

# Media Release

---



FUTURE FARM  
INDUSTRIES CRC  
PROFITABLE PERENNIALS™ FOR AUSTRALIAN LANDSCAPES

5 February 2008

## New publication to help farmers make a living out of salty land

Often thought to be no more than an eyesore or useless, salt affected land can now be farmed for profit according to a new publication released by Future Farm Industries CRC.

A first for Australia, the *Saltland Prospects* publication features a nationwide saltland classification system based on land capability that can match farming systems best suited to individual farms.

Co-author Dr Richard Price said the publication contains a wealth of knowledge about the different kinds of sustainable land-uses that can take place on saline land. *Saltland Prospects* also highlights the potential profits that can be made from salt-affected land.

“*Saltland Prospects* provides in depth information supported by case studies that have successfully used salt-affected land in different ways to add value to their farming system,” Dr Price said.

“Dryland salinity in Australia occurs in many ways across the country, so it’s very important to work out your farm’s landscape characteristics, such as the extent of salinity and waterlogging, and soil types before deciding on a suitable land use.

“These regional case studies clearly demonstrate that having an understanding of how salinity occurs on a farm can pave the way to implementing a sustainable and profitable land use that reduces its impact.”

To help farmers work out what land-use solutions are best for their farm, *Saltland Prospects* has specific sections dedicated to recommending plant-based systems for managing saltland in each of the 15 salinity-affected regions within Australia through the use of saltland categories.

In each region, the ‘saltland capability’ is classified based on key site characteristics. These characteristics help determine which plant-based management system is suited to the different capability for that region.

“Revegetating saltland can enhance a farm’s productivity and flexibility by providing additional grazing options,” Dr Price said.

“Planting saltbush for example, which can be used to fill the summer- autumn feed gap, is high in vitamin E, which can help reduce muscle degradation in sheep and prolong the shelf life of the meat.

“Well managed saltland pastures can also lower water tables, increase biodiversity and reduce soil erosion.”

To get your own copy of the FFI CRC *Saltland Prospects* email [greg.madson@futurefarmcrc.com.au](mailto:greg.madson@futurefarmcrc.com.au)

---

**Media Enquiries:** Greg Lawrence, T: 0429 101 675 E: [greg.lawrence@futurefarmcrc.com.au](mailto:greg.lawrence@futurefarmcrc.com.au)

Further information: [www.futurefarmcrc.com.au](http://www.futurefarmcrc.com.au)

Future Farm Industries Cooperative Research Centre aims to transform Australian agriculture and rural landscapes by developing and applying Profitable Perennials™ technologies to innovative farming systems and new regional industries.

---