Australia’s Farm-Dependent Economy Report

The Australian Farm Institute’s first major research report was released at a function in Parliament House, Canberra, on 14 March 2005. The Report was the outcome of research conducted by economic consultants Econtech Pty Ltd and was co-funded by Horticulture Australia Limited.

The research was commissioned by the Australian Farm Institute to provide a better understanding of the economic significance of the country’s farming industries. Specifically, the research set out to quantify the full scope of economic activity associated with the Agricultural Sector in Australia. It measured all the economic activity within the farm sector, as well as within industries providing goods and services to farmers, and within the industries using farm produce to manufacture or market products for consumption.

The Overview and Full Text of the Research Report are now available to download from the Institute’s website. Members of the Australian Farm Institute have unlimited online access to these publications and can request hardcopies by contacting the Institute. Non-members are able to purchase electronic or hardcopies online at www.farminstitute.org.au/publications

Corporate Sponsorship

The Australian Farm Institute would like to welcome Rabobank as a Gold Corporate Sponsor. With food, beverage and agribusiness experts in over 30 countries, Rabobank’s local and international network of researchers, analysts and finance specialists are uniquely placed to help maximise business opportunities.

Rabobank has the expertise to finance every facet of the value chain, from primary producers through to large co-operatives and major companies, both private and listed, operating in the food, beverage and agribusiness sectors.

With over 100 years’ experience in agribusiness, Rabobank is one of the world’s leading financial institutions, and has the strengths of a AAA rating. In fact, last year it was ranked the world’s safest private bank by Global Finance magazine.

To talk to a bank that understands farming and agribusiness call 1800 657 394 or visit www.rabobank.com.au

2004/05 Research Program Update

The final two research projects, which commenced during 2004, are nearing completion.

ACIL Tasman is compiling the results of the research project, ‘Contract agriculture - the future of farming?’ This project examines the changes that are occurring in the marketing of farm produce as agriculture becomes progressively integrated with downstream industries.

The remaining research project is being conducted by Synapse Research & Consulting and Bob Hudson Consulting. This two phase research project examines the changing demographics of the Australian Farm Sector, and compares changes in Australia with demographic changes that are occurring in the Farm Sectors of other developed economies. A subsequent stage of the research examines the policy implications of these changes.
2005/06 Research Program Update

The Australian Farm Institute Research Advisory Committee met during February 2005 to develop a shortlist of projects for the 2005/06 Research Program. The Committee agreed on a shortlist of 4 broad areas of research, which are currently being developed into detailed project proposals. These will be subject to rigorous analysis by the Research Advisory Committee during late April with a shortlist of projects to be recommended to the Institute’s Board for implementation during 2005.

Farm Policy Journal - May Quarter, 2005

The May Quarter, 2005 edition of the Farm Policy Journal will focus on Europe’s changing Agricultural Sector, and the implications for Australia and New Zealand. The European Union (EU) has historically been regarded as a key stumbling block on the pathway towards reform of world trade in agricultural products. Despite sustained pressure from agricultural exporting nations, the EU has for many years maintained its Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) which includes high levels of farm subsidies, coupled with barriers to the importation of farm products.

In 2005 the CAP will undergo a major change, which is predicted to also dramatically change agriculture in the EU. As a critical market for Australian agriculture, it is imperative that the implications of these changes are well understood. These issues are the subject of papers included in the May Quarter, 2005 edition of the Farm Policy Journal.

Several papers have been contributed by authors in the UK who provide a first hand analysis of the proposed CAP reforms and implications for trade policy. Professor Caroline Saunders, Lincoln University, New Zealand has contributed an informative paper which discusses the implications of changed EU agricultural polices for Australian and New Zealand farmers and also explores further likely changes as a consequence of the World Trade Organization’s negotiations currently underway. A series of shorter articles will analyse the implications of EU CAP reforms for Australian Farm Commodities including beef, grains, sugar and dairy over the short and medium term.

Copies of this edition of the Journal can be obtained by taking out a Membership with the Institute, or by purchasing a Subscription. Details of the different levels of memberships and subscriptions are available online at www.farminstitute.org.au/memberships

Individual editions of the Journal will also be available online at www.farminstitute.org.au/publications

Advertising – Farm Policy Journal

Advertising opportunities are available in the May Quarter, 2005 edition of the Farm Policy Journal. In its first 12 months of publication the Farm Policy Journal has become recognised as a prime source of objective and well-considered information on farm policy and agricultural trends, both within Australia and internationally. Providing a forum for debate and an exchange of ideas on farm policy issues, this publication is distributed to key decision-makers in agriculture in Australia and overseas and hence provides an excellent opportunity for highly targeted promotion. Advertising space is available on either a single edition basis, or under a longer-term arrangement. Contact Karen Romano on phone 61 2 9690 1388 or via email romanok@farminstitute.org.au

Membership

The Australian Farm Institute has broadened its membership opportunities to cater for corporate organisations, libraries and small business with the development of two new annual membership packages: Institutional Publication Subscription and Institutional Journal Subscription.

• Institutional Publication Subscription

Subscribers receive hardcopies of all Institute publications including the Farm Policy Journal, research project reports, Institute papers, articles and newsletters. The subscription also provides multiple user access to the electronic version of all Institute publications. An annual Institutional Publication Subscription costs $1,100 (incl. GST).

• Institutional Journal Subscription

Subscribers receive 4 hardcopies of the Farm Policy Journal. The subscription also provides multiple user access to the electronic version of the Journal. An annual Institutional Journal Subscription costs $550 (incl. GST).

For further information or to make an application please contact the Australian Farm Institute on 61 2 9690 1388 or email info@farminstitute.org.au

Future Editions: Farm Institute Insights

The Australian Farm Institute plans to distribute Farm Institute Insights electronically in the future. If you would like to be added to the electronic distribution list please forward your email address to info@farminstitute.org.au

Dairy image: Copyright the Australian Government Department of Environment and Heritage Collection, reproduced by permission. Taken by Trevor J Ierino.