



FUTURE FARM
INDUSTRIES CRC

efocus™

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> Welcome

Welcome to the first edition of *efocus*, FFI CRC's new external email newsletter.

Featuring snapshots of the latest happenings from FFI CRC, *efocus* has been created in response to an increasing demand for information on CRC activities. *Efocus* will deliver news items on current CRC research and activities, and will be published in between each quarterly edition of *Focus on Perennials* except over the Christmas-New Year holiday period.

If you do not want to receive future copies of *efocus*, please email our Communication Manager [Greg Lawrence](#) and he will unsubscribe you from the list.

I hope you enjoy the first edition of *efocus*.

Kevin Goss, FFI CRC CEO



> Saltbush diet gives vitamin E boost

Recent trial results suggest saltbush could provide a cost-effective and environmentally sound alternative to managing vitamin E levels in sheep. The results come from a *Sustainable Grazing of Saline Lands* (SGSL) trial site at Yealering, Western Australia. The trial has shown that after 24 days of grazing on a saltbush-based pasture, the plasma vitamin E levels of weaner sheep increased from 0.5 to 2.6 mg/L.

The discovery that saltbush grazing helps guard against muscle disease in autumn is an unexpected bonus that augers well for using saltbush as a late summer, early autumn feed source on saline or non-saline land.

This research highlights the potential win-win situations that can arise from applying new farming practices on land previously considered unusable.

Read more about FFI CRC's work with saltbush at [Science Network WA](#).



> 2008 Farrer Medallist calls for rational climate change debate

The 2008 Farrer Medal Winner, and former CRC Salinity CEO, has called for a more rational debate on climate change.

Emeritus Professor Cocks has stated at recent presentations, including the Second International Salinity Forum, that Australia like many other countries, has mostly ignored the advice of scientists when it comes to climate change because of its vested interest in fossil fuels.



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The Farrer Medal is awarded annually to provide encouragement and inspiration in agricultural science in the memory of plant breeder, William James Farrer.

Emeritus Professor Cock's thoughts on climate change is featured in this month's edition of NSW DPI's [Agriculture Today](#).



> **Case Study section added to FFI CRC website**

A [case study](#) section has been recently added to the Future Farm Industries CRC website to profile some of the tangible benefits that Australian farmers are already experiencing through its research results. The page features seven case studies that highlight the dividends already experienced through the incorporation of FFI CRC research into farming systems.

Included on the page is a profile piece about WA farmer, Don Nairn, who with the help of the FFI CRC's *Enrich* program has been able to increase feed levels during summer, stop wind erosion and double the marginal land's carrying capacity through strip grazing.

The profile features a brief [video](#) where Don explains the benefits he has experienced through strip grazing on his farm.



> **FFI CRC's 'Real choices in a drying climate' campaign draws to a close**

Beginning in late February, FFI CRC and Currie Communications embarked on a publicity campaign to raise awareness of the CRC and its research aspirations. The campaign resulted in extensive national media coverage. This has helped position the CRC as a climate change adaptation leader in Australian agriculture.

The campaign provided an opportunity for the CRC to comment on the need for the current climate change policy debate to focus on creation of short-term solutions for farmers. These comments feature in a recent opinion piece that appeared on the [Science Network WA website](#) and in an interview that Kevin Goss had with ABC Radio's [Bush Telegraph Program](#) in late April.



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