

## 2011 SCHOLARSHIP SUPPORTERS

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Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> October, 2010

## INFORMATION ON GRAIN GROWING IN THE AUSTRALIAN TROPICS SEVERELY LACKING SAYS NEW NUFFIELD SCHOLAR

Aaron Sanderson, from Ayr in Queensland, will tonight be awarded a prestigious Nuffield Scholarship supported by the Grains Research and Development Corporation.

Aaron will study food production in the wet tropical areas of the world and how those production systems relate to northern Australia.

With his wife Tonia, Aaron moved to north Queensland just over five years ago, making a transition from broadacre dryland grain growing in central Queensland to a more intensive fully irrigated farming operation. He says “whilst our grain crops haven’t been too different, the farming system that we have had to learn is far removed from what we did before.”

He continues “I believe there is a severe lack of information and support in the form of agronomists, consultants and Department of Primary Industry staff, meaning northern newcomers have to do much of their own research on things like crop rotations, varieties, planting dates, nutrition and herbicides.”

Aaron would like to travel to other tropical regions such as Brazil, Vietnam, Thailand, Cambodia and India to study on-farm practices and systems from others farming in similar environments. In addition he would like to investigate whether more country can be developed in northern Australia while still satisfying government and environmental concerns.

Nuffield Australia is an organisation which provides an opportunity to Australian farmers to travel overseas on an agricultural research scholarship. It is a 16-week program which consists of both group and individual travel. The next group will be travelling through New Zealand, North America, Brazil, Mexico and France in February-March 2011.

Aaron is available for interviews to talk about his planned study.

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A high-resolution photo of Aaron is available for download from [nuffield.com.au/gallery.html](http://nuffield.com.au/gallery.html)