

2011 SCHOLARSHIP SUPPORTERS

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Friday 22nd October, 2010

NEW NUFFIELD SCHOLAR TO PUT AGRICULTURAL COOPERATIVES UNDER THE SPOTLIGHT

Adam Jenkins, from South Purrumbete in Victoria, will tonight be awarded a prestigious Nuffield Scholarship sponsored by Rabobank.

Adam will study agricultural cooperatives, with an emphasis on dairy cooperatives. "I would specifically like to investigate the major challenges for existing cooperatives and supply companies and whether these issues are shared internationally and across commodities" Adam says.

He also would like to look at the structure of cooperatives, the role leadership and management systems play and whether there is a place for a global cooperative.

Adam, his wife Catherine and their four children, own and operate a fully self-sustaining low input grassed based dairy farm of 176ha with 44ha lease country in south-western Victoria. Currently the operation is carrying 240 milking dairy cows (predominantly crossbred) with a further 135 replacements.

His travel plans include the United Kingdom, where the dairy industry continues to undergo major structural change, South America to learn how this developing economy is moving forward in a very challenging political environment, as well as a look at a range of existing agricultural cooperatives in north America and New Zealand.

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.

Peter Knoblanche, Rabobank's General Manager of Country Banking Australia, says they are proud to have a longstanding relationship with Nuffield Australia.

"As a bank that is focused on leading primary producers, we encourage best practice across this sector. A Nuffield scholarship is a life-changing journey that builds knowledge and experience. Armed with this, they have a better perception of where Australia is placed on the global stage, with the real value coming from sharing this information and understanding how to use it to advance Australia's ag sector."

"Nuffield scholars are not only a champion for the industry as a whole, but are mentors to their peer networks and an essential part of a vibrant and progressive rural sector" Mr Knoblanche said.

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

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A high-resolution photo of Adam is available for download from nuffield.com.au/gallery.html