



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



MEDIA RELEASE

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FARMING TOP GUNS TO BE NAMED WEDNESDAY

The State's top farmers will be announced this Wednesday as part of annual awards that aim to celebrate excellence in farming and environmental management.

A beef cattle stud manager from Baryulgil and an organic seeds producer from Mallanganee are this year's Farmer of the Year finalists vying for the \$10,000 prize.

Rob Sinnamon, who manages 'Yulgilbar Station' at Baryulgil near Casino, and Stuart Larsson, who runs Mara Seeds plus a mixed farming enterprise at Mallanganee, will both be showcased in the lead up to the announcement at the NSW Farmers' Association's Annual Conference awards dinner.

Sheep and goat producers Ben and Liarne Mannix of 'Gumbooka', Bourke, and a mixed grazing farmer who also runs an artificial breeding service for sheep and cattle, Stuart Blake, of 'Winterbourne' at Walcha are competing for the Young Farmer title and \$5,000.

NSW Minister for Primary Industries Ian Macdonald and NSW Farmers' Association President, Jock Laurie, said the awards contained an important message for the broader community.

"These finalists' stories will help the community appreciate the excellent results farmers are achieving in better environment management and use of technology," Mr Macdonald said.

"Our farmers have somehow managed to remain profitable in spite of huge water and market challenges during the last six years- and produce quality foods we all get to enjoy," Mr Laurie said.

The annual awards are coordinated by the NSW Department of Primary Industries and NSW Farmers' Association, and supported by Rural Press and the Royal Agricultural Society.

The awards have a particular emphasis on farm profitability and environmental sustainability.

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