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# Double the celebrations for Australian Cotton Industry in 2022

Australian cotton growers will have double the reason to celebrate in 2022 with nominations called for this year's awards while the 2021 winners and nominees will be recognised for their excellence after a year of COVID disruption.

The awards, acknowledging the resilience of the industry and innovation throughout the cotton supply chain, were put on hold in 2020 and while nominations were received and judging took place in 2021, COVID prevented growers from coming together and the awards ceremony was put on hold.

With event opportunities again on the rise Cotton Australia has called for new nominations for 2022, a year in which the peak body itself turns 50, while planning is in full swing for the Cotton Conference in August on the Gold Coast.

Nominations are open in the following categories for 2022:

- Bayer Grower of the Year
- AgriRisk High Achiever of the Year
- ADAMA Chris Lehmann Trust Young Cotton Achiever of the Year
- Cotton Seed Distributors Researcher of the Year
- IPF Service to Industry Award

Cotton Australia CEO Adam Kay said cotton growers excelled throughout the pandemic and their resilience was rewarded with a sell-out crop in 2021 and forecasts of a near record crop in 2022.

"We have lots to celebrate this year and it appears that we will now be able to come together to show how proud we are of our outstanding contributors. I think that 2022 presents a unique opportunity and I want to see growers and other industry leaders putting their names forward in an historic year.

"The awards program is not only about the hard work, commitment, research and innovation that goes into the production of our cotton but it also demonstrates how the up and comers can learn from the best," he said.

Cotton Australia Chairman Nigel Burnett said the COVID delays mean the 2021 and 2022 Cotton Industry award winners will all receive due recognition in what will be one of the largest crop years Australia has ever seen.

"We will announce the 2021 winners at fitting events across our growing communities and then again at the 2022 Cotton Conference where this year's winners will also be revealed. Growers don't do what they do for awards but they are proud of the recognition of farming innovation and excellence in their production systems and are keen to showcase the quality and leading sustainability of Australian cotton."

Mr Burnett said its pleasing that the broader industry is partnering with Cotton Australia to ensure our outstanding operators are duly recognised. "Our award sponsors have traversed the bumpy world of COVID with us and we thank Bayer, ADAMA, AgriRisk, Cotton Seed Distributors and Incitec Pivot Fertilisers for their ongoing support," Mr Burnett said.

Individuals and teams can nominate others, or themselves, for the 2022 Australian Cotton Industry Awards through the online nomination form at [www.cottonaustralia.com.au/awards-nominations](http://www.cottonaustralia.com.au/awards-nominations). Nominations close at 5pm on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> March 2022.

*Cotton Australia is the peak representative body for Australia's cotton growing industry.*

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