



John Barilaro

Minister for Regional NSW
Minister for Skills
Minister for Small Business

Niall Blair

Minister for Primary Industries
Minister for Regional Water

MEDIA RELEASE

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COCKIES AND POLLIES CELEBRATE FIRST AG DAY

Buy local, eat local and support our NSW farmers. That is the message being shared today as the state's agricultural industry celebrates its first ever National Ag Day.

Deputy Premier John Barilaro said today was a chance to thank our farmers, and celebrate the amazing produce they deliver to our plates every day.

"As an industry, agriculture contributes more than \$60 billion to the Australian economy, making it the second biggest production industry," Mr Barilaro said.

"No one can deny that our farmers are an essential pillar of our economy, and more importantly, they're essential to our quality of life and health, by growing such quality produce for us to consume.

"Our thriving agricultural industry is not only vital to the growth of our regional communities but to the whole state, and today is all about recognising and celebrating everyone who plays a part in the agricultural sector.

"The Australian agribusiness sector is expected to grow by more than 17 per cent this year, largely due to the overseas demand for our top-notch products.

"In NSW, our agricultural sector is now worth a record \$15.44 billion, a 32 per cent increase in Gross Value of Production (GVP) since 2013-14," he said.

In NSW, the highest grossing agricultural sectors include beef cattle (\$2.38 billion), wheat (\$2.61 billion), cotton (\$1.4 billion), wool (\$1.14 billion), sheep and goat meat (\$858 million), pulses (\$810 million) and forestry (\$503 million).

Minister for Primary Industries Niall Blair said today is an opportunity to shine a light on our primary industries and to remind the people of NSW how lucky we are to have such a diverse and high-quality range of produce available to us each and every day.

"Our farming sector is at the forefront of innovation and technology," Mr Blair said.

"Through the Department of Primary Industries, we boast more than 600 scientific staff, 13,000 hectares of trial farms, 500 active research and development projects combined with an impressive extension network through Local Land Services.

“We are also ranked in the top one per-cent of organisations worldwide in the fields of agricultural science and plant and animal science,” he said.

National Ag Day aims to connect city residents with agricultural communities across the country and help people gain a better understanding of where their food comes from.

The NSW Government is celebrating the state’s \$15.4 billion annual contribution to Australian agriculture with a barbecue lunch at NSW Parliament House and via the #AgDay hashtag on social media.

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