

MEDIA RELEASE

Australian Biosecurity Awards: the winner is ... us!

8 March 2017

The Farm Biosecurity Program, Australia's only national on-farm biosecurity awareness program, was recognised by winning the Australian Government's prestigious government biosecurity award last night.

This award celebrates not only a significant biosecurity initiative but highlights the strong collaborative partnership between Animal Health Australia (AHA) and Plant Health Australia (PHA).

The annual Australian Biosecurity Awards recognises organisations and individuals who have made notable and outstanding contributions to protect the health of Australia's plants and animals.

AHA CEO, Kathleen Plowman said: "The award acknowledged the eight-year partnership between AHA and PHA that has generated multiple innovative and useful resources to improve on-farm biosecurity amongst Australian producers."

"The Farm Biosecurity partnership began in 2009 and since then it has generated a raft of tools and resources, including risk planners, gate signs and phone apps, all of which are accessible from the website and relevant to every Australian farmer and the sustainability of their business," Ms Plowman said.

PHA's Executive Director and CEO, Greg Fraser, also welcomed the accolade, saying that the partnership between PHA and AHA is the strength of this program, which is funded by subscriptions from government and industry members of the two companies.

"This award acknowledges what we have known for a number of years. We can achieve more by working together to maintain the health of crops and livestock at the farm level."

Producers play a key role in protecting Australian plant and livestock industries from pests and diseases by implementing sound biosecurity measures on-farm.

"The Farm Biosecurity Program is about helping producers to secure their farm and secure their future. I encourage all of our industry and government members to use the resources provided by the program," said Mr Fraser.

Both companies look forward to continuing to work together to help producers reduce the risks posed to their livelihoods by diseases, pests and weeds.

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For more information or to arrange an interview, contact AHA's Communications Coordinator, Harley McNamara on 02 6203 3977, or Plant Health Australia's Communications Officer, Sharon Abrahams on 02 6215 7711.

About the Farm Biosecurity Program

The Farm Biosecurity Program is a national awareness program that provides information for livestock and crop producers about on-farm biosecurity, and how to prevent diseases, pests and weeds from impacting their business. The program is a joint initiative of Animal Health Australia and Plant Health Australia. It encourages producers to identify risks to their livestock and plant products and minimise these risks by incorporating on-farm biosecurity measures into their everyday operations. Learn more at www.farmbiosecurity.com.au