

Media Release



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Rural women reminded to apply for Award

The NSW Farmers' Association is encouraging rural women across NSW to apply for the 2009 Rural Industries Research & Development Corporation (RIRDC) Rural Women's Award, with less than two weeks until applications close.

This will be the first year the NSW Farmers' Association has joined the list of sponsors for the award, which is open to all women involved in primary industries, natural resource management and related service industries.

NSW Farmers' Association Rural Affairs Committee Chair Sarah Thompson says the Award offers women in rural and regional areas the opportunity to be recognised for their outstanding contributions to primary industries, and to further develop their leadership skills.

"The Award plays a pivotal role in the future sustainability of rural Australia by encouraging rural women and acknowledging their contribution to rural industries," said Ms Thompson.

"The Award supports women with a strong and positive vision for the future of primary industries and we encourage all rural women in NSW to apply."

The winner of the 2009 NSW Award will receive a \$10,000 bursary for the development of her personal leadership capabilities. Unlike previous years, this year's Award will give more flexibility to how the winner can use her bursary. A 'project' proposal is no longer necessary, with the winner able to use her funds to increase personal leadership skills and develop knowledge of innovations, industries and markets.

In addition, the winner and the runner up will both receive the opportunity to attend the Australian Institute of Company Directors' course.

The winner will be chosen based on a demonstrated personal commitment to sustainable primary industries and to the role of rural women in NSW, and the potential to achieve and deliver benefits to primary industries and rural Australia. Additionally, candidates will also be selected on their ability to provide leadership skills and share knowledge.

The NSW Rural Women's Award is coordinated by the NSW Department of Primary Industries. All women interested in applying for the Award are encouraged to contact the NSW Department of Primary Industries on 02 6391 3620. Application forms are also available online at www.ruralwomensaward.gov.au.

Applications for the Award close on World Rural Women's Day, 15 October 2008.

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