

2011 SCHOLARSHIP SUPPORTERS

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Friday 22nd October, 2010

NEW NUFFIELD SCHOLAR TO PUT LIVESTOCK METHANE EMISSIONS UNDER THE SPOTLIGHT

James Robertson, from Renmark in South Australia, will tonight be awarded a prestigious Nuffield Scholarship supported by Australian Wool Innovation.

James will investigate animal nutrition, focussing on weaning and feedlotting. He adds “I also plan to examine how methane emissions can be reduced by rumen development and diet as I see an industry opportunity under any future carbon trading/offset scheme.”

In addition, James will study marketing with a particular emphasis on sustainability and rangeland monitoring.

He is currently the manager of a family-owned operation near Renmark consisting of four adjoining properties operating as one entity. Chowilla is a wool-growing enterprise, producing 400 bales per year and selling 6,000 sheep. An average of 15,000 sheep is run on the property at any one time. The family also owns a property near Salt Creek in the south-east of SA which is primarily a prime lamb and beef property supplying local markets.

James hopes to look at intensive animal management in the UK, large-scale feedlotting in the US, rangeland management in South Africa and models for marketing sustainable-use agriculture in Germany.

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.

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

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