

2011 SCHOLARSHIP SUPPORTERS

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Friday 22nd October, 2010

NEW NUFFIELD SCHOLAR AIMS TO INCREASE LIVESTOCK PROFITABILITY IN LOW RAINFALL CONDITIONS

Shannon Mayfield, from Kimba in South Australia, will tonight be awarded a prestigious Nuffield Scholarship supported by Nufarm.

Shannon is hoping through his Nuffield study to be able to create profitability from livestock in increasingly tough rainfall conditions. He says "Eyre Peninsula is predominantly a cropping region, and I believe producers there are taking little advantage of the ability to value-add low cost grain in feeding their livestock."

He adds "with the immense freight disadvantages the region faces in transporting feed grain to end users, I believe there is now a great scope to create a profitable prime lamb industry locally by improving feeding systems."

Shannon will study livestock feeding systems in low to medium rainfall cropping environments, incorporating the possible improvements that could be made through nutrition and genetics in both paddock and intensive feed-lotting situations.

With his wife Sheneae, Shannon is the owner/operator of a 1200 hectare property south-west of Kimba in South Australia, leasing a further 2000 ha. Enterprises include no-till production of wheat, barley, canola and lupins as well as sheep trading and the production of prime lambs and wool

Shannon hopes to look at the New Zealand lamb industry, feedlots in Colorado, USA and to visit South African Meat Merino and Dohne breeders.

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.

Lachie McKinnon, General Manager Australasia for Nufarm Australia, says they are very proud to be a Nuffield sponsor, saying "this is a valuable initiative for promoting excellence in Australian agriculture - the knowledge gained and shared by scholarship recipients provides important information and best practice experiences which have led to real and positive outcomes for local farmers."

Mr McKinnon continues, "as a company that strives to be innovative in the development of crop protection solutions and service delivery, Nufarm supports programs that help ensure Australian farmers learn from international best practice."

"Congratulations to Shannon as recipient of the Nufarm sponsored scholarship. We look forward to hearing of his experiences and insights throughout the year" Mr McKinnon said.

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

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