



# Media Release

## 2015 FARMER OF THE YEAR AWARD FINALISTS ANNOUNCED

NSW Minister for Primary Industries, Niall Blair, and President of NSW Farmers, Derek Schoen, today announced the three finalists for the 2015 NSW Farmer of Year Award.

Mr Blair said the successful finalists come from diverse areas of primary industries and are testament to the future of the state's \$12 billion sector.

"These finalists are great ambassadors for the state's agriculture – they are innovative and ambitious to run profitable enterprises while managing their natural resources," Mr Blair said.

The 2015 Farmer of the Year finalists are:

- Ed Fagan, who operates Mulyan Farm, Cowra. Mulyan Farm is an enterprise of livestock, broadacre farming and intensive horticulture. They trade cattle, breed and trade fat lambs, grow wheat, canola, maize, popcorn and oats. They also grow beetroot, asparagus, red and brown onions and baby leaf spinach.
- Fiona and Bernard Hall operate Caernarvon Cherry, Canobolas. Caernarvon Cherry is a cherry and apple growing, packing and marketing business, servicing major retailers domestically and export customers in over five countries. They have also developed a unique 100 per cent cherry juice with a year-round market presence.
- Ewan McAsh, who runs McAsh Oysters on the Clyde River, Batemans Bay. McAsh Oysters produces 60,000 dozen Sydney Rock Oysters each year. He started Signature Oysters – owned by a collaboration of farmers and promoters to provide restaurants and retailers with Australia's highest quality live oysters.

President of NSW Farmers Derek Schoen said the future for agriculture is bright and the Award is an important way to celebrate the great achievements in the agriculture industry.

"These finalists have demonstrated agricultural excellence. They are facing the challenges, driving innovation in agriculture practices, utilising leading edge technology and unlocking new markets to improve the profitability of their businesses," Mr Schoen said.

The NSW Farmer of the Year award recognises outstanding achievement, focusing on management skills, use of innovation, profitability, environmental sustainability and community involvement.

The Farmer of the Year wins a cash prize of \$10,000 plus and runners up receive a \$2,000 prize.

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