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Editorial Board

Chief Editor:

Kevin A Parton, PhD, Professor
kparton@csu.edu.au

Scientific Editors:

Animal Systems & Technology

Sue Hatcher, PhD
sue.hatcher@industry.nsw.gov.au

Ecological Agriculture

Aaron Simmons, PhD
asimmons@csu.edu.au

Farm Economics

Bill Malcolm, PhD, Assoc. Professor
b.malcom@unimelb.edu.au

Global Perspectives of Agriculture

Zhangyue Zhou, PhD, Professor
zhangyue.zhou@jcu.edu.au

Management & Decision-Making

Roy Murray-Prior, PhD
r.murray-prior@curtin.edu.au

Social Issues of Farming

Judith Crockett, PhD
jcrockett@csu.edu.au

Sustainable Farming Systems

David R. Kemp, PhD, Professor
dkemp@csu.edu.au

Panel of Referees:

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Foreword

Introduction

Various aspects of farm management and rural living are considered in the eight articles in this issue of the *Australian Farm Business Management Journal*. The first two are related to climate change. In the first paper, Ozkan et al. analyse the effect of a carbon price on dairy farm profitability. Then Abrahams et al. provide a comprehensive appraisal of possible adaptations to climate change in the Northern Agricultural Region of Western Australia. Probably these articles are representative of much research that is being directed towards examining responses to climate change in farming. There may be a future special issue of the *Journal* on this topic.

Various facets of the economics of irrigation on dairy farms are considered in the third and fourth articles. Myers et al. focus on the economic analysis of irrigation re-use systems in eastern Victoria, while Dalton and Armstrong consider irrigation modernisation connection options in northern Victoria. These are important papers given the impact of water pricing in the Murray-Darling Basin.

In the next article, Tarrant and Armstrong assess the value of introducing a new technology – automatic cluster removers – in the operation of milking sheds. While the results show that there are labour-saving benefits, the article shows that there are a number of other considerations not to be overlooked. They include herd health, occupational health and safety, worker comfort, and managerial control.

In the next article, Jie reports on the importance of trust and commitment for lamb retailers and wholesalers. This research is based on a survey of participants in the supply chain. The results are summarised through regression analysis, and show how the level of trust and commitment influences the perceived performance of the supply chain.

Finally, there is a comment on a paper published in volume 8(2) of the *Journal* with a corresponding reply. The original paper was Culas' analysis of supply response in the wheat industry. Reported in the comment and the reply are some technical issues related to the estimation methods. Together these two papers are an attempt to clarify for other researchers the underlying econometrics issues. An important result of the original paper remains valid. This is that wheat producers in Western Australia are shown to be far more price responsive than in the eastern states.

The editorial team that put together this issue of the *Journal* is Kevin Parton and Kerry Madden, with some assistance from Donna Read.

Professor Kevin A Parton
Charles Sturt University
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The character of *AFBM Journal*

AFBM Journal is a registered publication of the Australasian Farm Business Management Network (i.e. AFBMNetwork) and published by Charles Sturt University, Orange Campus, School of Agriculture and Wine Sciences.

AFBMNetwork is a professional organisation supported by Charles Sturt University – Faculty of Science, 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.

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- 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 supports 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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