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Foreword

The current issue (Volume 6, Number 1) of the *Australian Farm Business Management Journal* focuses entirely on innovative developments for Australian farming. In the various articles, the topics range from whole-farm aspects of precision agriculture to a balanced scorecard approach to beef farming.

Also included is an important paper that provides both a new method of analysing farms from a long-term financial perspective and an application of this method to an assessment of the contribution of sheep to the financial stability of mixed farms in southern New South Wales and Victoria.

Another paper extends the Beef CRC “Regional Combinations” project to examine different combinations of beef cattle genetics, growth/nutritional pathways and calving seasons across a number of sites in southern Australia for achievement of targeted market specifications. This is contrasted by a paper on the economic impact of switching to once a day milking on a dairy farm in northern Victoria.

For the future we are planning, in addition to our usual diverse style of agricultural business management contents, a series of special issues of the *Journal*. They will probably focus on specific sectors such as beef, dairy, etc, or specific farming practices such as rotational grazing. We are also especially interested in publishing articles on environmental aspects of farming.

Professor Kevin A Parton
Charles Sturt University
Editor
25 September 2009
The character of *AFBM Journal*

*AFBM Journal* is a – DEST-HERDC, Register of Refereed Journals of Australia - registered publication of the Australasian Farm Business Management Network (i.e. AFBMNetwork) and published by Charles Sturt University, Orange Campus, Faculty of Agriculture and Wine Sciences.

AFBMNetwork is a professional organisation supported by Charles Sturt University – Faculty of Science and Agriculture, Curtin University – Muresk Institute; Massey University – College of Sciences; The University of Melbourne – Institute of Land and Food Resources and Marcus Oldham College. Members from these organisations and the AFBMNetwork membership are the primary users of the *AFBM Journal*. However, independent and other organisational professionals are encouraged to publish in the *AFBM Journal*.

AFBMNetwork vision and mission statements actively encourage the design of farming systems matched to the environmental, social, economic and marketing conditions of Australasia. It promotes quality education, research, consultancy and extension to service the primary sector and its organisations. The *AFBM Journal* will therefore publish quality papers related to the areas of Animal Systems and Technology; Cropping Systems and Technology; Ecological Agriculture; Farm Economics; Global Perspectives of Agriculture; Business Management and Decision-Making; Social Issues of Farming and Sustainable Farming Systems.

The Department of Education Science and Training of the Commonwealth of Australia – Higher Education Research Data Collection (DEST-HERDC) defines that the essential characteristics of a research publication are as follows:

- substantial scholarly activity, as evidenced by discussion of the relevant literature, an awareness of the history and antecedents of work described, and provided in a format which allows a reader to trace sources of the work through citations, footnotes, etc
- originality (i.e. not a compilation of existing works)
- veracity/validity through a peer validation process or by satisfying the commercial publisher or gallery processes
- increasing the stock of knowledge (www.dest.gov.au/NR/rdonlyres/61C1FB66-A777-45AF-8FC5-C8EE5B380B5B/6127/2005HERDCSpecificationsFinal100605.rtf; accessed on 20 June 2005)

*AFBM Journal* support its action in the above principles and while encouraging the publication of research results, useful to the professional farming related community, will undertake a stringent process of peer reviewing to ensure the quality of the papers published in the different issues of the Journal.

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