



July 2

Forging the 'Future of Farming' pathway

The Australian Sheep Breeders' Association is delighted to launch the ***Future of Farming*** series, incorporating junior judging, schools competitions and celebrating our best and brightest young farmers at the 2009 Australian Sheep & Wool Show.

Robert Mitchell, Australian Sheep Breeders' Association president said the Association is excited to host a growing number of agricultural students and young farmers at the show.

"The ASBA is passionate about building on our 132-year history of recognising excellence and dedicated to paving the way for our next generations of champion sheep breeders," Mr Mitchell said.

"All of us have benefited from encouragement and advice in our careers when we were just starting out – it's vital we forge a pathway for coming generations of agricultural leaders."

The ASBA has partnered with Rural Finance and the Ross McKenzie Trust to launch the ***Future of Farming*** series at the 'Sheep Show' in Bendigo on July 17 to 19.

Matt Gill, Rural Finance Regional Agribusiness Manager – North Central, said the organization was proud to be associated with the Future of Farming.

"The event will demonstrate just how successful and progressive the future of agriculture can be," Matt said. "At Rural Finance we understand how important an investment is, to this, and the next generation of agriculture."

Murray McKenzie, chairman of the Ross McKenzie Trust, which awards an outstanding school at the Australian Sheep & Wool Show, said the trust's 26 year focus has been on unearthing agriculture's brightest stars.

"Supporting young farmers in their search for excellence, which includes outstanding productivity gains and continuous genetic improvements, benefits all Australians," Mr McKenzie said.

Gavin Wall, farm services manager at Tintern Schools said students were looking forward to the Sheep Show's *Future of Farming* program.

"Without doubt the Australian Sheep & Wool Show at Bendigo is the highlight on the calendar for Tintern students. There is no other event that combines such an aggregation of sheep and sheep breeds from far and wide," Mr Wall said.

www.sheepshow.com

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