

**South Australian Rural Ambassador Finalists
New Zealand
Study Tour 2007**

Profile on Nathan Sanders

My name is Nathan Sanders and I am 24 years old. I grew up on my family farm 5 km north of Booleroo Centre in South Australia's upper north (approx 300 km north of Adelaide.) My ancestors began farming in the Booleroo district during the 1850's and it has been passed down through the generations ever since. The farm is largely a continuous cropping enterprise featuring bread wheats and barley as the dominant cereals, grown in rotation with legumes and canola.

After completing my schooling in Booleroo Centre I was accepted into the University of Adelaide and I graduated with a Bachelor of Agriculture in 2003. My university studies allowed me access to the latest in Agricultural research and development and gave me an insight into the future of Agriculture both in Australia and throughout the world.

Over the last three years I have been working as an Agronomist for a private family business in Crystal Brook in the mid north of South Australia. My role as an Agronomist involves working closely with farmers within the local district to find the most effective, sustainable and economical solutions to manage their farming system. This has been a very rewarding and enjoyable role and hopefully a good launching pad in what I envisage will be a long career in Agriculture.

Outside of work I have many interests. I am a very social person and enjoy spending time with friends and family. I am a keen sportsman and am fanatical about Australian Rules Football. I also love music, current affairs and travel.

During 2006 I was judged state winner of the Young Rural Ambassador Award. This is a huge honor and a fantastic opportunity. I am passionate about rural Australia. It's where I live, where I work and a part of me. My role as ambassador is to promote country Australia and to get young people involved within the community so we can ensure a viable future for rural and remote areas.

While the Australian economy is booming things on the land are not so good. Australia is currently in the midst of what scientists are referring to as a 1 in a 1000 year drought. Climate change, massive increases in production costs and shrinking profit margins are all contributing to what are very tough times especially for those in the more marginal districts.

As a young Australian I want to have strong contribution to the future of Agriculture in our country. I want to address the current problems and assist in finding solutions to combat them.