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Friday 22nd October, 2010

NEW NUFFIELD SCHOLAR TO STUDY EFFECTIVENESS OF CORPORATE FARMING

Michael Foss, from Bruce Rock in Western Australia, will tonight be awarded a prestigious Nuffield Scholarship supported by the Grains Research and Development Corporation.

Michael will study corporate farming structures in agriculture worldwide and the comparison with family farm business structures. He says “I specifically want to look at the impact these farming models have on issues such as productivity, profitability, environment and in particular research and development.”

Michael says “some overseas corporate farming businesses have established internal R&D divisions, which I see as a significant opportunity to be developed further within Australian corporate farms.”

With his wife Judith, Michael manages the cropping enterprise on the family property in WA, comprising 5000 ha wheat, barley, canola and lupins and 3000 ha of pasture. He is also employed as a part-time research agronomist for Living Farm, which conducts a range of trials on behalf of agribusiness clients in the WA wheatbelt and the Ord Valley.

Michael hopes to visit the USA, UK, New Zealand and South America to study a range of corporate and family farm structures.

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.

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

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