

Opportunities for recognition of brilliant organic producers

AWARDS SEEK TOP PRODUCERS

Food culture has never been more important and to celebrate the groundswell of support for authentic, quality produce in Australia, leading food magazine *Vogue Entertaining + Travel*, in conjunction with sponsor Audi, has launched the *Vogue Entertaining + Travel Produce Awards*.

The awards have been created to recognise and celebrate the many people who contribute to our food culture by maintaining biodiversity and creating fabulous produce that's increasingly seen on restaurant tables and in our homes.

The national awards cover all aspects of food production, from primary producers, to growers and innovators, olive oils, dairy and seafood, and the most outstanding providers and culinary regions. There's also a strong emphasis on organics, including awards for best organic product and best organic producer. Awards patron Maggie Beer has lent her name to the award for the most outstanding contribution to Australian food.

The esteemed judging panel, drawn from across Australia, includes chef Matt Moran from the acclaimed Sydney restaurant Aria, Philip Johnson from legendary Brisbane bistro e'cco, and *Vogue Entertaining + Travel* editor Margaret Merten.

If you'd like to nominate someone, even yourself, then email < produceawards@vogue-entertaining.com.au > for entry details or visit the *Vogue Entertaining + Travel* website at < www.vogue.com.au >. But hurry, because entries close on August 1.

AWARD FOR YOUNG FARMERS

Young Australians with ideas to make use of science or innovative technology to benefit rural industries are invited to apply for a prestigious national award to support their project. The

awards was announced by federal Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Minister Warren Truss

"There are 17 awards available – one from each state and territory, and nine industry-based," Mr Truss said.

"Each award is worth up to \$10,000 and is open to farmers, fishers, foresters, processors, students, and anybody else aged between 18 and 35 who is working in, or supporting, our agriculture, fishing and forestry industries."

This year's industry awards sponsors are Australian Wool Innovation, Land & Water Australia, Grains RDC, Fisheries RDC, Forest & Wood Products RDC, Sugar RDC, the Rural Industries RDC, Grape & Wine RDC and Meat and Livestock Australia.

Mr Truss said the awards gave creative and enthusiastic young people in rural and regional areas – who often need only an opportunity and a bit of backing – the chance to get their ideas up and running.

"I urge young people with good ideas to lodge an application form by 13 June 2005," said Mr Truss.

Contact: Kylie Paulsen, Bureau of Rural Sciences, phone: (02) 6272 5223; mobile: 0438 630 491; application forms are available at < www.daff.gov.au/scienceawards >.

RURAL/REMOTE MANAGER OF THE YEAR AWARD

Professional managers, owner-managers and young managers who live and work in regional Queensland are being asked to stand up and be recognised for their exceptional achievements.

Nominations are being sought for the Rural/Remote Manager of the Year category of the Management Excellence Awards. For more information visit < www.managementawards.com.au > or call the Australian Institute of Management on 13 16 48. ■

Landcare funds Upper Clarence organic beef project

Upper Clarence Combined Landcare Inc has been successful in obtaining a grant through the Federal Government's National Landcare Program.

The Australian Government is providing more than \$1.2 million from the Natural Resource Innovation Grants Program – part of the Government's \$39 million National Landcare Program (2004-05 funding) for 20 projects to encourage the use of new innovative and sustainable agriculture practices.

The 20 projects that have been successful in the 2004-05 round of funding were chosen by an independent panel, and will receive individual grants ranging from \$5000 to \$128,600.

The Upper Clarence Combined Landcare Inc project titled *Planning and Demonstrating Organic Beef Production within the context of an Enterprise Environmental Management System, and Property Native Vegetation Management*

Planning will receive a total of \$109,750 to provide help to six beef cattle grazing enterprises to develop environmental management systems that incorporate property vegetation management planning.

The enterprises are planning to change from conventional to organic beef production. The project will look at some of the constraints to making this change. It will also help land managers become more involved in sustainable natural resource management.

Collaborators in the project include NSW DPI, Southern Cross University, Organic Growers of Australia, organic beef processor Green Mountain Trading Company, Northern Cooperative Meat Company and Northern Rivers Beef Plan Group.

Contact: Terry Moody, Upper Clarence Combined Landcare Inc, NSW, phone: (02) 6665 3133. ■