

Winners on the menu

By Brooke Summers

Winners in the first national Cotton Industry Awards competition will be announced at the Cotton Conference Dinner on August 12. Over 80 entries were generated across five categories, with the following 19 finalists shortlisted by industry judging panels:

Cotton Industry Service to Industry Award:

- Brett Austin, cotton grower, Theodore (nominated posthumously).
- Keith Harris, cotton grower, Gunnedah.
- Stuart Higgins, cotton grower, Darling Downs.
- Iain Macpherson cotton consultant, Goondiwindi.
- Charles Wilson, cotton grower, Emerald.

Cotton Industry Elders Young Achiever Award:

- Chaseley Ross, Cotton Australia, Brisbane.
- Chris Maunder, B & W Rural, Moree.
- Tim Richards, Auscott, Moree.

Cotton Industry Bayer CropScience Grower of the Year Award AND Cotton Industry Queensland Cotton High Achiever of the Year Award:

- Hamparsum Family, "Drayton", Breeza, NSW.
- Brownlie Enterprises, "Culverthorpe", Pampas, Queensland.
- Emerald Agricultural College, Emerald, Queensland.
- Geldard Family,

"Noonameena", Condamine, Queensland.

- Wicks Farming, "Karinya", Dalby, Queensland.
- "Buddah Pty Ltd", Narromine, NSW.

ACGRA Researcher of the Year Award, sponsored by CSD

- Michael Bange, Senior Research Scientist, Australian Cotton CRC/CSIRO.
- Dr Peter Gregg, Associate Professor, University of New England, Armidale
- Mark Hickman, Senior Extension Development Officer, Australian Cotton CRC/Queensland Department of Primary Industries, Toowoomba.
- Dr David Nehl, Research Scientist, Australian Cotton CRC/NSW Agriculture.
- Dr Grant Roberts, Farming Systems Scientist, Australian Cotton CRC/CSIRO.

The Australian Cotton Industry Awards Taskforce would like to wish all these finalists the best of luck, and extend a special thanks to all in the industry who have supported this Awards competition.

Top six farms judged in Australian Cotton Industry Awards

Six cotton farms made the finals of the Australian Cotton Industry Awards, with a team of industry judges visiting farms from Emerald in the north to Narromine in the south recently to determine winners in two categories.

According to head judge, Queensland Department of Primary Industries' Geoff McIntyre, judges looked for excellence across a range of categories.

"Each farm completed a questionnaire giving detailed information including farm management and design, pest management philosophies, occupational health and safety, marketing strategies, environmental management, crop performance and vision for the future," Geoff said.

"We were looking for farms excelling in cotton production, challenging convention, experimenting with new ideas, embracing technology and demonstrating commitment to the industry's environmental program, Best Management Practices," he said.

"All the finalists are extremely well run operations, using world's best practice in a range of areas. Our job was very difficult given such a strong field of finalists," Geoff said.



Judging on Culverthorpe", Pampas.



The judges at "Buddah", Narromine.



John Harparsum and Pete Cottle.