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2010 SCHOLARSHIP SUPPORTERS

Australian Dairy Conference	Horticulture Australia Limited
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Friday 23 October 2009

EMBARGOED UNTIL 10AM, FRIDAY 23 OCTOBER 2008

Nuffield Scholarship for Kojonup grain grower

Western Australian grain grower and livestock producer Robert Egerton-Warburton will tonight be awarded a scholarship in Australia's leading research program for primary producers, the Nuffield Australia Farming Scholarship Program.

Mr Egerton-Warburton 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 primary producers the opportunity to travel internationally and explore agricultural issues and opportunities in a global context. There are about 1400 Nuffield scholars worldwide. Mr Egerton-Warburton will use his scholarship, sponsored by the Grains Research and Development Corporation, to research integrated stock-cropping systems.

He manages a 3000ha mixed sheep and cropping business in southwest Western Australia, near Kojonup, with Merinos for wool production and store Merino-Samm first-cross ewes for prime lamb production. He crops canola, barley and wheat using no-till techniques. Additional farm enterprises include distribution of wildflower seed, supply and distribution of electro-dip equipment and the supply of wheat seed.

Mr Egerton-Warburton plans to investigate grazing and long season wheat varieties that may be better suited to southwest Western Australia, and which can be profitably integrated into livestock systems.

"For the past four years I have been growing winter wheats for grazing and shelter for lambing," Mr Egerton-Warburton says. "Last year we achieved 129 per cent lambing in winter wheat compared to 98 per cent on pasture, and lambs fattened on wheat achieved more than 300gms growth a day.

"I plan to look for similar or alternative livestock interactions in mixed farming systems to see if this can be improved even further. Higher lamb survival, greater feed availability and alternative feeds during late breaks and cold winters all help increase income and flexibility within the farming system," he says.

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 Egerton-Warburton plans to visit the US, Canada, United Kingdom, Argentina and Europe during his individual study tour.

More information:

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