



Research Program Update

The Australian Farm Institute utilises funding voluntarily contributed by individuals and corporations to carry out or commission research projects on policy issues of importance to farmers in Australia.

The Research Program for this year was set in May 2004 by the Institute's Research Advisory Committee. Three research projects were endorsed, all of which hold considerable strategic importance for Australian farmers.

Respected economics consultants, Econtech, have been contracted to estimate the full economic impact of agriculture in the Australian economy by quantifying all sectors of the economy that rely on agriculture. This project will also involve the development of an economic model that will enable the impact of events such as drought or interest rate rises to be estimated on agriculture and related sectors of the economy.

Synapse Research & Consulting and Bob Hudson Consulting have been contracted to conduct a study into the changing demographics of the Australian farm sector, and to compare changes in Australia with demographic changes that are occurring in the farm sectors of other developed economies. This study also involves an analysis of the likely impact of demographic changes on issues such as rural labour supplies, and a range of other policy areas.

ACIL Tasman have been engaged to carry out a project examining increases in the proportion of farm production marketed through contract arrangements with wholesalers or retailers. These trends are more advanced in North America and Europe, and this project should provide a useful strategic guide to likely developments in produce marketing in Australia.

The Australian Farm Institute anticipates making all project reports available for purchase on the Institute website. The Institute also anticipates holding several seminars for members to explain the project outcomes.

Latest Publications

The August edition of the *Farm Policy Journal* is now available and has been well received, generating debate on the issues surrounding biotechnology in Australia. If you are already a member of the Institute you can access this publication free of charge. Non members can also purchase the journal and individual articles from the Institute website at www.farminstitute.org.au Hard copies of the journal are also available, contact the Institute on 61 2 9690 1388.

Strategic Roundtable Conference

The Australian Farm Institute will hold its inaugural Strategic Roundtable Conference in Sydney on 2nd and 3rd December 2004.

The conference is designed to bring together decision-makers in agriculture and agribusiness to identify some of the key strategic issues that Australian agriculture is likely to face over the next five to ten years.

Once the key issues have been identified, the Institute's Research Advisory Committee will develop these into research projects that will be undertaken by the Australian Farm Institute during 2005.

The Institute has secured the services of a number of prominent national and international speakers who will provide the conference with valuable insights into some of the major issues impacting on agriculture, both within Australia and internationally.

Speakers include Professor David Hughes, Emeritus Professor of Food Marketing, Centre for Food Chain Research, Imperial College London; Peter Corish, President of the National Farmers Federation; Dr Brian Fisher, Executive Director of ABARE; Dr Warren Parker, formerly Chief of AgResearch New Zealand, and recently recruited to IMBcom, University of Queensland and Coral Love, National Landcare Facilitator.

If you or your organisation is interested in being involved in this event please contact the Executive Director, Mick Keogh on 61 2 9690 1388 or via email keoghm@farminstitute.org.au

Corporate Sponsorship

The Australian Farm Institute provides opportunities for companies involved in Australian agriculture or agribusiness to support the Institute's activities. The Institute has established a number of corporate membership categories with differing access to Institute information and differing levels of recognition. Corporate Membership of the Institute is available on an annual basis.

If you are interested in offering the Australian Farm Institute corporate support, contact the Executive Director, Mick Keogh on 61 2 9690 1388 or via email keoghm@farminstitute.org.au



Farm Policy Journal – November Edition Website

The third edition of the *Farm Policy Journal*, to be published in the first week of December 2004, will focus on the impacts of climate change and related policies on farmers. Contributed papers will include:

- “Likely changes in Australia’s climate over the next fifty years and degrees of uncertainty”
Dr Penny Whetton, CSIRO
- “Impact of climate change on Australian farm productivity and profitability”
Prof Snow Barlow, The University of Melbourne
- “Prospects for the Australian economy and the Impact of meeting Australia’s Kyoto commitment”
Prof Philip Adams, Monash University
- “Climate change policies and the Australian Farm Sector”
Mick Keogh, Australian Farm Institute
- “The impact of NZ climate change policies on NZ agriculture”
Jacob Haomogo, Federated Farmers of NZ
- “Agricultural impacts and adaptations to climate change in Europe”
Prof Jørgen Olesen, Danish Institute of Agricultural Sciences



Prominent national and international authors will contribute articles to the November edition of the *Farm Policy Journal*. Pictured: Jørgen Olesen, Danish Institute of Agricultural Sciences, Denmark

Advertising – Farm Policy Journal

The November edition of the *Farm Policy Journal* has limited advertising space available. The Australian Farm Institute is seeking expressions of interest from potential advertisers, either on a single-edition basis, or under a longer-term arrangement.

The *Farm Policy Journal* is distributed to the most respected key decision-makers and policy-makers in both the public and private sectors, the latter principally in agribusiness and the media. The journal therefore represents an excellent opportunity for highly targeted promotion by national or international companies involved in agriculture or agribusiness, who wish to raise their profile with key decision makers, leading farmers and the leaders of major companies within the agribusiness sector.

If you are interested in securing advertising space in the journal please contact Karen Romano on phone 61 2 9690 1388 or via email romanok@farminstitute.org.au

The Australian Farm Institute website was upgraded and improved during August and September 2004. A number of publications are now available online for purchase and/or download, including the August edition of the *Farm Policy Journal*. Additional material will be progressively added to the site, including research project reports as projects are completed.

The website has been designed to give Institute members full access to online publications. If you are a member of the Institute, or a registered user of the website, please ensure that you log into the site with your assigned username and password if you intend to purchase and/or download a publication. You can do this by clicking the “Log in Page” tab at www.farminstitute.org.au.

If you are not already a member of the Australian Farm Institute, please consider supporting the Institute through one of the several membership options. Membership to the Institute will entitle you to gain free access to most online publications (including the *Farm Policy Journal*). Please direct website comments or queries to Anthea MacKenzie on 61 2 9690 1388 or via email mackenziea@farminstitute.org.au

Australian Farm Institute Membership

Membership of the Institute enables agribusinesses, farmers, and regional communities to make a contribution to, and invest in the long-term future of Australian agriculture. By providing financial support for the work of the Institute, through an annual membership fee, contributors can ensure that policies and ideas to advance their industry are being developed and promoted to policy-makers. As well as providing access to Institute events and publications, being identified as an Institute contributor sends a clear message to the agricultural sector and to policy-makers that an individual/organisation is interested and engaged in the long-term future of agriculture.

A number of different membership options are available including Individual and Corporate membership as well as Journal subscription.

An annual fee of A\$200 for an Individual membership will entitle the member to:

- an annual subscription to the *Farm Policy Journal*
- access to most other Institute publications
- access to all Institute seminars and research briefings
- access to most Institute website publications.

Due to recent website improvements, membership to the Australian Farm Institute can now be purchased online at www.farminstitute.org.au/memberships If you would prefer to apply offline, please contact the Institute on 61 2 9680 1408 or email your enquiry to info@farminstitute.org.au

Future Editions of Farm Institute Insights

The Australian Farm Institute anticipates distributing *Farm Institute Insights* electronically in the future. The next edition of the newsletter will be published in January 2005. If you would like to be added to the distribution list please forward your email address to info@farminstitute.org.au