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2009 SCHOLARSHIP SUPPORTERS

Australian Wool Innovation	Impact Fertilisers
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Friday 10 October 2008

EMBARGOED UNTIL 10AM, FRIDAY 10 OCTOBER 2008

Nuffield scholarship for Finley irrigator

Irrigation farmer Jennifer Hawkins from Finley, NSW, will tonight be awarded Australia's leading farming scholarship, a Nuffield Australia Farming Scholarship.

Ms Hawkins is one of only 16 Australians to receive a 2009 Nuffield Scholarship. She will be presented with her 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 Australian farmers the opportunity to travel internationally and explore agricultural issues and opportunities in a global context. There are about 1300 Nuffield scholars worldwide.

Ms Hawkins' scholarship is provided through the Lady Southey Scholarship program for a primary producer to study natural resource management, supported by the Sidney Myer Fund, and she will use it to investigate emissions trading and methods of calculating on-farm greenhouse gas emissions and storage.

She will study recording and compliance methods being used in other countries to measure greenhouse gases and look at strategies farmers are using to reduce emissions or improve carbon sequestration.

Ms Hawkins and her husband, John, operate a mixed irrigation enterprise in the NSW Southern Riverina, which includes rice, canola, winter cereals, feedlot beef cattle and prime lamb production.

"As farmers we need to engage in the accountability process for greenhouse gas emissions at the same time that the relevant legislation is being developed," she says.

"Before we can begin emissions trading we need to be able to accurately assess our greenhouse gas 'footprint' which could require a detailed recording of farm activities - soil cultivation, fire management and fertiliser applications.

"I hope my research will help provide a greater understanding of the calculation and assessment issues so that the farming community can actively contribute to the development of public policy on this issue, rather than just having it imposed upon us."

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 then pursue their individual study programs in the country or countries of their choice. Ms Hawkins hopes to travel to Canada, the US and China on her individual tour.

More information:

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