

BENJAMIN EGAN

*Chris Lehmann Trust Young Achiever
of the Year*, SPONSORED BY BAYER CROPSCIENCE



Benjamin Egan is a dynamic and inspirational member of the cotton industry. He is a sixth generation farmer based north of Warren in NSW. He manages the day-to-day operations of the family farm, "Kiameron" in the Macquarie Valley. The 6,000ha farm includes 1,100ha of irrigation, 1,100ha of dry land and 3,800ha of grazing country. Whilst "Kiameron" grows a range of crops and cattle, cotton is their primary enterprise.

Ben's vision is for a robust and successful family farming business. He is committed to producing high quality cotton as part of an efficient, sustainable and profitable farming enterprise that supports agricultural production, environmental stewardship and biodiversity enhancement.

His personal goals include having input into the strategic direction of the cotton industry, influencing policy and being a positive advocate for the cotton industry and agriculture more generally.

These goals have led to his heavy involvement in the Art4Agriculture Young Farming Champions (YFC) program over the last four years. The program has utilised Ben as a mentor and educator in schools across Australia. He has enthusiastically delivered his message to 6 school groups so far. He not only tells his personal farming story and the cotton industry's story, he also promotes agriculture as a desirable career path and life choice.

LOCATION

Warren, NSW

FINALIST

Benjamin Egan

The YFC program has helped Ben build relationships with other like minded young people and he enjoys working with them to bridge the widening divide between urban and rural communities.

His involvement in these programs has given Ben life-long skills, knowledge and training in engaging audiences in critical and complex conversations about food and fibre production.

Using his passionate character, he can effectively communicate with people of all ages in urban communities, quickly developing a rapport with people. Importantly, he has brought the urban





perspective back to inform his farm practices in an effort to meet the expectations of the end consumer and the community in general. He takes his stewardship of the land and water seriously and seeks to responsibly manage these.

Ben's involvement in The Marcus Oldham Rural Leadership Program has encouraged him to confidently seek out leadership roles within the cotton industry. Ben is now active in his local branch of NSW Farmers and the Macquarie Cotton Growers Association.

Ben is a role model, who encourages others from the heart; building their confidence, rewarding individual contributions, and celebrating group achievements. He implements this on-farm with his own staff of 2-6 employees depending on peak times, as well as in the Art4Agriculture classroom, at industry meetings and on the footy field.

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AUSTRALIAN COTTON AWARDS WEBSITE:
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