



Monday, August 22, 2011

Championing livestock health – biosecurity award finalists named

A beekeeper, duck producer, and a young sheep/crop farmer have today been named as finalists in the *Biosecurity Farmer of the Year Award – animal category*.

Lindsay Bourke (of Launceston, Tasmania), Pepe Bonaccordo (South Windsor, NSW), and Tom Hill (Colbinabbin, Victoria) are now in the running for this prestigious national award.

Hosted by Kondinin Group and ABC Rural, and sponsored by Plant Health Australia and Animal Health Australia, the award recognises the efforts of producers dedicated to keeping their operations free of diseases, pests and weeds. .

Lindsay Bourke owns Australian Honey Products and is chairman of the Australian Honey Bee Industry Council.

At the age of 60, when most people would be looking forward to retirement, Lindsay relaunched his honey career with just 92 hives.

Seven years later he runs 3000 hives and has created a unique honey extraction business as part of a vertically-integrated strategy.

He does not use any insecticides, preservatives or additives and maintains disease-free colonies at a time the Australian honey bee industry is being confronted with major biosecurity threats such as the varroa mite and colony collapse.

Pepe Bonaccordo founded Pepe's Ducks in 1973 as a backyard business with 22 Pekin ducks.

Today he supplies 80,000 ducks a week and is a major player in the Australian specialist poultry meat market.

His commitment to biosecurity has helped the duck industry develop and implement standalone quality systems outside the umbrella of the chicken industry.

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Australian Farmer of the Year Awards

September 7, 2011



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He has been dedicated to industry-leading work in animal welfare, risk management, zoonotic disease management, marketability, productivity and profitability.

Tom Hill is a partner and manager at his family-owned farm of 1500 hectares of crops, and oversees 200 hectares of pasture for Merino ewes in a prime lamb venture.

Tom has a philosophy that everything enters and leaves the property clean: "We don't want to take weeds or diseases onto any other property and we don't want them to arrive on ours," he says.

Judges were impressed by the finalists' proactive approach to implementing best practice biosecurity.

The winner of the 2011 *Biosecurity Farmer of the Year Award – animal category* will be announced at the gala dinner held in Sydney on September 7 at the *Australian Farmer of the Year Awards* celebratory dinner.

Other categories and their sponsors include:

Young Farmer of the Year – Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Farm industry Leader Farmer of the Year - Rabobank

Grain Grower of the Year – GRDC

Livestock Producer of the Year – Elders

Diversification Farmer of the Year – RIRDC

Sugarcane Grower of the Year – Canegrowers and SRDC

Wool Producer of the Year – AWI

Dinner tickets are available from Kondinin Group by contacting 1800 677 761 or email verity.todd@kondinin.com.au. Join us to celebrate Australia's farmers.

Farmer of the Year



Biosecurity Farmer of the Year



Farm Industry Leader of the Year



Livestock Producer of the Year



Sugarcane Grower of the Year



Young Farmer of the Year



Grain Grower of the Year



Diversification Farmer of the Year



Wool Producer of the Year



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