

Enthusiasm abounds in NSW farmers of the year

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Central West mixed grain and livestock producer and cell grazing enthusiast, Nigel Kerin, has been named the 2008 NSW Farmer of the Year, while Hawkesbury turf and small crop producer Tally Matthews has taken out the NSW Young Farmer of the Year title.

Mr Kerin, Yeoval, beat other finalists, Chris Mirams, Holbrook, and Kim and Stephen Roberts, Temora, collecting the award at last week's NSW Farmers Association annual conference dinner.

He and his wife Kate, own and manage a cell grazing operation holistically managing the enterprise's sheep, wool, cattle trading and pasture cropping operations and their co-owned Gullengamble Merino stud, developed along Soft Rolling Skin (SRS) breeding principles for the past 15 years.



Farmer of the Year, Nigel Kerin, Yeoval, and Young Farmer of the Year, Tally Matthews, Ebenezer.

The sheep are wrinkle-free and don't require mulesing and flock genetics are selected for worm resistance.

Meanwhile, Young Farmer of the Year, Tally Matthews, farms two properties in the Hawkesbury Valley, north west of Sydney, at Ebenezer.

He began leasing one a 20-hectare block when he was 14 years to grow turf and vegetables, the other a similar sized property was recently purchased primarily for turf production.

He has also has pursued a professional external career as an agronomist for the past 10 years to help fund his farming ambitions.

Mr Matthews beat fellow finalist, Ben Watts, Molong for the title announced at last week's NSW Farmers Association annual conference.

The farmer of the year awards are run by NSW Farmers Association and NSW Department of Primary industries in co-operation with *The Land* and the NSW Royal Agricultural Society.

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