

Mixed farming systems

The future of mixed farming systems

Murray Scholz

Scholz Farming Co

Mixed Farming 2044?

- What will mixed farms look like in 30 years?
- Will there still be a place for mixed farms?
- Will the system be better?



Mixed farming 30 years ago

- More grazing than cropping
- Regulated markets
- Pre-electronic technology
- Green revolution just starting



Trends

- Increasing use of science & technology
- Increasing labour efficiency
- Specialisation
- Adapting to our environment
- Better utilization of resources



Strengths

- Resilience through diversity
- Synergies between different enterprises
- Adaptability to change



Weaknesses

- Increased levels of management
- Conflicting aims between enterprises
- Variable climate



Opportunities

- Desire for protein, westernisation of diet
- Technology & science lifting management & productivity
- Improved adaptation to our climate



Threats

- Declining terms of trade
- Cost of technology
- Increased climate variability



My vision

- Increased resilience
- Greater diversity of plants
- Technology greatly assisting management
- Better integration between enterprises

