



## Farmsafe Farmer Awards 2009 Media Release

12 August 2009

### **Farmsafe and CGU Insurance launch 2009 farm safety awards**

Farm-related injuries cause an horrific 100 deaths, 6500 hospital admissions and almost 6000 workers' compensation claims in Australia every year, and represent an annual burden of \$1.29 billion on the farming community.

While there has been significant progress, farm safety remains a big issue in regional and rural Australia. As Australia's largest regional and rural insurer CGU Insurance has announced it will continue to support Farmsafe Australia to work to improve safety on the farm.

Farmsafe and CGU Insurance established the biannual awards in 2007 to recognise people and groups that have contributed to improved farm safety.

The Farmsafe Farmer Awards are designed to reinforce the importance of better farm health and safety practices by recognising those that are leading the way in this critical area for regional and rural communities.

Farmsafe Australia Executive Officer John Temperley said that while farm safety had received increased attention over the last decade, injury statistics showed that much more still needed to be done.

"Every farm-related death and injury is avoidable and we must stop this loss of life and reduced quality of life," he said. "Farm-related deaths and injuries also create a significant economic burden for both farmers and the communities they live in."

Andrew Beer, CGU's National Manager, Regional, said the insurer was committed to helping reduce risk in the community and saw these awards as a way to reinforce the safety message on farms.

"Risk management and safety are major issues for farmers and these awards will highlight the need for better health and safety practices by illustrating those that are leading the way in this area," he said. "We are proud to support an initiative that is going to promote safer farming and increased farm productivity through better farming practices."

According to Farmsafe, tractors, farm vehicles, quad bikes and farm machinery are the biggest cause of death on farms, while dams, rivers and creeks are also major problem areas for children on farms. More than 60% of farmers and farm workers have some level of hearing loss which is largely attributable to long-term exposure to high noise levels.

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# Farmsafe Farmer Awards 2009

## About the awards

Farmsafe and CGU have jointly established the Farmsafe Farmer Awards to encourage the farming community to think about safety and to recognise individuals or groups who have demonstrated initiative in managing farm health and safety.

There are three awards:

- Farmsafe Farmer of the Year – \$500 prize.
- Community Farm Safety Group – \$1,000 prize.
- Individual Farm Safety Contribution – \$500 prize.

The awards will be made biannually on the basis of:

- Community involvement.
- Farm safety management.
- Farm safety innovation and research.
- Financial and management systems – how does the farm business keep health and safety records?

The awards have a particular focus on acknowledging individuals, groups and farmers who promote and combine sustainable health and safety practices with profitable production.

The awards will be presented at the Farm Health and Safety 'Time to Act' Annual Conference Dinner to be held at The Vines, Swan Valley, Western Australia on Wednesday 14 October, 2009.

## Who can enter

The Farmsafe Farmer Awards 2009 nominations are open to individuals, farmers or groups that have made a contribution to improve Australian farm safety.

## How to enter

Application forms are available for download from the following websites: [www.farmsafe.org.au](http://www.farmsafe.org.au) and [www.cgu.com.au](http://www.cgu.com.au).

## Closing date

25 September 2009