
NEWS FROM THE TASMANIAN INSTITUTE OF AGRICULTURE

Media Release

Chiefs of Staff, News Directors

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Finalists announced for 2018 Tasmanian Dairy Business of the Year

Four dairy farms in the north of the State are in the running for the title of 2018 ANZ Tasmanian Dairy Business of the Year, recognising excellence in business management and farm performance.

The 2018 ANZ Dairy Business of the Year Award finalists are:

- Agrilac's Oxberry Dairy at Waterhouse, managed by David Risbey-Pearn;
- Currajong Dairy at Flowerdale, owned by Duncan and Sally Sadler, Wayne and Linda Hansen and Nathan and Cassidy Lawrence;
- Glenwood Dairy at Sisters Creek, owned by Richard and Melissa Duniam;
- Remlap at Sisters Creek, owned by Rhys and Cecile Palmer, and Michael Palmer and Eliza Anderson.

The awards will be announced at the Tasmanian Dairy Conference Awards Dinner in Launceston on the evening of 15 March.

The winner will be selected by the Tasmanian Institute of Agriculture's Dairy Extension team, who work closely with dairy farmers, including through the Tasmanian dairy business benchmarking program. Finalists were selected from participants in this program based on financial performance in the 2016-17 season.

TIA Dairy Extension Team Leader Ms Lesley Irvine said the award would go to the dairy business with the best overall results as assessed by the judges during a farm visit.

"As part of our mission to support the future economic and environmental sustainability of Tasmania's agriculture industries, we offer a free benchmarking service to dairy businesses which measures them against key performance indicators," Ms Irvine said.

"We work with dairy businesses to measure financial and physical information such as costs (per cow, per ha and per kg of milk solids), milk and feed production, labour efficiency and pasture utilisation.

"The feedback we've received shows this is a great way of helping dairy businesses to make confident and effective farm management decisions that will benefit them into the future."

Last year's winners, the Mulder Family (Gerard and Ria Mulder, and son Ronnie Mulder), focused on producing and using homegrown feed, and implemented a Fert\$mart plan, a free service offered by DairyTas, to maximise pasture growth by ensuring correct nutrient application.

DairyTas Executive Officer Jonathan Price said the awards were important to acknowledge the Tasmanian dairy farmers whose dedication benefits the industry as a whole.

"The team at DairyTas organises these awards each year to recognise the hard work and commitment of Tasmanian dairy farmers. The awards celebrate a range of important areas, from our young farmers, to business performance, farm management, safety management and environmental integrity," Mr Price said.

The Fonterra Share Dairy Farmer of the Year Award will also be presented on the night, along with four other awards, which are open for entry until 23 February. These Awards are:

- Cadbury Young Dairy Farmer Encouragement Award;
- Moon Lake Investments Farm Safety Award;
- Veolia Dairy Farm Environmental Award;
- WFI Employer of Choice Award.

More information about the conference and awards dinner is available at www.dairytas.com.au.

Photos of the finalists are available on request by emailing tia.comms@utas.edu.au.

TIA is a joint venture between the Tasmanian Government and the University of Tasmania.



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