

MEDIA RELEASE

INDEPENDENT INFORMATION FOR AGRICULTURE



Two biosecurity awards up for grabs

Are you actively working to reduce the threat of pests and diseases on your farm? Or, do you know a farmer who recognises the importance of biosecurity?

The *Biosecurity Farmer of the Year* award (*plant* and *animal* categories), sponsored by Plant Health Australia and Animal Health Australia, recognises two farmers who have taken the initiative in tackling the potential risks to their business and livelihood.

The prize will be presented as part of this year's *Australian Farmer of the Year Awards*, which will be held in Melbourne on September 12, 2012. The national awards recognise the professional, innovative and sustainable approach of today's primary producers.

Duncan Rowland, Animal Health Australia's executive manager of biosecurity services, said the awards recognise the best and brightest in Australian agriculture.

"*The Farmer of the Year Awards* are a great way for us to promote sound on-farm biosecurity practices to Australian producers," he said.

"Every year the nominations for our award reveal biosecurity champions from around the country who serve as fantastic examples of easy ways to keep farming operations free of diseases, pests and weeds."

Plant Health Australia's Sharyn Taylor said one of the pleasures of sponsoring the *Farmer of the Year Awards* is to hear about Australians with a can-do attitude to farm biosecurity.

"Each year we see examples of practical, innovative and enthusiastic people who have seen for themselves the benefits of applying some basic biosecurity measures on their farms or in their businesses," she said.

Last year's *Biosecurity Farmer of the Year (plant)* winners, Peter and Sandra Young, owners of Birdwood Nursery in Blackall, Queensland, said the best thing about winning was that it gave the couple a voice.

"People in high places are now listening to what we have to say!" Peter Young said.

Kondinin Group managing editor Paul Mole said the bold vision of the *Australian Farmer of the Year* is to promote the importance of agriculture to the continued prosperity of this nation and to gain respect for the country's farmers.

"With biosecurity vital to the profitability, sustainability and trading future of Australia's agricultural industries, we want to celebrate the key role being played by farmers managing our clean and green international image," he said.

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT WWW.KONDININGROUP.COM.AU

MEDIA CONTACTS

Paul Mole	Managing Editor	(08) 6316 1369
Kate Bishop	Marketing and Communications	(08) 6263 9111

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Photo caption: Last year's biosecurity award (plant) winners Peter and Sandra Young accepting their award.

Nomination's close August 3, 2012

To nominate for these awards, or to find out more visit www.kondinigroup.com.au or contact Kondinin Group on 1800 677 761.

If you're interested in nominating, or want to buy tickets to the September 12 dinner, or you just want to learn more about the event contact Kondinin Group's marketing officer Kate Bishop on (08) 6316 1111, or kate.bishop@kondinin.com.au

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