

23 April 2012

Dear AHA Member

I am pleased to let you know that nominations are now open for the *2012 Biosecurity Farmer of the Year Award*.

Animal Health Australia (AHA), in partnership with Plant Health Australia, sponsors the award through our joint Farm Biosecurity program. The award is an excellent opportunity for AHA to promote the uptake of better on-farm biosecurity practices. This year the Australian Farmer of the Year Awards take on a special significance as we celebrate the Australian Year of the Farmer.

The awards celebrate the highly professional, innovative and sustainable methods of our farmers, highlighting their commitment and showing the important role they play in the Australian community. The *Biosecurity Farmer of the Year Award* recognises farmers who are focused on protecting their properties from biosecurity risks. The 2011 *Biosecurity Farmer of the Year* (animal category), Pepe Bonaccordo, is an outstanding example of someone who has a passion for on-farm biosecurity. We are now looking for a 2012 winner of the same calibre. (For more on Pepe's story please see below.)

In 2011, the awards generated high media interest through which AHA was able to promote the ways better biosecurity can be integrated into the daily activities of enterprises without compromising efficiency. Our winners became Farm Biosecurity champions and featured in media as 'real farmers practising biosecurity every day'. Being part of the awards provides considerable media exposure for the finalists and winners, which builds the positive profile of their businesses.

The awards will be presented on 12 September 2012 in Melbourne at a gala celebration which will be co-hosted by Kondinin Group and ABC Rural.

The success of the awards will largely depend on the support we receive from you, our Members. We are calling on farmers and those who work with them to put modesty aside and help us promote a positive image for Australian agriculture by nominating. Please help spread the word.

Nominations close on Friday, 3 August 2012. For more information, to nominate yourself or someone else, visit <http://www.kondinigroup.com.au/static.ASP?t=2&l=16>. For any assistance please contact Martin Blaszczyk at AHA on 02 6203 3988 or at martin@animalhealthaustralia.com.au

Thank you again for your past support of the *Biosecurity Farmer of the Year* Award. I look forward to a joint effort in making this year's 'Farmer of the Year' event even better.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "M Bond". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a period at the end.

Dr Mike Bond
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

**2011 *Biosecurity Farmer of the Year* – Livestock
Pepe Bonaccordo, Pepe's Ducks**



Pepe and Mario Bonaccordo with General Manager John Houston

The 2011 *Biosecurity Farmer of the Year*, Pepe Bonaccordo, is one of Australian agriculture's great success stories. Mr Bonaccordo's backyard business started in 1976 with just 22 Pekin ducks. Now, Pepe's Ducks is the largest duck producer in Australia and New Zealand and supplies 80,000 birds a week out of its facility at Windsor, NSW. Over the past two decades Mr Bonaccordo has been developing and implementing high standards of biosecurity, food safety and animal welfare. These outstanding efforts were rewarded when he was named the 2011 *Biosecurity Farmer of the Year*.

<http://www.farmbiosecurity.com.au/2011/nice-nod-for-pepe%e2%80%99s-ducks/>