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Foreword

AFBM Journal is coming of age and establishing itself as a recognised professional publication around the world. Authors from different countries are now submitting papers for publication. Our queue of papers under review includes submissions from Spain, the Canary Islands, Cuba, China, New Zealand and Australia.

This current issue (i.e. volume 3 number 1) brings a variety of topics that suits the menu of the multi-professional community related to farm business and farming systems management. The issue of farm diversification is explored in one of the papers. Long-term evaluation of dairy farming in southern Australia is discussed in two papers. The ‘contentious’ issue of accreditation in Australian agriculture is brought to the discussion table, as is a discussion of the potential for certified clean and natural Aussie beef. Finally Cuban researchers are offering information on meat sheep performance using available native resources (i.e. legume trees used as a complementary feed to grazing). This is an issue of likely application to the extensive farming systems of meat sheep farmers in Australia and around the world.

Finally a memorial lecture highlighting the definitive influence of the late Jack Makeham, who after a lifetime of influence on Australian farms through consulting, became a senior lecturer in farm management at the University of New England, Armidale, Australia, closes this issue. As such this issue of AFBM Journal is a tribute to Jack; and for those New Englanders who had the opportunity to relate to Jack as students or academics and researchers, surely they will agree with me that this recognition is belated and that it needs to be recorded in the history of Farm Management in Australia.

The research Posters Gallery is bringing up summaries of on-going postgraduate research in climate forecasting attached to profitable farming and resource use; and the issue of soil carbon variability in ecosystems analysis, issues of great interest to the wider primary professional community

The next issue of AFBM Journal will be a special edition including the highlight papers of the 2006 AFBMNetwork Conference to be held in Geelong VIC – 20th to 22nd September 2006 – hosted by one of the founding organisations of The Australasian Farm Business Management Network, Marcus Oldham College. The foreword for this issue will be a duty of Assoc. Prof. Bill Malcolm from The University of Melbourne, Department of Land and Food Resources.

It is my pleasure and honour to foreword this volume 3 number 1 issue of AFBM Journal.

Dr Allan A (Al) Charry
Executive Officer AFBMNetwork and
Executive Editor AFBM Journal
Charles Sturt University – Orange Campus

07 June 2006
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).

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 high 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-C8EESB380B5B/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 AFBMNetwork Executive Officer (i.e. afbmnetwork.chair@csu.edu.au - Tel BH +61 (0)2 6365 7506 or downloading a subscription form from the AFBMNetwork webpage. 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

afbmnetwork.orange.usyd.edu.au/afbmjournal/AFBM_Journal_Instructions_To_Authors.pdf

Papers must be submitted online to the following email address: acharry@csu.edu.au.

The Executive Editor