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## Rural research and development key, say farmers

More than 450 farmers from across the State will converge on Sydney this month for one of the biggest 'country meets city' events of the year.

The NSW Farmers' Association Annual Conference, running from Tuesday 28 to Thursday 30 July, will bring together farmers from all parts of the State to tackle the big issues facing farming – from climate change and genetic modification to water and wheat marketing.

NSW Farmers' Association President Jock Laurie says the theme for this year's Annual Conference is Rural Research and Development.

"At a time when the nation's economy is facing many challenges, including a global food shortage and an increasing world population, research and development is needed more than ever to ensure that our State's farmers can produce more with less," Mr Laurie said.

"This year's Conference will focus on the importance of research and development to agriculture and rural and regional communities.

"This is particularly timely given the State Government's announcement this week that it will maintain the majority of agricultural research stations in NSW.

"This is thanks to the combined lobbying efforts of farmers in NSW, which indicates the importance of the research stations and research and development in general to farmers and rural and regional communities," Mr Laurie concluded.

*Annual Conference is taking place from Tuesday 28 to Thursday 30 July at Sydney Showground, Homebush and is proudly supported by WorkCover. For more information on Annual Conference, visit [www.ac.org.au](http://www.ac.org.au).*

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