

AGMET

The Joint Working Group on Applied Agricultural Meteorology (AGMET) is pleased to invite nominations for the **Austin Bourke Bronze Medal 2009**. The Austin Bourke Bronze Medal will be awarded for a recent significant contribution to the field of agrometeorology, applied environmental meteorology, biometeorology or a related discipline.



Eligibility

Scientists based in Ireland, or working on issues specific to Ireland, are eligible. The award will be made in recognition of a recent significant contribution to agrometeorology, applied environmental meteorology, biometeorology or a related discipline, as evidenced by a documented record of achievement and the high opinion of peers or end-users.

Nominations

A nomination should be proposed and seconded by two persons familiar with the work of the nominee. Prior agreement of the nominee must be obtained. A covering letter should clearly establish justification for the nomination with a statement of the contribution to the subject made by the nominee. The evaluation panel may seek further information if necessary.

Nominations must be made by **October 30th 2009** through:

Sarah O'Reilly, AGMET
c/o Met Éireann, Glasnevin Hill,
Dublin 9, Ireland
sarah.oreilly@met.ie

The Assessment Process

A three person committee will evaluate nominees. The committee will consist of a member of the AGMET Group, one internationally recognised expert invited by the AGMET group, and a representative of the director of Met Éireann.

The medal will be awarded at the 25th Anniversary AGMET Group meeting on 7th December 2009, due to be held at Dublin Castle.

Background

The 'Austin Bourke Medal' was launched by the AGMET Group in 2004 to help promote excellence in agricultural meteorology. This Medal is associated with the late Dr. Austin Bourke who was a major figure in the field of agricultural meteorology in Ireland.

Austin Bourke was one of the first Irish Meteorologists recruited by the newly-formed Irish Meteorological Service in 1939. He had a most distinguished career in the Service, including a term as Director of the Service from 1964 to his retirement in 1978. He played a huge part in the establishment of the Irish Meteorological Service as a modern, operational and scientific service.

Over the course of his career, he made a particular mark in agricultural meteorology, with a special focus on potato blight. Austin's work led to the introduction of a blight forecasting service in Met Éireann, a development which was taken up by many other countries.

He later turned his attention to a study of the Great Irish Famine of the 1840's and his research into the spread of the potato blight and the influence of the prevailing weather conditions made a significant contribution to our understanding of that period in our history. His ongoing work won him both national and international acclaim. From 1958 to 1962 he served as President of the World Meteorological Organisation's Commission for Agricultural Meteorology, and he acted as advisor to the Government of Chile. On the home front, he was awarded a D.Sc. (honoris causa) in 1973 for his scholarship in the field of agriculture meteorology and the origins of the Great Famine. Austin Bourke died in 1995.

The Austin Bourke Silver Medal is awarded for long-term outstanding contributions to agrometeorology while the Austin Bourke Bronze Medal is awarded for a specific outstanding contribution.

Previous Medal recipients

2004	Inaugural Austin Bourke Medal	Mrs. Austin Bourke
2006	Silver Austin Bourke Medal	Mr. Tom Keane
2007	Bronze Austin Bourke Medal	Dr. John Casey
2008	Silver Austin Bourke Medal	Dr. Anthony Brereton

For further information please contact:

Sarah O'Reilly, AGMET
c/o Met Éireann, Glasnevin Hill,
Dublin 9, Ireland
sarah.oreilly@met.ie
www.agmet.ie