



Royal Agricultural Society of NSW

27 August, 2008

Picton producers take Presidential honours

Dairy farmers from Picton, NSW have taken out the 2008 President's Medal, beating five others for the honour of best producer in Australia.

The Royal Agricultural Society (RAS) of NSW has awarded the 2008 President's Medal to Country Valley in front of hundreds of food and wine aficionados at The Ivy in Sydney.

Country Valley's Lush Traditional Handmade Yoghurt was awarded Champion Cultured Milk Product or Yoghurt at the 2008 Sydney Royal Cheese & Dairy Produce Show, putting owners John and Sally Fairley in the running for selection as a President's Medal finalist.

President of the RAS Mr Glenn Dudley congratulated the husband and wife team, saying the unique competition gives recognition and kudos to producers who work hard to balance commercial and environmental considerations.

"The President's Medal represents the best of the best in food, wine and dairy from all over Australia. It is the most prestigious sustainable production award because of its reach across the country.

"Even more importantly, the President's Medal encourages producers to explore new, sustainable ways of producing excellent products, an essential quality for commercial survival in the current climate.

"For Country Valley to take home this award, they have beaten over 5,000 Fine Food, Wine and Dairy products from across the country, including 61 Champion products and of course the five other producers nominated for this year's President's Medal."

Country Valley's John Fairley was reluctant to reveal any secrets to the winning formula that helped to tip them over the line.

"Sorry, I can't tell you the secret but it is made in the time honoured tradition of making yoghurt. We use only culture and milk, no additives whatsoever which gives it a clean feel in the mouth.

"Winning the President's Medal gives us confidence knowing that we are producing the best product we can."

The President's Medal judges products against a series of environmental, economic and commercial measures.

The judges visited each of the six finalists across the country to view their operations and to ensure the product met the strict criteria.

Country Valley was awarded a silver heritage RAS medal and \$10,000 prize money.

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