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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 Queensland feedlotter

Queensland feedlot manager Don Madden will tonight be awarded a scholarship in Australia's leading research program for primary producers, the Nuffield Australia Farming Scholarship Program.

Mr Madden 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 Madden will use his scholarship, sponsored by Rabobank, to investigate the use of animal wastes to produce fuel.

Don is a director and co-owner of the Smithfield Group, which includes a 20,000-head intensive beef-feedlot based at Proston, north of Toowoomba. The feedlot provides customised feeding and marketing services for domestic and export grain-fed beef. The Smithfield Group also includes a cattle trading and logistics operations.

Mr Madden plans to study how feedlot wastes are being used to produce renewable fuels, particularly the gasification of briquetted cattle manure.

"There are some 'green' power generators that use methane from the manure, but I would like to investigate the gasification prototypes using manure briquettes that are being developed in the mid-west US, in particular," Mr Madden says. "Feedlots have a certain energy demand and this type of technology – if the numbers stack up – could be taken up by feedlots across the country, although given the likely capital investment you would probably need to be relatively big operator."

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 Madden plans to visit the US, Germany and India on his study tour.

More information:

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