

# News Release **Minister Leon Bignell**

Minister for Agriculture, Food and Fisheries

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## Young South Australian a national ambassador

Regional South Australian Courtney Ramsey has been named Australasian Rural Ambassador for 2014.

Courtney was named South Australia's Rural Ambassador for 2013 in September last year after being nominated by the organisers of the Kimba Show, and the Federal Council of Agricultural Societies announced the national award at the Brisbane Royal Show last night.

Agriculture, Food and Fisheries Minister Leon Bignell said Courtney, 28, was an excellent ambassador for the State and for all young Australians.

"She is a passionate high achiever and has been heavily involved in country shows from a young age," he said.

"Her commitment to community service has resulted in her volunteering as an aid worker in Peru and for a range of organisations, including the Royal Society for the Blind, World Youth International and regional sporting clubs.

"I congratulate Courtney on this latest honour, and I'm sure she will continue to pursue her goals and promote the opportunities available to people in regional and rural Australia."

Courtney grew up on a sheep and cereal property at Buckleboo, near Kimba. She has an agricultural science degree from the University of Adelaide, and for four years was a research officer for herbicide tolerance at SARDI.

She is currently working in Berri, and is interested in agriculture policy development.

The national award includes a \$5,000 bursary to enable Courtney to pursue further study and visit the major agricultural shows around Australia to speak to young people about their involvement in regional communities.

The Royal Agricultural and Horticultural Society's Rural Ambassador Award Coordinator Peter Angus said Courtney was a worthy winner.

"Courtney is a fine example of a young woman from rural South Australia who is a high achiever and has returned to living and working in the country after tertiary studies," he said.

The program recognises and fosters the involvement of young people with their country shows and the Royal Adelaide Show.

The new 2014 Rural Ambassador for South Australia will be announced on September 9, as part of the Royal Adelaide Show.