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2009 SCHOLARSHIP SUPPORTERS

Australian Wool Innovation	Impact Fertilisers
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Friday 10 October 2008

EMBARGOED UNTIL 10AM, FRIDAY OCTOBER 10 2008

Nuffield scholarship for South Gippsland dairy farmer

Dairy farmer Paul Mumford from Won Wron, Victoria, will tonight be awarded Australia's leading farming scholarship, a Nuffield Australia Farming Scholarship.

Mr Mumford 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 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 Mumford will use his scholarship, sponsored by the Geoffrey Gardiner Dairy Foundation, to investigate the costs and benefits of different dairy farming systems.

He plans to study alternatives to pasture-based systems, including hybrid systems incorporating some pasture and some ration feeding.

Mr Mumford and his wife, Lisa, operate a dairy farm on their 323 hectare dryland property near Yarram in South Gippsland. They milk year round, with split calving, and their herd peaks at 450 in October.

"Our dairy business is a pasture-based system and we are expanding our operations," he says. "In doing that we are looking for a production system which will help to maintain more consistent cost margins and I am keen to look at how other dairy businesses are doing this – how they balance feed costs, strategies to address changes in climate, and the constant price fluctuations in the milk market place."

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 Mumford hopes to travel to the US, New Zealand and South America on his individual tour.

Gardiner Foundation CEO Paul Ford said the foundation was pleased to support its third Nuffield Scholar with the award to Paul Mumford in the 2009 program. "The Australian dairy industry is a \$15 billion value-add chain in which retention and development of its people is a defining issue. We are confident that Paul will take fullest advantage of the opportunities the Nuffield program offers, and apply that knowledge and experience to enhance the future he shares in dairying with his wife, Lisa," he said.

More information:

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