



# Media Release

## **SALRC 2020 awards announced for excellence in southern Australian livestock industries**

The Southern Australia Livestock Research Council (SALRC) has announced award recipients across the southern Australian livestock industries. The awards were developed to recognise, reward and celebrate excellence in the contributions of individuals to research, development, extension, communication and practical application of innovation on farm, to improve the profitability, productivity and sustainability of the Southern Australian red meat and livestock industries.

SALRC is an independent, incorporated association and one of three national research Councils setup to provide recommendations on Research, Development & Adoption (RD&A) priorities and planning for grass-fed beef and sheepmeat producers throughout Australia.

SALRC 2020 Award recipients included:

- Producer - Jenny O'Sullivan (Livestock Producer, Gippsland & former SALRC South east Victoria and Tasmanian Regional Chair)
- Scientist / Researcher - Andrew Thompson (Associate Professor, Murdoch University)
- Communication / Extension - Geoff Casburn (Livestock Development Officer, NSW DPI)
- Young Achiever - Benjamin Holman (Research Scientist, NSW DPI)

In announcing the award recipients, SALRC Chair Ian Rogan said "innovation and excellence should be recognised and rewarded in our livestock industries. The successful future of our sheep and beef industries depends on the research, development and commercial adoption of best practice and new knowledge and products. Whether it be in better pastures, improved genetics and management of our stock, meeting market expectations in environmental impacts, animal welfare and product quality-there are opportunities for ongoing improvements in all these areas. SALRC aims to support and recognise those at the researcher, advisor and producer levels that are taking the lead in progressing these aspects of our industries".

In receiving her award, Jenny O'Sullivan, Producer Award recipient responded that "it is a great honour to receive this award. I love working in an industry that uses good science to innovate and ensure we produce a safe, high quality product. Paul and I have always attempted to apply the best research on our farm and communicate to the community how the red meat industry is looking after the animals and the land whilst generating jobs and contributing to the economy of Australia."

Jenny believes that she has been privileged to be able to contribute to the direction of the research and adoption investment through her involvement with SALRC, The Australian Cattle Council and the Australian Beef Sustainability Framework and she encourages other producers to get involved with local groups and influence research and adoption in their regions, and also communicate what is happening widely.

In responding to his award as SALRC 2020 Scientist / Researcher, Dr Andrew Thompson said "it was great to be recognised by the sheep industry especially from the other side of the country. I have been fortunate to work with great teams of people at the former PVI in Hamilton in south west Victoria and now Murdoch in WA, a team that are passionate about impacting the sheep industry across Australia in a positive way".

Andrew continued that "collaboration has always been a key to success and few if any research groups involved in on-farm R&D collaborate like we do - 8 of 10 projects currently led by our group at Murdoch involve other scientists and consultants in SALRC regions, and current and recent projects have involved over 200 sites on commercial farms throughout Australia. Successful collaboration is so rewarding especially working directly with farmers".

The Communication / Extension 2020 Award recipient Geoff Casburn was “honoured to receive the communication and extension award. While I understand the award is focussed on the individual, the role I play has always involved others. Throughout my career I have worked with many producers and together we have explored a range of issues.” Geoff has worked in many teams within NSW Department of Primary Industries, the NSW Local Land Service and interstate organisations. He believes the most effective programs are those which bring together a range of skills and a range in thinking. In short, Geoff said “the success I have been involved with is primarily due to the input and hard work of others”, thanking SALRC for the Award and all those who have collaborated with him.

Benjamin Holman, Young Achiever Award recipient responded that “it is an exciting time in the livestock industry and I feel fortunate to be involved. I am honoured to receive the SALRC Young Achiever Award – and consider it a reminder. We [scientists] are responsible to red meat industry and must strive to ensure that our research has real and practical benefit to the sector.”

The Awards were presented online on Wednesday 23rd September 2020. SALRC will continue to identify and recognise outstanding contributors to the red meat and livestock industries in future.

**Ends – 30/09/2020**

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