<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Editorial Board</th>
<th>iii</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Foreword</td>
<td>iv</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The peer-reviewed character of AFBM Journal</td>
<td>v</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abstracts of the Papers</td>
<td>vi</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Editorial Team</th>
<th>page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AFBM Journal: Instructions to authors</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charry AA, Murray-Prior R and Parton KA</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The process of standardised refereeing of professional publications: a reference framework for the panel of referees of the AFBM Journal</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crockett J</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The nature of farm succession in three New South Wales communities</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gurr GM, Wratten SD and Altieri MA</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ecological engineering: a new direction for agricultural pest management</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kemp DR, Girdwood J, Parton KA and Charry AA</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Farm Management: Rethinking directions?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malcolm LR</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Farm Management analysis: a core discipline, simple sums, sophisticated thinking</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Murray-Prior R and Wright V</td>
<td>56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Use of strategies and decision rules of Australian wool producers to manage uncertainty</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zhou ZY</td>
<td>72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The global feed market: Asian perspectives</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baldwin B</td>
<td>84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The potential for hazelnut production in Australia</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Banks R</td>
<td>93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rural decline and innovation: issues within issues; or what is the role for AFBM Journal?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

© Copyright AFBMNetwork
Editorial Board

Executive Editor: A.A. (Al) Charry, PhD
Al.Charry@orange.usyd.edu.au

Assistant Editors: Lindy Eggleston
legglest@orange.usyd.edu.au

Marjorie Wilson
mwilson@orange.usyd.edu.au

Karilynn Gilchrist
kgilchri@orange.usyd.edu.au

Scientific Editors:

Animal Systems & Technology  Rob Banks, PhD
r.banks@metz.une.edu.au

Crop Systems & Technology  Basil Baldwin, M. Agric. Science
Basil.Baldwin@orange.usyd.edu.au

Ecological Agriculture  Geoff Gurr, PhD, Assoc. Professor
Geoff.Gurr@orange.usyd.edu.au

Farm Economics  Bill Malcolm, PhD, Assoc. Professor
b.malcolm@landfood.unimelb.edu.au

Global Perspectives  Zhangyue Zhou, PhD
Zhangyue.Zhou@orange.usyd.edu.au

Management & Decision-Making  Roy Murray-Prior, PhD
r.murray-prior@curtin.edu.au

Social Issues of Farming  Judith Crockett, PhD
Judith.Crockett@orange.usyd.edu.au

Sustainable Farming Systems  David R. Kemp, PhD, Professor
David.Kemp@orange.usyd.edu.au

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.

Web Administrator: Adam Robertson
aroberst@orange.usyd.edu.au

Foreword

The first issue of AFBM Journal - Farm Business and Farming Systems Management - marks an historic and timely occasion. In Australia and perhaps worldwide there is a vacuum between the academic journals in agriculture and the practice of farm businesses. This journal plans to step forward and start to fill this void. It does so in a most accessible manner through the Internet and printed material.

The articles contained in this issue represent a cross-section of the type of material that could be expected in future issues. The field is necessarily broad. It includes the discussion of fundamental foundations of Farm Management as a discipline (Kemp et al 2004; Malcolm 2004). It considers practical farm-level issues as succession planning (Crockett 2004), managing uncertainty in wool production using a strategic approach (Murray-Prior and Wright 2004) and Australia’s potential for hazelnut production (Baldwin 2004). It covers wider international (Zhou 2004) and environmental (Gurr et al 2004) issues. An insightful opinion paper is also included (Banks 2004). This highlights issues in the area of livestock systems and technology and throws down a challenge to future contributors to the AFBM Journal.

It has certainly been a pleasure for me to read these articles and I have no hesitation in recommending them to you. They together represent the leading edge of a vibrant field of research that has immense practical importance to Australian farm business management.

Finally let me thank the various participants in the development of this AFBM Journal. The authors, reviewers, editorial board and text editors who are directly involved deserve special mention. Also significant is the sponsorship of The University of Sydney in Orange, the Muresk Institute of Curtin University, The University of Melbourne’s Institute of Land and Food Resources, and Marcus Oldham College. Without this joint involvement it would have been impossible to launch this important endeavour. Financial support was gratefully received from the Rural Australia Foundation.

Prof. Kevin A. Parton
Dean
Faculty Rural Management
The University of Sydney

25 May 2004

http://www.afbmnetwork.orange.usyd.edu.au/afbmjournal/
The peer-reviewed character of *AFBM Journal*

*AFBM Journal* is a peer-reviewed publication of AFBMNetwork, with free online access to AFBMNetwork members and paid subscription for the hard copy to interested individuals and organisations.

The Department of Education Science and Training of the Commonwealth of Australia – Higher Education Research Data Collection (DEST-HERDC) defines that the essential characteristic of research activity is that it leads to publicly verifiable outcomes which are open to peer appraisal ... through creative work undertaken in a systematic manner to increase the stock of knowledge and its use to devise new applications; fundamentally characterised by originality in the areas of pure basic research, strategic research, applied research and experimental development ([http://www.dest.gov.au/highered/research/herdc.htm](http://www.dest.gov.au/highered/research/herdc.htm), p.5).

*AFBM Journal* will 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 a publication venue for members of AFBMNetwork, a professional organisation supported by The University of Sydney – Faculty of Rural Management; Curtin University – Muresk Institute; The University of Melbourne – Institute of Land and Food Resources; and Marcus Oldham College.

AFBMNetwork vision and mission statements actively encourage the design of farming systems matched to the environmental, social, economic, marketing and policy-making conditions of Australia. It promotes quality education, research, consultancy and extension to service the primary sector and its organisations. The *AFBM Journal* will therefore publish high quality papers related to these areas.

**Disclaimer**: The views and opinions contained in the papers published in *AFBM Journal* are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of AFBMNetwork or any of its supporting organisations.
Abstracts of AFBM Journal vol. 1 no. 1


Abstract. This paper contains the instructions for intending authors of AFBM Journal: Australian Farm Business and Farming Systems Management Journal, a refereed publication of the Australian Farm Business Management Network (i.e. AFBMNetwork). It highlights the character of the papers to be submitted and their disciplinary scope. It also encompasses house style, formatting, structure of contents and copyright matters. Finally, it explains the process for submission of papers. These instructions have been formatted in the styles that are used in the template for authors. The template can be downloaded from the AFBMNetwork webpage, and at the end of this set of instructions.


Abstract. This paper contains instructions for intending referees of AFBM Journal, Australian Farm Business and Farming Systems Management Journal, a refereed publication of the Australian Farm Business Management Network (i.e. AFBMNetwork). The authors want to ensure, (1) that the papers submitted to AFBM Journal will have a common standard of evaluation; (2) that the referees will make an informed decision, while optimising their time; and (3) the refereeing opportunity will encourage and uphold the author’s interest in publishing. Logistical issues in the process of refereeing professional publications are summarised. The paper contains a refereeing format to be used by the members of the Referee Panel of AFBM Journal.


Abstract. Farm transfer between generations of the same family has long been considered a highly significant aspect of rural ideology in Australia with major ramifications for farm management decision making. However, the importance attached to family farm succession has been increasingly questioned in current literature. Results from a study in rural culture in New South Wales support the contention that succession is declining in importance, highlighting instead that the wellbeing and education of younger family members is being placed ahead of expectations that children will automatically take over their parents' property and remain in farming. Implications of this trend for farm management are flagged and directions for further research explored.

**Abstract.** Ecological engineering has recently emerged as a paradigm for considering pest management approaches that are based on cultural practices and informed by ecological knowledge rather than on high technology approaches such as synthetic pesticides and genetically engineered crops (Gurr et al. 2004a). This article provides a brief summary of ecological engineering for arthropod pest management and contrasts it with its controversial cousin, genetic engineering. The development of ecological engineering is explored, ranging from a simple first approximation that diversity is beneficial, to contemporary understanding that diversity can have adverse effects on pest management. This requires that the functional mechanisms that lead components of biodiversity to suppress pest activity are better understood and exploited. Pest suppression via ecological engineering is placed in the broader context of ‘ecosystem services’ provided by farmland biodiversity including nitrogen fixation and the conservation of pollinator species and wildlife.


**Abstract.** Farms and farming are major contributors to the world economy, directly responsible for a large part of GDP. These achievements are not trivial and imply that farms are being managed in reasonably effective ways, else agricultural industries would not be sustained. However has the study of *Farm Management* within Australia made significant contributions to agriculture or lagged in the background. Is it contributing to better Farm Management or merely cataloguing what has happened? Is it leading or following? During recent years there has been an increasing interest in managing farms more sustainably, with emphasis on issues beyond short-term profitability to encompassing rural communities, ecosystems, biodiversity, ethics of technology and politics. The complexity of management has increased, but *Farm Management* may not be keeping pace with these changes. This paper reviews aspects of *Farm Management* and how the discipline / field is viewed by different participants. This will be contrasted with related areas of research that have expanded over recent times. It is argued that *Farm Management* is more a field than an identifiable discipline and questions are raised about where *Farm Management* is going. Suggestions are made where future studies in farm management could go, the needs for teaching this subject and what are the challenges to be faced in order to enhance the relevance of *Farm Management* studies for professional farmers.

Abstract. In this paper it is argued that solving problems in farm management involves applying an appropriate balance of disciplinary knowledge. More specifically, farm management decision-making is about making choices, and the discipline of choice is economics. Thus economics is the core discipline of farm management analysis and decision-making. Modelling farm systems using the whole farm approach, with emphasis on the risky elements, can be very useful. Also enlightening is using real farm case studies to test research output. The conclusion is that bringing to bear on farm management questions a few disciplines, a few perspectives and a few figurings to explore a few futures is a useful way to go.


Abstract. Decisions by Australian wool producers were modelled with a technique combining personal construct psychology and hierarchical decision models. Both strategic and tactical approaches were evident in the wool producers’ responses to the risks associated with producing and marketing their wool. Strategic responses included avoiding short to medium-term response to price changes, diversification, maintaining equity and selling wool at auction in the same sale each year. Producers identified many types of risk, with each engendering a distinctive response. Similarly the context of a decision appeared to have a major influence on the attitude to risk. Simplifying decision rules were apparent that helped producers deal with the physical, information, and processing constraints of an ambiguous decision-making environment. One implication of these results may be that prescriptive advice must recognise the importance of strategy and decision rules as a response to uncertainty and ambiguity. A second is that such advice should also take account of the influence of context on attitude to risk and ambiguity.


Abstract. Global demand for feed, especially cereal feed, is expected to increase in the decades to come. At the global level, demand for cereal feed will be met by the supply. There are, however, disparities between regions. As a result of strong livestock industry development, the Asian region as a whole will have a shortage of cereal feed and will become a major cereal feed importer. This paper examines existing projections of feed demand and supply in the Asian region. It also sheds light on the implications of the feed demand and the livestock industry development in the Asian region for the Australian rural industries.

**Abstract.** Very few hazelnuts are produced in Australia, yet we import more than 1800 ton of kernels valued at more than $10 million. Hazelnuts are a deciduous tree crop, that requires mild temperatures, well-drained soils and good soil moisture. Although Australia generally has a semi arid climate, climate comparisons for some areas in South-eastern Australia, compared with key production areas in the northern hemisphere, indicate there are areas in Australia with a suitable climate. Field evaluation of a range of cultivars and grower selections indicates some genotypes with potential for Australian conditions. Yields recorded for young trees grown at Myrtleford in north-eastern Victoria compare very favourably with commercial yields in some of the highest producing regions in the world. Technology and equipment is available overseas for crop mechanisation. It is concluded that hazelnuts are a crop with potential for select parts of Australia, but key elements for success will be growers working collaboratively to develop a productive, highly efficient industry with good marketing strategies.


**Abstract.** This paper contains my personal reflections as scientific editor of the livestock systems and technology section of the Australian Farm Business and Farming Systems Management Journal, i.e. AFBM Journal. It is the aim of this paper to highlight critical issues to define the framework of opportunities for authors related to the broad area of livestock systems and technology. The message within the description of current economic, marketing and technological conditions for farming is that only a limited proportion (about 20%) of the farming community has taken the opportunities that are available to achieve levels of profitability and efficiency sufficient to break the city:bush gap. However, when most farmers are working below profitability benchmarks, their duty of care for the environment cannot be ensured while government organizations do not consider redistribution of wealth. The final reflections of the paper endeavour to find out and justify a niche for AFBM Journal.