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MEDIA RELEASE

FINALISTS ANNOUNCED FOR GREAT SOUTH WEST DAIRY AWARDS

Twenty five dairy farmers from between Heywood and Deans Marsh will compete for the 2012 Great South West Dairy Awards.

The finalists for the five major awards have been announced after organisers received a record 80 nominations.

A further 20 photos have been shortlisted from more than 60 entries in the Gardiner Foundation Best Dairy Farm Photo competition.

Project manager Barbara Collins said the quantity and quality of nominations continued to increase every year.

“The dairy awards are in their seventh year and continue to gain momentum. Their success reflects a growing interest in recognising high performance and achievements in the dairy industry,” Ms Collins said.

“It hasn’t been an easy task to choose the finalists and now our judges will have an even tougher job choosing winners.”

The following is the list of finalists:

Ambleside Financial Planning Employer of the Year:

- Isaac and Michelle Johnstone, Grassmere, Stephen and Tania Luckin, Heywood, Liam Ryan, Grassmere, Mark and Tania Nevill, Mepunga East, and Andrew Powell, Cooriermungle.

Dairy Australia Employee of the Year:

- Aaron Masters, Cobden, David Cranwell, Winslow, Peter Kerr, Simpson, Phillip Stasiw, Timboon, and Trevor Coburn, The Sisters.

Glenelg and Corangamite CMAs Natural Resource and sustainability Management:

- Stephen and Tania Luckin, Heywood, Liam Ryan, Grassmere, Darren and Camilla Moloney, Boorcan, and Andrew, Anna and Yvonne Wortley, Macarthur.

Warrnambool Cheese and Butter Sharefarmer of the Year:

- Leighton and Karen Hart, Deans Marsh, Ben and Anna Kenna, Terang, and Jason and Fiona Newcombe, Princetown.

Moyne Shire Young Farm Leader:

- Jason Lenehan, Pomborneit, David O'Connell, Kirkstall, Tom Newton, Port Fairy, Susan Rea, Terang, and Luke Davidson, Terang.

Nominations are also being considered for the second round of inductees on a new dairy industry honour board.

Independent judges are now reviewing the finalists, including interviews and visits to their workplaces.

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

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