

# Media Release



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## Boost your future: Rural scholarship program now open

The NSW Farmers' Association is encouraging tertiary students to apply for the 2009 Tertiary Education Scholarships Program, with applications for the scholarships opening today.

NSW Farmers' Association Rural Affairs Committee Chair Sarah Thompson says the scholarship program, which is now in its 16<sup>th</sup> year, is a wonderful opportunity for students from rural and regional areas to boost their education and further their careers.

"Cost can be a major barrier for country students hoping to attend university, particularly those heavily impacted by drought," Ms Thompson said.

"At a time when financial pressures are really being felt by farming families and rural communities, students moving away from home to attend university and other tertiary training face a substantial financial burden.

"The scholarships, each worth \$5000, are the Associations' way of helping to ease this burden, and offering greater opportunities for our Members and their children.

"We see an investment in young people as an investment in the future of rural NSW, and we hope the winners will return to country NSW and use their skills in their chosen fields to strengthen regional communities," 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.

Scholarships are funded by the Association and by the Goobang Group, which is made up of farmers who suffered losses in a bushfire at Goobang, near Parkes in central western NSW, in 2001.

"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.

"The recipients will be announced at the Association's Annual Conference in July, where the scholarships will be presented," Ms Thompson said.

Application forms are available from the Association's website:  
[www.nswfarmers.org.au](http://www.nswfarmers.org.au).

Scholarship applications must be received at the Association by Friday 30 January 2009, and are to be submitted by post or fax.

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