



Niall Blair

Minister for Primary Industries
Minister for Lands and Water

MEDIA RELEASE

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COWRA MIXED FARMER NAMED 2015 NSW FARMER OF THE YEAR

Cowra livestock, broadacre farming and intensive horticulture producer, Ed Fagan, has been named the 2015 NSW Farmer of the Year.

Ed Fagan operates Mulyan Farm, a 1600 hectare diversified enterprise that trades cattle, , breeds and trades fat lambs and grows wheat, canola, maize, popcorn and oats.

In addition, horticultural crops, including beetroot, asparagus, red and brown onions are grown, and Mulyan Farm is the only commercial baby leaf spinach producer in NSW.

Minister for Primary Industries, Niall Blair and NSW Farmers' President Derek Schoen presented the 2015 NSW Farmer of the Year Award during today's Farm Writers' Association Christmas lunch held at Parliament House in Sydney.

Mr Blair said Mr Fagan has shown outstanding achievement, focusing on management skills, use of innovation, profitability, environmental sustainability and community involvement.

"Mr Fagan's commitment to protect natural resources by improving soil nutrition, weed control and innovative research and development are incredibly impressive," Mr Blair said.

"It is innovative initiatives in the farming sector like this that will build the future of the state's \$12 billion primary industries sector.

"Right across the state we are seeing farmers embracing new and innovative ways to do business that are leading the world and the finalists in this year's Farmer of the Year Awards are testament to that."

Mr Blair also acknowledged the achievements and congratulated the other finalists - Canobolas cherry and apple growers Fiona and Bernard Hall and Batemans Bay oyster farmer Ewan McAsh.

Fiona and Bernard Hall operate Caernarvon Cherry, a cherry and apple growing, packing and marketing business, located at Canobolas in the state's central west.

They aim to extract value out of every cherry that is harvested and to achieve this have developed a 100 per cent pure cherry juice that is well-received in the retail markets with a year-round market presence.

Ewan McAsh produces 60,000 dozen Sydney Rock Oysters each year on the Clyde River at Batemans Bay.

Mr McAsh has diversified the number of oyster species grown on the farm and is now

growing Sydney Rock, Angasi and Spawnless Pacific oysters. His aim is to provide a greater range of product to his customers and to make production capacity more resilient to seasonal variability and disease.

NSW Farmers President Derek Schoen said this year's finalists demonstrate the state's diverse farming enterprises and congratulates them on their brilliant achievements.

"Ed Fagan, Ewan McAsh and the Halls are innovative, very hard working and passionate about agriculture," Mr Schoen said.

"They show qualities in business management skills and sustainable production practices that ensure a high standard quality product we all can enjoy.

"Their successful enterprises are making valuable contributions to their local communities and our national economy."

The annual NSW Farmer of the Year Award recognises the best farmers in NSW, focusing on their agricultural management skills, their use of innovation, profitability, environmental sustainability and community involvement.

The Award is an initiative of the NSW Farmers Association and NSW Department of Primary Industries, with support from The Land and SafeWork NSW.

Mr Fagan has won a cash prize of \$10,000 and the two other finalists receive \$2000 each.