



MINISTER FOR PRIMARY INDUSTRIES  
MINISTER FOR ENERGY  
MINISTER FOR MINERAL RESOURCES  
MINISTER FOR STATE DEVELOPMENT



## MEDIA RELEASE

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### Are you the next NSW Farmer of the Year?

Applications are now open for the 2009 NSW Farmer of the Year and Young Farmer of the Year Awards, and all farmers from across the State are encouraged to apply.

NSW Minister for Primary Industries Ian Macdonald, and NSW Farmers' Association President, Jock Laurie today declared the sixth annual Awards open.

Minister Macdonald said there are many challenges facing farmers across the State, yet they remain resilient, determined and adaptable – three qualities highly valued by the Farmer of the Year judges.

“Ongoing drought, climate variability, water scarcity and the impact of the global financial and global food crises are just some of the major hurdles facing the agricultural sector, and the Awards aim to recognise those farmers who take such challenges and turn them into opportunities,” he said.

“The Awards acknowledge excellence in agriculture through new and innovative management approaches, with a particular focus on farm profitability and environmental sustainability.”

Minister Macdonald's comments followed today's field day at the Yeoval property of 2008 NSW Farmer of the Year Nigel Kerin, hosted by Nigel, his wife Kate Kerin, DPI Director-General Dr Richard Sheldrake and Mr Laurie.

Mr Laurie paid tribute to Mr Kerin and the 2008 NSW Young Farmer of the Year, Tally Matthews, whose efforts to combat drought and improve the environmental health of their properties helped secure them the coveted titles.

“Today's field day has demonstrated what Nigel and Kate have done differently to boost production on their property despite tough ongoing drought conditions, through the implementation of holistically managed cell grazing strategies,” he said.

“Such innovative techniques are one criteria the judges will be considering, along with farm management, financial management and community leadership criteria.”

The Awards are an initiative of the NSW Department of Primary Industries and the NSW Farmers' Association, with support from The Land and the Royal Agricultural Society of NSW. The Young Farmer of the Year Award is open to farmers aged 16-35 years, while the Farmer of the Year Award is open to all farmers aged over 35 years.

The Young Farmer receives \$5,000, and the Farmer of the Year wins \$10,000. Application forms are available on DPI and NSW Farmers' Association websites, and entries close Friday 12 June.

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**THE LAND**



Royal Agricultural Society of NSW