development Corporation
Estates of the late RC and EC Cappur Webb
Geoffrey Gardiner Dairy Foundation
Grain Growers Association
Grains Research and Development Corporation
Kardinin Group

Impact Fertilisers
Landmark
Macquarie Agricultural Services
Meat & Livestock Australia
Rabobank
Rural Finance Corporation
Sidney Myer Fund

Friday 10 October 2008

EMBARGOED UNTIL 10AM, FRIDAY 10 OCTOBER 2008

Nuffield scholarship for Warracknabeal grain grower

Grain grower David Drage from Warracknabeal, Victoria, will tonight be awarded Australia's leading farming scholarship, a Nuffield Australia Farming Scholarship.

Mr Drage is one of only 16 Australians to receive a 2009 Nuffield Scholarship. He will be presented with his award tonight at the Innovation in Australian Farming awards dinner in Hobart, which is part of the six day Nuffield Australia Spring Tour being held in Tasmania.

Nuffield Farming Scholarships, each worth \$26,000, 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 Drage will use his scholarship, sponsored by the Estates of the late RC and EC Cappur Webb, to investigate the opportunities and challenges that emissions trading will present to broadacre farmers.

He will study how farmers in other countries have been affected by the introduction of emissions trading, and how they have responded.

Mr Drage manages a 1300 hectare family-owned dryland property and share farms another 400 hectare property in the Warracknabeal area, assisted by his father and brother. He grows winter cereals and legumes and runs a small flock of Merino ewes for wool and prime lamb production.

"The Australian Government is committed to the introduction of emissions trading by 2010 and this will place a big burden on agriculture, which is dependent on many fossil-fuel derived inputs and is also the second largest emitter of greenhouse gases in the Australian economy," he says.

"There will also be opportunities to benefit from the trading of emissions certificates. The agricultural community will be a large participant in the emissions trading market, but it is made up of thousands of individuals, many of whom have little knowledge of trading issues. Australian agriculture will need all the help it can get to manage this huge financial change in the way business runs."

Nuffield Australia CEO Mr Jim Geltch says many Nuffield Scholars go on to become active leaders in agriculture and the community, and sharing their research findings is an important part of the scholarship program.

"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 2009 Australian Nuffield Scholars will leave Australia in either February or June 2009 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 Drage hopes to travel to the US, Canada, United Kingdom and New Zealand on his individual tour.

More information:

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A high-resolution photograph of Mr Drage can be downloaded from the link www.coretext.com.au/communications_images.php