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## **Deadline approaching: \$40,000 available for tertiary students**

The NSW Farmers' Association is encouraging tertiary students to get their applications in for the 2009 Tertiary Scholarship program, with the deadline of 30 January rapidly approaching.

NSW Farmers' Association Rural Affairs Committee Chair Sarah Thompson says the program offers tertiary students relief from some of the financial pressures associated with studying.

"It comes as no surprise that cost is a major barrier for country students attending university, particularly in the current financial climate and drought," Ms Thompson said.

"Our scholarships, each worth \$5000, are our way of helping to ease the financial burden and invest in the future of rural NSW.

"We hope that the scholarships winners will return to country NSW following their studies and use the skills they have gained to strengthen rural communities.

"It's a case of you have to be in it to win it, and we are urging all eligible tertiary students to put their applications in as soon as possible so they don't miss out," Ms Thompson said.

Applications are open to Association Members or children of Members, who are full-time students studying at a recognised tertiary institution. The applicant, their partner or their parents must have been full Members of the Association for at least the past two years to qualify for a scholarship.

"Applicants will be judged on their academic record, leadership qualities, community involvement, communication skills and their commitment to making a lasting contribution to both agriculture and rural communities," Ms Thompson said.

Scholarships are funded by the Association and the Goobang Group, and the recipients will be announced at the Association's Annual Conference in July.

Application forms are available from the Association's website ([www.nswfarmers.org.au](http://www.nswfarmers.org.au)) and must be received by post or fax at the Association by 5pm on Friday 30 January 2009.

*\*Note for Radio: Audio grabs from NSW Farmers' Association Rural Affairs Committee Chair Sarah Thompson are available from the NSW Farmers' Association website ([www.nswfarmers.org.au/media\\_centre/audio\\_grabs](http://www.nswfarmers.org.au/media_centre/audio_grabs)). However, if you would prefer to conduct your own interview, please contact Amanda Barwick or Ruth Redfern on the numbers listed below.*

### **Contact:**

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