Kenneth Ralph James, OAM
Farming leader
Born: 18 January 1916; Adelaide
Died: 26 April 2004; Lucindale

Few people have played a more important role in South Australian farming organisations than Ralph James. He was a central player in both the National Farmers' Federation and the United Farmers of Stock owners (a forerunner of the SA Farmers Federation).

A farmer from Lucindale, Mr James will be remembered with great respect for his dedication to the interests of the farmers, and his willingness to fight on their behalf on state and national levels.

Mr James was president of the National Farmers Federation Council and many other peak bodies that operated on a federal level, including the Australian Meat and Livestock Council and the National Rural Advisory Council (NRAC). Mr James was the member for the Lucindale District Council for 22 years, including eight years as chairman, and served on the Lucindale Area School council for more than 20 years. He was a key contributor to the South-East Fire Fighting Association and fire control officer for 30 years.

In 1979, Mr James oversaw the merging of the Stockholders Association with the United Farmers and Graziers and became the first elected president of the new organisation. Named the United Farmers He was a strong advocate for the South-East Fire Fighting Association and fire control officer for 30 years.

Mr James was instrumental in highlighting the need for an immediate solution to the South-East Fire Fighting Association and fire control officer for 30 years.

In 1987, Mr James retired from farming and moved to Edinburgh, where he continued to be an active member of the United Farmers and Stockowners of SA.

A man of immense energy, ability and wit, Mr James retired from farming organisations in the late 1980s and spent more time with his wife, Nancy, on the family property at Lucindale.

A remarkable man who set the bar for future farmers with his relentless drive for the rights of those on the land, he is survived by his son, Ian, a daughter, Faye, and Barbara.