



Queenslander takes out top wool producer

A Queensland woolgrower has been crowned Wool Producer of the Year in the Australian Farmer of the Year Awards announced in Sydney last night.

AgForce Sheep & Wool president Richard Pietsch congratulated Jack Banks on the win and said it was great to see he and his family recognised for the hard work they do on 'Springleigh', Blackall.

"It is absolutely fantastic for a Queenslander to win this award, especially the Banks – their operation is a top family business that puts out a high-quality product," Mr Pietsch said.

"Jack has also put a lot of work into Leading Sheep, an initiative which helps producers adopt new technologies and practices to increase their productivity."

Mr Pietsch said Jack, a AgForce Sheep & Wool North councillor, had also embraced satellite tracking technology to better understand wild dogs and their movement through rural Queensland to protect his flock.

"Wild dogs cost Queensland sheep and cattle producers \$67 million annually, so it is very positive to see a producer recognised for his hard work," Mr Pietsch said.

Jack Banks and his family produce 20-micron wool at Springleigh. He is actively involved in passing on skills and knowledge to the next generation, with links to Australian Wool Innovation's extension networks, local grower groups and universities.

For more information, visit www.kondiningroup.com.au

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Who is AgForce? AgForce represents thousands of Queensland broadacre producers who recognise the value in having a strong voice. AgForce leads the way to ensure agriculture's social, economic and environmental contribution is recognised by all levels of government. AgForce works alongside landholders, encourages and supports the next generation, builds industry partnerships and skills and promotes agriculture - for secure, sustainable, progressive and profitable food and fibre into the future.