

Extension Farming Systems Journal

volume 1

number 1

year 2005

ISSN 1833 – 2048 (online version)

ISSN 1833 – 203X (printed version)

Contents

page

i	Contents
ii	Editorial Board
iii	Foreword
iv	The character of Extension Farming Systems Journal
iv	Instructions to authors
Research Forum	
1	Claus Deblitz, AA Charry and KA Parton Farming systems across the world: an expert assessment from an international co-operative research project (IFCN)
15	Rob Finlay, J Crockett and DR Kemp Understanding land managers attitudes using focus groups
25	Zelma Bone Farmers and learning: a critical interpretive analysis of the value perceptions of education and complementary factors to success
37	Bill Malcolm and C Grainger Implications of changing a Friesian dairy system to a Freisian-Jersey crossbred dairy system
47	Ross Wilson, AA Charry and DR Kemp Performance indicators and benchmarking in Australian agriculture: synthesis and perspectives
Industry Forum	
59	Tim Wiley and B Wilson Spend \$0.00 in seasonal handfeeding: fit perennial pastures into an annual farming system. The case study of the Western Midlands of Western Australia
65	Sara Mahoney and AA Charry The use of alpacas as newborn lamb protectors to minimise fox predation
71	David George, JF Clewett, D Buckley, IJ Partridge and C Birch Assessing climate risk to improve farm business management
79	Janice Toner Property rights: an analysis of their implications for understanding land rights in Australia
85	Pennie Scott Making decisions in agriculture: the conflict between extension and adoption

Editorial Board

Scientific Editor:

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

Executive Editor:

Allan A Charry
acharry@csu.edu.au

Text Editors:

Lindy Eggleston
legglest@csu.edu.au

Karilyn Gilchrist
kgilchri@csu.edu.au

Co-Editors:

John Dymond
j.dymond@curtin.edu.au

Kathryn Egerton-Warburton
warburto1@inet.net.au

Simon Livingstone
livingstone@marcusoldham.vic.edu.au

Bill Malcolm
b.malcolm@unimelb.edu.au

Horrie Poussard
poussard@thereef.com.au

Janet Reid
j.reid@massey.ac.nz

Web Administrator:

Adam Robertson
arobertson@csu.edu.au

Foreword

Welcome to volume 1, number 1 of the *Extension Farming Systems Journal*. This journal is unique in providing an avenue for researchers in farm business management and farming systems to provide papers focused on extension of their research or extension aspects of that research. On the other hand, professional farmers have in the *Extension Farming Systems Journal* an opportunity to bring their scholarship upfront and extending their achievements to interested parties. Furthermore, professional extension officers, agribusiness managers and farm business consultants, as well as other agricultural related professionals, will surely benefit with the opportunity to publish in *Extension Farming Systems Journal*. This journal provides a forum for discussion of issues that relate to the improvement in the performance of the agricultural sector.

The journal brings together professional farmers members of AFBMNetwork, researchers, consultants and extension officers from several organisations for a common goal. We at Charles Sturt University acknowledge our collaborative colleagues at Marcus Oldham College, The University of Melbourne, Massey University and Curtin University. It is through such collaboration that most progress can be made – a critical mass of expertise with diversity of views but commonality of purpose. I commend that integration for a better future of tertiary education, research and extension.

Prof Jim Pratley
Dean Faculty of Science and Agriculture
Charles Sturt University

17 November 2005

The character of *Extension Farming Systems Journal*

Extension Farming Systems Journal is a publication of the Australasian Farm Business Management Network (i.e. AFBMNetwork) with free online access to AFBMNetwork members and wider audience; and paid subscription for the printed version to interested individuals and organisations. *Extension Farming Systems Journal* is applying for registration to DEST-HERDC, Register of Refereed Journals of Australia.

Extension Farming Systems Journal is an innovative publication that comes to fill a vacuum between research and the extension of those results to the industry sector. It is the major aim of *Extension Farming Systems Journal* to attract publications coming from the research sector though converted to an extension language and useful for extension practitioners. It is also the purpose of *Extension Farming Systems Journal* to encourage the scholarship of professional farmers, farm business consultants and extension practitioners creating a forum for publication of issues that will contribute to moving the agricultural sector forward.

In fulfilling the above described dual objective the editors of *Extension Farming Systems Journal* will undertake a reviewing process of the submitted papers, depending on the target audience, as follows:

- (a) Papers submitted to the *Research Forum* section of the journal - targeted to be mainly useful to professional extension practitioners - will be reviewed by the Editorial Board and at least one external referee from the research/extension professional community. In case of disagreement between the parties about the reviewing outcomes, a third external referee will be appointed to cast the final decision about the publishing quality of the paper.
- (b) Papers submitted to the *Industry Forum* section of the journal - mainly targeted to professional farmers, agribusiness managers and farm business consultants- will be reviewed by an industry panel to evaluate scholarship, readability, relevance to industry and capacity to induce change. The *Industry Forum* section of *Extension Farming Systems Journal* will mainly publish papers on farm business and farming systems technology highlights with typical extension character, outstanding farm and agribusiness case-studies and leading-farmers stories.

Extension Farming Systems Journal is a publication venue for members of AFBMNetwork with an interest in extension. AFBMNetwork is a professional organisation supported by Curtin University – Muresk Institute; Massey University – College of Sciences; The University of Melbourne – Institute of Land and Food Resources; Marcus Oldham College and Charles Sturt University – Faculty of Science and Agriculture. However, independent and organisational professionals with an interest in extension are encouraged to publish using the *Extension Farming Systems 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. *Extension Farming Systems Journal* will therefore publish high quality papers, with an extension character, 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.

Though the Journal can be accessed online free of charge, a printed copy is always an option. The 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 *Extension Farming Systems Journal* for library purposes should direct the enquiry through leggleston@csu.edu.au.

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

Executive Editor

Instructions to authors

Instructions for intending authors of papers to be submitted to *Extension Farming Systems Journal* can be downloaded from AFBMNetwork webpage

afbmnetwork.orange.usyd.edu.au/efsjournal/EFS_Journal_Instructions_to_Authors.pdf

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