

9 November 2021

AUSTRALIAN EGG FARMER INDUSTRY AWARDS ANNOUNCED

- Inaugural egg farmers industry recognition awards announced tonight
- NSW egg farm stalwart and young Qld poultry vet named winners
- Aussie egg farmers supply 17.9 million eggs daily to Australian households

Two Australians who make a significant contribution to egg production have been awarded the inaugural Egg Farmers of Australia industry recognition awards.

The winners were:

- Queensland poultry vet, Dr Jodi Courtice, who was named the ***Egg Farmers of Australia Young Egg Industry Achiever of the Year***.
- And NSW egg farming stalwart, Franko Pirovic, who received the ***Egg Farmers of Australia Industry Leader Excellence Award*** - for service to the egg industry.

Egg Farmers of Australia CEO Melinda Hashimoto said the two awards were announced tonight at the organisation's Annual General Meeting (November 9).

"Aussie egg farmers and the people they employ, such as farm staff, hatchery crews, and vets, all work very hard to maintain a consistent and clean supply of fresh eggs for Australian families - and the awards aim to recognise this work," Ms Hashimoto said.

Commercial egg farmers produce 17.9 million eggs daily for domestic consumption.

Dr Jodi Courtice is an egg industry vet, employed by McLean Farms at Pittsworth in Queensland. Her skills address the health and production issues of more than a million hens across cage, barn and free range systems, Ms Hashimoto said.

"Dr Courtice has been a key contributor in pioneering the world's first successful *Spotty Liver* vaccine - including overseeing the commercial application of trials that are currently in their final stages."

Franko Pirovic is the Managing Director of Pirovic Family Farms in NSW and has been involved in producing eggs for more than 56 years. Under his leadership, Franko has grown Pirovic into a national business and has designed and built state-of-the-art egg packing facilities.

Significantly, Mr Pirovic makes time to engage with other egg farmers across Australia on important agri-political issues. In 2015, when uncertainty gripped the free-range egg industry and threatened to cripple family farms, he led a campaign to fight for farmers through a nationally-coordinated approach.

"Many of his egg industry peers say a 'great debt of gratitude' is owed Franko for his leadership on that issue. They say Egg Farmers of Australia (EFA) would not exist as a lobby group in its current form, without him," Ms Hashimoto said.

Ten finalists from Western Australia, South Australia, NSW, Qld and Victoria were short listed for both awards – judged by Peter Bedwell (Poultry Digest) and Rowan McMonnies (Australian Eggs). **ENDS**

Photos: Dr Jodi Courtice - McLean Farms (QLD). Franko Pirovic - Pirovic Family Farms (NSW)

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