MEDIA RELEASE
WEDNESDAY 4 JULY 2012

AUSTRALIAN PORK LIMITED CONGRATULATES INDUSTRY AWARD WINNERS

2012 Ron Collins Memorial Travel Award

Australian Pork Limited (APL) and the Pan Pacific Pork Expo (PPPE) Committee are proud to announce Greg Mills as the winner of the Ron Collins Memorial Travel Award for 2012.

Greg is an Industry Development Officer with NSW Department of Primary Industries who works with a range of industries including pigs, dairy, eggs, chicken meat, ducks and honey bees. He works with producers, major retailers, research organisations, industry bodies and other special interest groups, and specialises in areas of business analysis, decision support tool development, the use of new technologies in extension programs and sustainable industry development.

The Ron Collins Memorial Travel Award has been designed to assist a person, involved in any aspect of the Australian pork industry, to travel overseas and further investigate a topic which must be innovative and is of benefit to the industry. The total award is valued at up to $10,000.

Greg will use the grant to attend the Food Integrity Summit in the United States (US) and spend time with the Center for Food Integrity in Gladstone, Missouri. If timetabling permits, visits would also be made to pork producers involved in the FarmersFeedUs initiative to gain a producer insight into the development of a social licence.

Greg has been a leader in developing a range of extension strategies that have allowed widely dispersed industries, such as the pork industry, to gain greater access to information on advances in their industry. This has included podcasts, revamping the delivery of PigLink, webinars and an utilising technology to enable overseas presents to speak to Australian audience via the internet.

In 2011, Greg was instrumental in raising awareness of the concept of ‘social licence’ across a range of industries including the Australian pork industry through a range of meetings and presentations supported by Charlie Arnot from the US Center for Food Integrity. This has led to an increasing awareness of industries to develop and maintain a social licence. These activities have also lead to the investigations into developing an Australian Centre for Food Integrity.

Greg was presented with the award by Jefo Managing Director, Wayne Bradshaw, and Australian Pork Newspaper Editor, Ben Collins, at the 2012 PPPE held on 16-17 May at the Gold Coast, Qld.

2012 Ron Pollard Undergraduate Scholarship Award

Australian Pork Limited (APL) is proud to announce University of Adelaide student, Jessica Zemitis, as the winner of the Ron Pollard Undergraduate Scholarship Award for 2012.

Jessica is in her third and final year of a Bachelor of Animal Science at the University of Adelaide and undertook a three week placement at Mallee Park Piggery with Greg and Diana Parsons.

The aim of the award is to recognise high calibre undergraduate students and foster their interest in pursuing a career in the pork industry. Jessica is an outstanding student and participated enthusiastically in her placement, gaining a wide range of skills and experience and a keen interest in the pork industry.

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Recipients of this award are selected from participants undertaking work experience as part of APL's Undergraduate Industry Placements, a program which is very well supported in South Australia.

Jessica was presented with the award by acting APL Chairman, Aeger Kingma, on behalf of the APL Board at the APL Producer Dinner held on Wednesday 20 June at the Barossa Valley, South Australia.

The Ron Pollard Undergraduate Scholarship award was established in 2009 by APL’s Research and Innovation Division, in memory of the late Ron Pollard. The award honours Ron’s commitment to mentoring young people in the pork industry. Ron was a respected NSW pork producer and former president of the Pork Council of Australia, and was instrumental in the restructure of a number of national industry associations which resulted in the formation of APL. He also served as APL’s interim Chairman.

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