



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



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Media Alert: State's top farmers announced tonight

A grazier and dryland cropping farmer from Walgett, a livestock and pasture cropping couple from Cobar and an egg producing couple from Tamworth will vie for the 2009 NSW Farmer of the Year Award tonight.

In addition, a stud cattle and fodder producer from Dorrigo and a commercial and stud cattle producing couple from Trangie will compete for the title of 2009 NSW Young Farmer of the Year.

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

- Michael O'Brien, who runs a mixed angus cattle and dohne sheep enterprise, with dryland cropping on farming properties south of Walgett;
- Andrew and Megan Mosely, who run a livestock enterprise featuring a white dorper stud, Santa Gertrudis/shorthorn cross cows and boer goats west of Cobar; and
- Bede and Narelle Burke, who operate a caged egg production along with winter and summer cropping, beef cattle, prime lambs and opportunity feedlotting on their property at Tamworth.

Finalists for Young Farmer of the Year are:

- David Gibson, who runs a mixed farming operation including breeding angus cattle, running a fodder conservation business and a contracting enterprise at Dorrigo; and
- Stephen and Amity Chase, who run commercial and stud angus herds and produce winter crops on their family property south west of Trangie.

The finalists were selected for their ability to demonstrate innovation, business management and involvement in their industry and communities.

The Award winners will be announced at the NSW Farmers' Association Annual Conference dinner tonight. 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 Department of Primary Industries, with support from The Land and the Royal Agricultural Society of NSW.

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