



FUTURE FARM
INDUSTRIES CRC

e-news

JAN 2008

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WELCOME FROM THE CEO

Welcome to FFI CRC in 2008!

We have hit the ground running in this new year, with a lot of work being done on new project proposals:

- * Proposed new projects for 2008-09 are being reviewed by Participants and summaries are available on the website: http://www.futurefarmcrc.com.au/for_the_record.html
- * All projects are being discussed between Mike Ewing and Program Leaders for their cash budget and in-kind resource implications, and being reviewed by John Powell and the Node Managers to advise on Adoption & Commercialisation implementation
- * The next round of project development will follow further direction from the Board at its meeting on 12 February
- * The Management Committee will coordinate this process through three formal assessments – Project Evaluation Committee (late March), Participants (late April) and the Board (May 2008)

There are also some staff changes this year:

- * Mike Bennell has asked that he be replaced as Program 3: New Woody Crop Industries leader to concentrate more on key projects from March. Thank you Mike for your sterling efforts in guiding program and project developments. I am consulting Participants on a replacement for Mike prior to a call for expressions of interest.
- * David Bicknell, Department of Agriculture and Food, WA, Narrogin, has been appointed WA Node Manager. He will bring new extension skills to the Adoption & Commercialisation team. I sincerely thank Richard George for doing such a great job as Node Manager, and for handing over the WA node to Dave in such good order.



* Elizabeth Wheeler, our highly creative and diligent Communication Officer, is leaving FFI CRC to start her own graphic design business, following her wedding in two weeks time. We will miss Liz very much and wish her all the best in her new venture. Her new work email address is wheeler.devlin@bigpond.com

* I welcome as a part-time administrative officer Ingrid Magtengaard, who will assist Christina Sanderson with financial processing.

Other news to report includes:

* We are likely to be supporting 21 new postgraduates in 2008, well above our target of 15. Well done Daryll Richardson and the Program 7 team led by Scott Glyde.

* The Program 6 social research team is meeting in Adelaide on 24 January to further develop the 'adoptability project'. Further information from Allan Curtis, CSU: acurtis@csu.edu.au

* The Program 4 Salinity Knowledge Exchange project is conducting a scoping workshop with potential participants in the exchange in each state. Nick Edwards is the project leader.

* *Saltland Prospects* has been published. I thank Sarita Bennett and Richard Price for doing such a great job as authors, and I urge all *E-News* readers to seek a copy because it establishes a new 'saltland capability' system for saltland strategy selection.

* FFI CRC will be meeting with MLA's on-farm R&D program team to discuss outputs and achievements from CRC Salinity and planned activities for FFI CRC

* The 2nd International Salinity Forum is rapidly approaching. More than 30 people associated with CRC Salinity and FFI CRC will be presenting papers or posters. Further information from www.internationalsalinityforum.org

Finally, I emphasise that the project proposals now under review, and available on the web in summary form, give an updated position on in-kind resources (FTE's x Participant) and cash budgets. I invite all *E-News* readers associated with the CRC to scan project details on the web and advise of any issues to Mike Ewing.

* Kevin Goss: (08) 6488 2555; kevin.goss@futurefarmcrc.com.au

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BUSINESS MATTERS

Mark Stickells is currently on leave. He will be back in the office 4 February 2008.

For further information contact

* Christina Sanderson, Finance and Operations Manager: (08) 6488 1954; christina.sanderson@futurefarmcrc.com.au

* Julia Wilson, Research Contract Manager (Wed-Fri): (08) 6488 1846; julia.wilson@futurefarmcrc.com.au

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ADOPTION & COMMERCIALISATION

Full portfolio of new projects developed

28 draft new projects have been developed by Program and Project Leaders. Adoption Manager John Powell and the Node Managers are working with researchers and users to refine the Adoption & Commercialisation activities to be undertaken by each project.

Regional groups to participate in *Enrich*

Nine regional groups across four States have responded enthusiastically to a joint invitation from John Powell and *Enrich* project leader Dean Revell to participate in *Enrich* field trials.

The field trials of 'best bet' forage shrubs identified by *Enrich* researchers will fast track the rate at which researchers and producer groups learn about the region-specific performance of the shrubs, and about how to manage grazing animals when the shrubs are part of a forage mixture.

Each regional group has committed in principle to contributing \$10,000 towards the cost of seedlings and other expenses.

For further information contact

* John Powell: (02) 6226 5298; jpowell@optimalicm.net.au

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NODE ACTIVITIES

SA Node

Profitable Perennials in the Landscape



FFI CRC will be holding two 'Profitable Perennials in the Landscape' forums in SA as part of the CRC Salinity Harvest and Delivery

program. These will be held on 12 February at Football Club Rooms, Cummins, Eyre Peninsula, and 20 February at Minlaton Bowling Club, Minlaton, Yorke Peninsula. The forums will focus on lucerne, saltbush and other perennials and their role in increased production, livestock gains and the management of dryland salinity.

The forums have been supported by Landmark and DWLBC.

* For further information contact Andrew Harding: (08) 8842 6231;
Harding.Andrew@saugov.sa.gov.au

For further information about SA Node activities contact:

* Anna Dutkiewicz: (08) 8303 9735;
Dutkiewicz.Anna@saugov.sa.gov.au

WA Node

FFI CRC welcomes David Bicknell as the new WA Node Manager.

For further information contact:

* David Bicknell: (08) 9881 0222; dbicknell@agric.wa.gov.au

VIC Node

For further information contact:

* Austin Brown: (03) 9742 8728; Austin.Brown@dpi.vic.gov.au

NSW Node

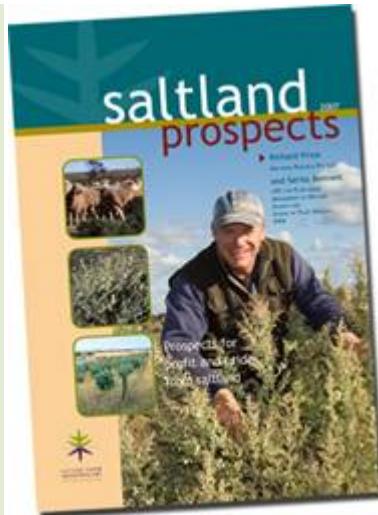
For further information contact:

* Peter Regan: (02) 6391 3185; peter.j.regan@dpi.nsw.gov.au

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COMMUNICATION

Saltland Prospects



Saltland Prospects has just arrived from the printers. If you would like to receive a copy, send your address details through to Greg Madson: (08) 6488 2505; greg.madson@futurefarmcrc.com.au

FFI templates

Every CRC document, presentation and poster should now be created using the correct FFI CRC template. This is not a request, this is an order!!! Templates and guidelines can be downloaded from http://www.futurefarmcrc.com.au/for_the_record.html

* For further information contact Sarah Colombera: (08) 6488 1952; sarah.colombera@futurefarmcrc.com.au

What's new on the web?



* The FFI CRC poster template is now ready to download from http://www.futurefarmcrc.com.au/for_the_record.html Besides helping with your layout, it also includes tips on how to maximise the impact of your poster presentation.

For further information contact

* Greg Lawrence: (08) 6488 7353; greg.lawrence@futurefarmcrc.com.au

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PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

P1 Future Livestock Production



In August 2007, the *Enrich* team packed three days with review, planning and site visits. Participating in the meeting were the team of researchers from four states, representatives from all four funding agencies (FFI CRC, MLA, AWI and JVAP), four innovative producers with experiences in using forage shrubs, and a special invited guest, Prof Fred Provenza from Utah State University. Fred offered insights from a lifetime's research on plant-animal interactions.

The meeting began with a review of progress and a participants' update, and was followed by an drive to Jurien Bay in dark, wet and wild conditions. However a clear morning ensured an enjoyable visit to an *Enrich* research site at Badgingarra where a range of shrub species had been planted one year earlier (grazing of this site commences in a few weeks time).

The meeting brought a fresh outlook and a vision for what research and extension was needed in the years ahead, and formed the basis for the proposal for a phase 2 of the *Enrich* project.

* Further information from Dean Revell: (08) 9333 6492;
dean.revell@csiro.au

For further information about Future Livestock Production contact

* Joe Jacobs: (03) 5561 9946; joe.jacobs@dpi.vic.gov.au

P2 Future Cropping Systems

For further information contact

* Alison Bowman: (02) 6938 1628; alison.bowman@dpi.nsw.gov.au

P3 New Woody Crop Industries

For further information contact

* Mike Bennell: (08) 8303 9674; bennell.mike@saugov.sa.gov.au

P4 Farming Saline Landscapes

A series of 'Saltland Knowledge Exchange' workshops will be held during February in NSW, Victoria, WA & SA. The workshops will help shape the 'Salinity Knowledge Exchange', which will build on knowledge from SGSL and other national programs, and is intended to be a key delivery vehicle of saltland knowledge to producers and information retailers.

The workshops have been organised by the *National Saltland Service* transition project leader Nick Edwards.

For further information contact

* Ed Barrett-Lennard: (08) 9368 3441;
egbarrettlennard@agric.wa.gov.au

P5 Biodiversity & Water

For further information contact

* Ken Wallace: (08) 9334 0341; ken.wallace@dec.wa.gov.au

P6 Economic, Social & Policy Analysis

For further information contact

* Bill Malcolm: (03) 8344-5015; b.malcolm@unimelb.edu.au

P7 Education & Training

The CRC has recently concluded recruiting activities for PhD researchers for commencing or continuing funded projects in 2008. We have received an acceptance of offer from 17 applicants, with a further four in the pipeline. In addition, we have two new associate students joining the program.

Our new recruits join our five existing postgraduate researchers bringing the total number of postgraduates to 24 before the conclusion of our first year of business.

Congratulations to the following new recruits who will commence or continue projects in 2008. Preliminary topic areas are included:

- * Karl Andersson (CSU) P2 - Factors that influence phosphorus (P) sorption in selected soils in southern NSW and potential methods of P sorption management
- * Richard Bennett (UWA) P2 - Adaptation and evaluation of Australian Cullen species for use as perennial pasture legumes in Western Australia
- * David Cammarano (UM) P2 - Integrating remote sensing and spatial crop modeling for wheat nitrogen management in a rain-fed environment
- * Bronwyn Crowe (UWA) P6 - The design of biodiversity

conservation contracts under uncertainty.

- * Lauren Forrest (CSU) P7 - Educational technology development, and its' role in extension and adoption
- * Kevin Foster (UWA) P2 - Mechanisms of drought tolerance of *Bituminaria Bituminosa var albomarginata* and *crassiuscula*
- * Matthew Gardner (CSU) P2 - Best practice management of Chicory in an Australian context
- * Catherine Gulliver (CSU) P1 - Large scale field trials on the effect of short term lupin supplementation as well as summer active perennials on ovulation rates in ewes
- * Felicity Gummer (CSU) P2 - Relationship between earliness and vigour across a range of cereal species
- * Serenity Hill (UM) P5 - Landholder adaptation to climate and other complex change and what this means for the resilience of the food system: Case studies in perceived 'resilient' and 'vulnerable' landscapes
- * Tim Hutchings (CSU) P6 - Management of risk on Australian farms
- * Nicole Hyde (CSU) P2 - Above and below ground dynamics of perennial wheat, and their subsequent impact on the environment
- * Muhammad Javid (UM) P2 - Physiological and genetic mechanisms of salt and boron tolerance in *brassica juncea*
- * Francis Leng (UWA) P5 - Are reptiles good indicators of the biodiversity benefits of perennial farming systems?
- * Emily Mendham (CSU) P6 - The rural rebound and changes in rural property ownership: Trends, challenges and opportunities for natural resource management
- * Susan Orgill (CSU) P2 - Investigations into the role of perennial pastures in building soil carbon (C) in phase farming systems
- * Padmaja Ramankutty (UWA) P2 - Model selection in complex statistical regression
- * Chris Raymond (UA) P6 - Role of landscape values and normative beliefs on the adoption of herbaceous and woody perennial farming systems in the Southern Flinders Ranges (SA)
- * David Waters (CSU) P2 - Improved soil health for more sustainable agriculture.

Please keep your eyes out for our new postgraduates at the next CRC event you attend and make them feel welcome to the family.

* For more information about our new postgraduates contact the Education Manager, Daryll Richardson.
drichardson@agaveeducation.com.au

For further information about Education & Training contact

* Scott Glyde: (02) 6933 2385; sglyde@csu.edu.au

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SNIPPETS

Farrer Memorial Medal

Congratulations to former CRC Salinity CEO Phil Cocks, who has recently been named the winner of the 2008 Farrer Memorial medal.

The Farrer Memorial Medal was established in 1911 to perpetuate the memory of William Farrer and to encourage and inspire agricultural scientists. The medal is awarded annually to a person who has provided distinguished service in agricultural science in the areas of research, education, extension or administration.

Science meets Parliament



The Federation of Australian Scientific and Technological Societies will be holding their Science meets Parliament on 18-19 March 2008. This is an excellent opportunity for early to mid-career scientists to meet with Federal Politicians and promote their science while also learning about the workings of Federal parliament, what it involves, and how to talk to a pollie.

* To register your interest in attending this event please contact Sarah Colombera: (08) 6488 1952;
sarah.colombera@futurefarmcrc.com.au

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COMING EVENTS

FFI CRC Node Managers meeting

7 February 2008, Adelaide
email: sarah.colombera@futurefarmcrc.com.au

FFI CRC Management Committee meeting

8 February 2008, Adelaide
email: sarah.colombera@futurefarmcrc.com.au

FFI CRC Board meeting

12 February 2008, Orange
email: sarah.colombera@futurefarmcrc.com.au

EverGraze site launch

13 February 2008, Orange

email: peter.j.regan@dpi.nsw.gov.au

GRDC Agribusiness Crop Updates

13-14 February 2008, Perth

Greg Shea: (08) 9081 3111

National Oil Mallee Conference

14-15 March 2008, Perth

email: info@oilmallee.com.au

Science meets Parliament

18-19 March 2008, Canberra

www.fast.org

2nd International Salinity Forum

31 March - 3 April 2008, Adelaide

www.internationalsalinityforum.org

21st International Grassland Congress and 8th International Rangelands Conference

29 June – 5 July 2008, Huhot, China

www.rangelandcongress.com

14th Australian Society of Agronomy Conference

21-25 September 2008, Adelaide

www.agronomy.org.au/2008

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Feedback is always welcome greg.lawrence@futurefarmcrc.com.au