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2010 SCHOLARSHIP SUPPORTERS

Australian Dairy Conference	Horticulture Australia Limited
Australian Processing Tomato Growers	Landmark
Dairy Australia	Meat & Livestock Australia
Fisheries Research and Development Corporation	Nuffield Australia Queensland Branch
Geoffrey Gardiner Dairy Foundation	Rabobank
Grain Growers Association	Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation
Grains Research and Development Corporation	Sidney Myer Fund

Friday 23 October 2009

EMBARGOED UNTIL 10AM, FRIDAY 23 OCTOBER 2008

Nuffield Scholarship for Busselton dairy farmer

Western Australian dairy farmer Edward Cox will tonight be awarded a scholarship in Australia's leading research program for primary producers, the Nuffield Australia Farming Scholarship Program.

Mr Cox is one of only 18 Australians to receive a 2010 Nuffield Scholarship. He will be presented with his scholarship tonight at the Innovation in Australian Farming Awards dinner at the Hawkesbury Race Club, which is part of the four-day Nuffield Australia Spring Tour being held in the NSW Hawkesbury region.

Nuffield Farming Scholarships, each worth \$27,000, give young Australian farmers the opportunity to travel internationally and explore agricultural issues and opportunities in a global context. There are about 1400 Nuffield scholars worldwide.

Mr Cox will use his scholarship, supported by Dairy Australia and the Australian Dairy Conference, to study fodder production systems for dairying.

Mr Cox and wife Kate own and operate a large-scale dairy business in southwest Western Australia, near Busselton. They milk up to 900 cows, with a 60-stand, fully automated rotary dairy. They have also diversified into grain haulage.

He plans to investigate the effectiveness of different intensive feeding strategies in increasing the production of milk solids from dairy cattle, and the benefits of different fodder production systems including grain growing, whole crop silage and hay production.

"The profitability of milk production is essentially underpinned by efficient production and conversion of fodder into milk solids," Mr Cox says. "My overall aim is to increase pasture and fodder production, and the production of milk solids, to counteract the price-squeeze from the milk companies resulting from the downturn in the global economic climate."

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," he says.

The 2010 Australian Nuffield Scholars will leave Australia in February, June or September 2010 for a compulsory Global Focus Program. This will involve travel to China, North America, South America, Middle East, India 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 Cox plans to visit New Zealand, United Kingdom and the US during his study tour.

More information:

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