

Media Release

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Thursday, 16 June 2022

TASMANIAN LAMB GROWER RECEIVES GRANT TO BUILD YEAR ROUND LIVESTOCK HANDLING FACILITY

Financial support provided by Coles Nurture Fund reaches \$30 million

Cressy family farming business Elansco is one of more than 90 Aussie producers to share in \$30 million in financial support provided by the Coles Nurture Fund over the past seven years.

Owned and managed by Lauchlan and Sarah Cole, the business will receive a \$295,000 grant to construct an undercover animal management facility which will greatly improve the handling, welfare and management of lambs during the Tasmanian winter when cold and wet weather conditions can adversely affect production.

The new facility will enable the business to produce consistent, quality pasture-fed lamb during the winter months. It will also facilitate the storage of harvested grass seed and fertilisers.

Last week Coles announced that it would award Nurture Fund grants to six small and medium sized businesses which are striving to improve sustainability, grow Australia's organic fresh produce industry and increase sustainable meat production.

The latest round of funding brings the financial support provided by the Coles Nurture Fund to \$30 million since 2015.

Elansco is the fourth Tasmanian producer to be awarded financial support from the Coles Nurture Fund in the past seven years. Previous Tasmanian grant recipients are Westerway Raspberry Farm, Naturale and Westhaven Dairy.

Lauchlan and Sarah Cole of Elansco welcomed the \$295,000 grant their business had been awarded.

"When we received the call that we had been successful, we were ecstatic. As a proud Tasmanian farming family committed to innovation, sustainable agriculture and best practice animal husbandry, we are delighted to be recipients of a Coles Nurture Fund," Sarah said.

"The grant will enable us to increase supply of high-quality 100 percent pasture-fed lamb utilising an all-season facility, enhance our sustainability commitment and further support businesses in the supply chain from paddock to plate. The investment will also underpin our ongoing commitment to caring for our land and growing our business for our children, as well as future generations."

"We sincerely thank Coles for this game-changing funding, allowing us to swing the doors wide open, and encourage other Australian farmers to apply for the Coles Nurture Fund."

Coles Group CEO Steven Cain said Coles was proud to support new innovative and sustainable projects through the Coles Nurture Fund.

"We're delighted to have now awarded \$30 million in financial support through the Coles Nurture Fund to help drive innovation and generational sustainability on Australian farms and production facilities," he said.

"At Coles, we want to be the most sustainable supermarket in Australia and we're actively working with our food, grocery and beverage partners to inspire customers and continue our sustainability journey by helping to expand local production, reduce emissions and increase recycling."

Coles chef and ambassador Curtis Stone, who is a panellist for the Coles Nurture Fund, said all six applicants receiving grants in the latest round of funding had clearly shown that they are worthy recipients of the Nurture Fund.

"Australia produces some of the highest quality food in the world, and it's exciting to see our Aussie farmers and producers consistently showcase innovations that contribute to a more sustainable future for our agricultural sector," he said.

"With this round's applications highlighting organic produce and sustainability, it's important that we at Coles are able to support these farmers in carrying out initiatives that will innovate and expand the Australian food sector."

Other producers to be awarded grants in Round 10 include:

- Fourth-generation farmers McMahon Family Enterprises, better known as McPiggery from Lameroo in South Australia, will construct covered effluent ponds at its new sheds to help manage waste, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and create sustainable energy through capturing methane.
- Cattle producers David and Katy Gillett from Jalna Feedlot will install two solar power systems to reduce emissions in their production of beef for Coles' carbon neutral beef range.
- Third-generation business Mt Alma Organics, located in the Burdekin Shire in North Queensland, will purchase and install specialised equipment for washing, grading and sorting produce to expand production of certified organic produce.
- Victorian family business Peninsula Fresh Organics will transform its irrigation infrastructure at its farms at Baxter in VIC and Barham in NSW, saving 60 million litres of water per year and preventing run off of nutrients into local waterways, and build a cool room to improve product shelf life.
- Queensland producer Agricultural Networks will help fast-track access to organic fresh produce in key growing regions through a new dedicated organic certified packing and distribution facility at Gatton.

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