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## **Nominations open for 2015 Great South West Dairy Awards**

Nominations for the 2015 Great South West Dairy Awards will open on February 9, 2015.

The Awards are run by WestVic Dairy and celebrate the achievements of the western Victorian dairy industry.

Now in their ninth year, the Great South West Dairy Awards have become a staple event for the dairy industry recognising the hard work of farmers and service providers in the region.

### **Categories open for nominations include:**

- **Gardiner Foundation Employer of the Year**
- **Dairy Australia's Farm Business Manager**
- **Farm Photo**
- **Employee of the Year sponsored by Murray Goulburn**
- **Moyne Shire Young Farm Leader**
- **Glenelg Hopkins and Corangamite Catchment Authorities Natural Resource and Sustainability Manager**
- **Western Victorian Dairy Industry Honour Board**

GreenCon will be sponsoring runner up awards in each category, and an overall winner will be selected from the winners in each category.

WestVic Dairy Executive Officer Paula Doran said the awards highlighted the importance of the western Victorian region for the Australian dairy industry.

"Our annual awards have become a pinnacle event for our organisation," she said.

"These are the most prestigious dairy awards for western Victoria, if not the Australian dairy industry as a whole, given this area's strength in production."

Last year's Farm Business Manager and Young Farm Leader award recipient Dave Conheady said he was surprised, yet delighted to win the two awards.

"I accepted the nomination because I thought it was important to do anything possible to support the industry... For me, it's about the industry, not the individual," he said.

"Everybody deserves to be congratulated or commended if they're doing a good job in what they do, and dairy should be no exception."

Ms Doran said she encouraged farmers to start thinking about nominating and being part of a true celebration of the industry.

Nomination forms can be accessed on the WestVic Dairy website [www.westvicdairy.com.au](http://www.westvicdairy.com.au), or call (03) 5557 1000.

The winners will be announced at a gala night on May 29, 2015 at the Colac Otway Performing Arts and Cultural Centre (COPACC).

*WestVic Dairy is a not for profit regional development program (RDP) led by western Victorian dairy farmers. WestVic Dairy is funded by Dairy Australia and the Dairy Service levy and supported by regional stakeholders.*

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