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2010's inspiring farming finalists

A duck producer from Sydney's outskirts, organic cattle, goat, soybean and spelt wheat farmer from Glen Innes, and a blueberry farmer from the North Coast have been named as finalists in this year's Farmer of the Year Awards.

In addition, a fish farmer and a sugar cane farmer, both from the North Coast have been named as finalists in the Young Farmer of the Year Awards.

Those farmers in the running for the prestigious title of NSW Farmer of the Year are:

- Pepe Bonaccardo, who runs a duck farm at Windsor, in North Western Sydney.
- Philip Lynn, who farms organic cattle, soybeans, spelt wheat and goats at Glen Innes, in the Northern Tablelands
- Ridley Bell, a blueberry producer from Wollongbar, on the North Coast.

Finalists for Young Farmer of the Year are:

- Andrew Carroll, who farms Mulloway on Palmers Island at the mouth of the Clarence River on the North Coast
- Angus Stainlay, who farms sugar cane at Murwillumbah, also on the North Coast.

NSW Minister for Primary Industries Steve Whan said the judges faced the difficult task of selecting finalists from an extremely competitive and diverse field.

"You can see from our finalists that an extraordinary variety of farming enterprises are represented. Despite this, all of our finalists share a strong commitment to achieving profitability and sustainability," Minister Whan said.

NSW Farmers' Association President Charles Armstrong said the finalists were selected for their ability to demonstrate innovation, business management and involvement in their industry and communities.

"One of our challenges is to select farmers who are not only demonstrating excellence in agricultural production, but who are also sharing this knowledge with others and acting as leaders in their fields," Mr Armstrong said.

The Award winners will be announced at the NSW Farmers' Association Annual Conference dinner on Wednesday 21 July. The successful Farmer of the Year Award recipient will be awarded \$10,000, while the Young Farmer of the Year will receive \$5,000.

The annual Awards are coordinated by the Association and the NSW Investment and Industry, with support from The Land and the Royal Agricultural Society of NSW.

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