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MEDIA RELEASE

NEW RECORD SET FOR DAIRY AWARD NOMINATIONS

The Great South West Dairy Awards continue to grow with a record 80 nominations for 2012.

Last year 75 local farmers were nominated for the various award categories, in 2010 there were 48 in 2009 there were just 26.

On top of the 80 award nominations, dozens of photos have been lodged for the Best Farm Photo of the Year category which closes on March 23.

Project manager Barbara Collins said the record number of nominations reflected the growing stature of the awards.

“Each year we have seen an increase in the amount of interest in the awards, not only in nominations but also in attendance at our Gala Awards night and in support from the dairying community through sponsorship,” Ms Collins said.

“People appreciate the opportunity to recognise those who are making a positive contribution to the dairy industry,” she said.

“It shows that people in dairying are doing a good job and their colleagues and the broader community are recognising those achievements.”

There have been 19 nominations for the Employer of the Year award, 15 for Employee of the Year, 11 for Share Farmer of the Year, 13 for Natural Resource and Sustainability Manager, 18 for the Young Farm Leader award and four for the dairy industry honour roll.

Nominations for the honour roll remain open until March 23.

WestVic Dairy chairman John Dalton described the strong number of nominations as a positive sign for the industry.

“It shows that the industry recognises the value of the awards and that there are many people doing a good job that justifies their nomination,” Mr Dalton said.

The winners of all categories will be announced at the Gala Awards Night on April 26 at Glenormiston College.

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