

Monday 9 November 2009

Biosecurity at the feedlot wins Award

Visitor risk assessment to manage exotic disease risks is one of the biosecurity measure introduced by Swift Australia that has won the company the inaugural 2009 Farm Biosecurity Award.

Swift Australia Pty Limited has been recognised for its outstanding biosecurity awareness and practice, in the first Australian Rural & Outback Awards.

Farm Biosecurity spokesman, Duncan Rowland, said it was terrific to see so much evidence of biosecurity awareness and understanding.

“We were surprised by the depth of understanding shown in all the nominations. The top 10 entries were outstanding and it was very difficult to narrow them down.

“Swift’s comprehensive roll out of the company’s biosecurity plan, at all their sites, ultimately made them a stand out,” said Mr Rowland.

Swift Australia, Australia’s largest meat packer, meat exporter and lotfeeder won the award for its companywide quality assurance biosecurity program, recently implemented to support the security of the business. The company employs over 7,000 people nationally and provides products to more than 50 countries across the globe.

It has five feedlots in NSW and Queensland, and ten processing plants in Tasmania, Victoria, NSW and Queensland.

“Swift is honoured to receive this inaugural Award, especially as it sees our efforts in implementing our Biosecurity Program being nationally recognised”, said Michael Doyle, Manager Feedlots, Swift Australia.

“With this award we were able to compete beyond the feedlot industry to assess our standards against all farm industries. National recognition at this level was therefore especially rewarding.

“We are well aware of the impact that a disease outbreak could have on our industry so we have embraced these biosecurity practices and implemented them on all our properties to ensure that we are well prepared.

For more information on Farm Biosecurity visit www.farmbiosecurity.com.au



“This has provided security to a wide range of stakeholders – our customers, our employees, our industry and our suppliers”, said Mr Doyle.

Swift’s biosecurity program encompasses simple but very effective measures such as the visitor risk assessments, provision of biosecurity protective clothing where necessary, staff training and the assessment of livestock entering its properties.

The program incorporates a management system that has allowed Swift to expand their operations and build on its business for a solid future.

So strong was the field of nominations in the category that the Farm Biosecurity Award sponsors presented a second Award to the Flockowners of Broken Hill for their cooperative effort in preventing ovine Johne’s disease from entering their region. A number of other Farm Biosecurity champions have also been identified from the Awards nominations and although they did not win this year, their efforts will be celebrated.

The awards were announced at a gala dinner in Canberra on 19 September with all winners receiving a cheque for \$2,000 and a hand crafted glass trophy.



(left to right), Greg Fraser, CEO Plant Health Australia, James Palfreeman, Swift Australia, and Mike Bond, CEO Animal Health Australia.

The Farm Biosecurity program is a joint initiative of Animal Health Australia and Plant Health Australia and the two companies co-sponsored the Farm Biosecurity Award to promote greater understanding of the importance of biosecurity on farm.

The Rural and Outback Awards were developed by Imparja Television and the Australian Department of Defence to encourage, acknowledge and reward valuable contributions and outstanding achievements in rural and outback areas.

For further information about the Farm Biosecurity program visit www.farmbiosecurity.com.au.

For more information on Farm Biosecurity visit www.farmbiosecurity.com.au