



Australian Government
Department of Agriculture,
Fisheries and Forestry

2012 Science and Innovation Awards for Young People in Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

INFORMATION FOR APPLICANTS

Applications close at 5.00pm AEDT Friday 18 November 2011

Applicants should read this document thoroughly prior to completing their
***2012 Science and Innovation Awards for Young People in Agriculture,
Fisheries and Forestry – Application form***

Frequently asked questions, advice for the category Award sponsors and tips for
completing the Application Form are available at

www.abares.gov.au/scienceawards

For further information

Visit: www.abares.gov.au/scienceawards

Email: scienceawards@daff.gov.au

Phone: 02 6272 2260 / 2303 / 3051



1. INTRODUCTION

The 2012 Science and Innovation Awards for Young People in Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (the Awards) support young people to undertake a project on an innovative or emerging scientific issue, including biophysical and social sciences, that will contribute to the ongoing success and sustainability of Australia's agricultural, fisheries and forestry industries.

The Awards aim to encourage the uptake of science, innovation and technology in rural industries and help to advance the careers of young scientists through national recognition of their research ideas.

The program is administered by the Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences (ABARES), within the Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF).

2. WHO CAN APPLY?

Applications for funding are open to young people between 18 and 35 years, who are working, employed or studying in an agriculture, fisheries or forestry related industry (including food and sustainable natural resource management).

Eligible applicants may include young producers (farmers, fishers, foresters etc), extension officers, researchers, processors, students, or industry advisers.

To be eligible, applicants must:

- (i) be between the ages of 18 and 35 (inclusive) on Friday 18 November 2011.
- (ii) be Australian citizens or permanent residents (proof may be required).
- (iii) be working, employed or studying in an agriculture, fisheries or forestry related industry (including food and sustainable natural resource management).

Employees of the Commonwealth and those directly employed by sponsoring organisations are not eligible to apply. Bodies subject to the Financial Management Act 1997 (FMA Act) are considered as Commonwealth agencies. If you work at, or your project relates to, an agency subject to the FMA Act, then you are ineligible to apply. An example of an FMA body is the Department of Innovation, Industry, Science and Research. Any organisations or statutory bodies that fall within this department, for example the Australian Research Council, are also considered FMA agencies.

Bodies subject to the Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 1997 (CAC Act) are considered legally and financially separate from the Commonwealth, and are not



Australian Government

Department of Agriculture,
Fisheries and Forestry

considered as Commonwealth bodies under the eligibility criteria within the information for applicants.

For further clarification on FMA and CAC agencies, please visit
<http://www.finance.gov.au/publications/flipchart/docs/FMACACFlipchart.pdf>

If you remain unsure about your eligibility, please contact the Science Awards Manager (see Section 11 for contact details).



3. THE PROJECT

In the context of these Awards, a project is defined as a specific body of work, which is a scientific or technological innovation.

Applicants must submit a written proposal to undertake a specific project, for a period of up to 12 months, that:

- (i) is related to an innovative or emerging scientific issue in an agriculture, fisheries or forestry related industry (including food and sustainable natural resource management)
- (ii) demonstrates dedication to the future of rural and regional industries with a commitment to promoting science and innovation as an integral part of that future.

This may include, for example, projects that involve further study, industry visits, specific research activities, attending conferences or workshops etc. Full details of the proposed project should be set out in accordance with Section C of the Application Form (see www.abares.gov.au/scienceawards).

Applicants should provide a detailed breakdown of all costs associated with their project in Section C of the Application Form (for details, please see the website www.abares.gov.au/scienceawards). Applicants should ensure that the funds are to be used efficiently, as value for money is an assessment criterion (refer to Section 7 of this document).

4. INELIGIBLE PROJECTS

Projects that will not be funded include:

- (i) projects that are undertaken as part of any TAFE or undergraduate tertiary course of study (projects that complement or contribute to a postgraduate course of study may be eligible provided that they are not excluded under 4(ii) and 4(iii) below)
- (ii) projects that are funded by other Commonwealth or state government programs
- (iii) projects that include activities that have commenced before the assessment of 2012 Award winners (as a general guide, projects should not commence before 6 March 2012). Award winners will be paid following the announcement.



5. AWARDS

Two types of Award will be offered in 2012:

A. Industry category Awards

There will be one Industry Award for each award category (refer to Section B of the Application Form). Applicants can apply for more than one Award category but a separate application must be submitted for each. Applicants will only be eligible to receive one Award for their project. The relevant judging panels will be advised if an applicant has applied in other categories.

Industry Awards are sponsored by the rural research and development corporations and industry associations.

Applicants can apply for up to \$22,000 (GST inclusive). The grant must be applied against the nominated project within 12 months of receiving their award, therefore by the end of March 2012.

B. Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry's Award

One 2012 individual Award category recipient will also receive the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry's Award, valued at up to \$33,000 (GST inclusive).

The Minister's Award is additional to the Industry Award and will be based on a further assessment of the 2012 individual Award category recipients. Recipients of an individual category Award will be provided with the application forms to apply for the Minister's Award and will be given extra time to do so.

6. PROJECT TIMEFRAME

Successful applicants will be expected to complete their project within 12 months of receiving an Industry Award (it is expected the Award will be paid after March 2012 with completion expected by the end of March 2013. However, if the Award is granted at a later date, the 12 month period will start from the payment date). Recipients may also be expected to present the results of their project to a number of public forums or seminars on request from ABARES or the Industry Award sponsor.

The applicable period of the Minister's Award is also 12 months from award (being the same period applicable to the Industry Award).

If you are unable to complete your project within the specified timeframes, you must advise the Science Awards Manager as soon as possible on 02 6272 2260 or scienceawards@daff.gov.au to negotiate a revised timeframe.



7. ASSESSMENT OF APPLICATIONS

A. *Industry Awards*

Assessment of applications will be undertaken by a judging panel convened by the relevant sponsor (see Section B of the Application form for sponsors).

All eligible applications will be assessed against the following criteria:

- (i) the project is related to an innovative or emerging scientific issue in an agriculture, fisheries and forestry related industry (including food and sustainable natural resource management)
- (ii) the project demonstrates dedication to the future of rural and regional industries with a commitment to promoting science and innovation as an integral part of that future
- (iii) the project is likely to provide long-term benefits to the related industry
- (iv) the project is likely to provide benefits to the applicant
- (v) the project activities represent good value for money.

Applicants should ensure that all parts of the Application Form are complete. Applications will be assessed only on information submitted in the application.

B. *Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Award (Minister's Award)*

Applications for this Award are subject to a separate process. The application process for the Minister's Award has changed for the 2012 round. Applications for the Minister's Award will be available to those applicants who are successful under the Industry Awards and will require a separate application process. As in previous years, it is successful recipients of the individual industry Award who are eligible for the Minister's Award.

An independent panel will recommend to the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, the recipient of the Minister's Award. The criteria for this award are the same as those applicable to the Industry Awards, as described above in Section 7A of this document. This Award is to give extra recognition to the project considered as the most outstanding overall.



8. ANNOUNCEMENT OF AWARD WINNERS

All applicants will be notified in writing of the outcome of their application for funding.

Award winners, including the Minister's Award winner, will be formally announced at a presentation event in Canberra on 6 March 2012 as part of the Outlook 2012 conference dinner.

9. GRANT CONDITIONS

If successful, Award winners will be required to sign a funding agreement with the Commonwealth (a draft funding agreement is available at www.abares.gov.au/scienceawards).

Please note that no grant funding can be provided until the funding agreement has been fully completed and signed by both the grantee and the Commonwealth. A copy of the signed agreement will be provided to you.

10. COMPLAINT HANDLING

Decisions regarding the award of each grant to an applicant are final. All applicants will be notified of the final outcome, and feedback can be provided if desired.

If you have a concern you wish to raise regarding the outcome of your application, please contact the Science Awards Manager in the first instance, on 02 6272 2260 or scienceawards@daff.gov.au.

If you are not satisfied with the initial resolution of your concern, you can contact:

Annette Blyton

Branch Manager

Research Portfolio Management

DAFF

Phone: 02 6272 2222

Email: annette.blyton@abares.gov.au



Australian Government
Department of Agriculture,
Fisheries and Forestry

If after this process, or at any time, you do not believe that the department has adequately addressed your concerns, you may refer the matter to:

Office of the Commonwealth Ombudsman

GPO Box 441

Canberra City ACT 2601

Phone: 1300 362 072

Email: ombudsman@ombudsman.gov.au

11. HOW TO APPLY

Applicants can obtain an Application Form from www.abares.gov.au/scienceawards or by contacting the Science Awards Manager (details below).

Applicants should ensure that all parts of the Application Form are completed and signed prior to lodgement.

All applications must:

- (i) be submitted using the 2012 Application Form
- (ii) be lodged by 5.00pm AEDT 18 November 2011.

Applicants must submit:

One electronic copy of their completed application in Word document format only (compatible with Microsoft Word 2007), lodged by email to

scienceawards@daff.gov.au by the due date

which should be supported by one signed original hardcopy of the complete application lodged by the due date to:

By post to:

Maree Finnegan
Science Awards Manager
DAFF
GPO Box 1563
CANBERRA ACT 2601

or by courier* to:

Maree Finnegan
Science Awards Manager
DAFF
18 Marcus Clarke Street
CANBERRA CITY ACT 2601

*Couriers - please call extension 2260, 3051 or 2303 at reception for collection

Illegible, faxed or late applications will not be accepted.



Australian Government
Department of Agriculture,
Fisheries and Forestry

Failure to meet all requirements and provide all information requested will result in your application not being considered.

Failures in email and IT systems are not considered grounds for accepting late applications.

12. FURTHER INFORMATION

Further information can be obtained by contacting the Science Awards Manager:

Phone: 02 6272 2260

Email: scienceawards@daff.gov.au

Web: www.abares.gov.au/scienceawards

ENDS