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Panel of Referees: Each scientific editor has an independent panel of
discipline-related referees who remain anonymous to
ensure a process of objective reviewing of the papers.
Foreword

AFBM Journal-Agricultural Business Management and Farming Systems has had a difficult year in 2007. Various structural changes have taken place within our host institution, Charles Sturt University, and these, combined with the illness of our Executive Editor, have meant that we have had to restrict publication to a single issue instead of the usual two per year. These times are past us now, both our Executive Editor and host institution are back to full health, and we are looking forward to a re-invigorated future.

The current issue (volume 4 numbers 1 and 2) is a demonstration of that future. It contains a breadth of issues relevant to Australian farm business management, ranging from the very practical consideration of the place of saltbush in our farming systems, and staple length in wool, through to a cost-benefit analysis of extension services in dairy farming. Also included is a review of the Canadian farm income situation which contains consideration of management issues and capital appreciation of farm land that are most relevant to Australian farming. In addition, there are important papers on decision support systems and risk management.

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 grazing. We will also put special emphasis to the context of agribusiness.

Professor Kevin A Parton
Head, School of Rural Management
Charles Sturt University

Chief Editor

20 December 2007
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 AFBMNertwork 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.

AFBM Journal is published online with free access for AFBMNetwork members and a wider audience. Subscription to four printed issues has a cost of A$100 and can be processed contacting the Librarian of CSU Orange Campus. Educational and research organisations pursuing a copy of AFBM Journal for library purposes should request it at leggleston@csu.edu.au.

Disclaimer: The views and opinions contained in the papers published in the AFBM Journal are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of AFBMNetwork or any of its supporting organisations.

Instructions to authors
Instructions for intending authors of papers to be submitted to the AFBM Journal can be downloaded from AFBMNetwork webpage. Papers must be submitted online to the following email address: kparton@csu.edu.au. Further enquiries must be addressed toward the same email address to the Chief Editor of the Journal, Professor Kevin A Parton.