



AgEcon SEARCH
RESEARCH IN AGRICULTURAL & APPLIED ECONOMICS

The World's Largest Open Access Agricultural & Applied Economics Digital Library

This document is discoverable and free to researchers across the globe due to the work of AgEcon Search.

Help ensure our sustainability.

Give to AgEcon Search

AgEcon Search
<http://ageconsearch.umn.edu>
aesearch@umn.edu

*Papers downloaded from **AgEcon Search** may be used for non-commercial purposes and personal study only. No other use, including posting to another Internet site, is permitted without permission from the copyright owner (not AgEcon Search), or as allowed under the provisions of Fair Use, U.S. Copyright Act, Title 17 U.S.C.*

**Australian Agricultural and Resource Economics Society
46th Annual Conference, 13-15th February, 2002**

A Bibliography Of Australian Farm Management Research And Publication

by

Ian M. Cooper

Senior Lecturer in Farm Management

Department of Agronomy & Farming Systems, Adelaide University

Roseworthy Campus Roseworthy SA 5371

Telephone number: 08 8303 7865

Fax 08 8303 7979

Email: ian.cooper@adelaide.edu.au

Abstract

One of the outcomes of the merger of the Farm Management Society of Central South Australia and AARES was a project to record the history of the Australian Farm Management Society. As part of this project it was decided to develop a bibliography of Australian Farm Management Research and Publication. It has been produced as a web site to facilitate further development. One of the problems is what to include or exclude from the bibliography. This hinges on one's definition of 'Farm Management'. The approach taken will be explored and progress to date reported.

Web address: <http://www.roseworthy.adelaide.edu.au/~icooper/fmscsa/index.htm>

Key Words

Bibliography, Farm Management, Online

Acknowledgements

To Glenn Ronan, Principal Strategy Consultant (Livestock Industries) Primary Industries and Resources SA, who suggested the project would be useful to him and the AFMS history project, and whose encouragement and discussions have kept me at the task

To the various authors who have given permission for their work to be reproduced in the bibliography

Introduction

This paper is a presentation of work in progress rather than a finished product.

One of the outcomes of the merger of the Farm Management Society of Central South Australia and AARES was a project to record the history of the Australian Farm Management Society (AFMS). As part of this project it was decided to develop a bibliography of Australian Farm Management Research and Publication. Work on the bibliography began in July 2001 and it has been produced as a web site to facilitate further development (Web address: <http://www.roseworthy.adelaide.edu.au/~icooper/fmscsa/index.htm>).

History

The AFMS was formed in 1973 from the Farm Management section of the Australian Institute of Agricultural Science. It was an active forum for those interested in farm management matters – practitioners, advisors and academics. One or more branches of the society existed in all Australian states at one time or another. Declining membership and the high cost of publications forced it into voluntary liquidation in 1997. One of the strongest branches historically, the South Australian Branch, attempted to continue its aims in South Australia as the Farm Management Society of Central South Australia (FMS-CSA). The Branch found it difficult to continue with a small number of members (about 40) and limited resources, particularly people to do the committee work. The FMS-CSA decided to merge with AARES in October 2000, a process that took until early 2001 to complete.

Previous Bibliographies

The only comprehensive and sustained effort to produce a bibliography of Farm Management was by R. E. Cooke-Yarborough of the Bank of New South Wales and his colleagues. This bibliography was first published in “Farm Management” in 1971 (Cooke-Yarborough 1971) and continued after that publication ceased as a publication of the bank. It was included as part of the AFMS Newsletter between 1982 and 1985.

What is Farm Management?

One of the problems is what to include or exclude from the bibliography. This hinges on one’s definition of ‘Farm Management’.

As John Dillon (1965) said at the opening of his Inaugural Public Lecture “Like most catchphrases, farm management means different things to different people.” He went on to say:

“To agricultural scientists, as often as not, it implies choosing a set of technically efficient production techniques, keeping farm accounts, and getting yes-no answers as to whether or not particular techniques of production are profitable. All these, however, are inadequate concepts of farm management. In fact, the management of a farm involves two functions. First, there is the decision-making function of evaluating and choosing between alternative strategies. Second, there is the consequent tradesman-like function of applying routine technical skills to the implementation of whatever strategies have been chosen.”

Glenn Ronan (2002) in his paper to this conference ‘Delving and Divining for Australian Farm Management Agenda: 1970 to 2010’ has his look at what farm management is. In discussions in preparation for these papers we decided that there was a spectrum of opinion on defining farm management. At one end there were the ‘fencers’, generally academics who tend to have a narrow definition, through the ‘holistic’ through to the ‘farmers’ who include anything that could impinge on their farm or farm family.

A classic ‘fencer’ was Henry Schapper (1981) who in a article for the AFMS News who stated: “Farm management, I repeat, is the study of farm-business decision-making rules for profit maximization.” John Dillon (1965) quoted above is not quite so narrow and Glenn Ronan (2002) has more in his paper.

The ‘holistic’ are represented by McClymont and others (see Ronan 2002) and by the Hawkesbury school (Wilson 1988).

Glenn Ronan (2002) tries to represent the ‘farmers’ when he states that: “Successful farm management typically involves some or all of the following:

- profit driven, well informed, timely decision-making and judgemental processes;
- productivity enhancing, innovative, incremental, sustainable developments;
- documented risk management and strategic planning;
- risk spreading by off-farm investments and employment;
- on-farm value adding (eg wine and cheese);
- environmental awareness, biodiversity, organic and tourism outputs as well as conventional commodities, and on-going training and personal development.”

The bibliography has in the first instance tended towards the broadest definition of farm management. This is not surprising considering it commenced with AFMS publications.

Some authors have numerous publications and I have (perhaps arbitrarily) decided some of their works are not about ‘farm management’ but areas such as ‘policy’ or economics or ‘overseas trade’ and hence have omitted them.

Structure of the bibliography

The bibliography is set up as a searchable web site. It consists of three main sections:

1. Pages of publications by AFMS and other groups
2. Pages of periodicals (indexes)
3. Pages for individual authors accessed through an index page.

These are accessed from the ‘home’ or index page (Fig 1).

1. Pages of publications by AFMS and other groups

Since the impetus for this bibliography came from an interest in the contribution of the AFMS, publications of the society were the first listed. The society held twenty-three National conferences between 1974 and 1997. There is a list of the conferences linked to a page containing the program for each one. The proceedings of some of the earlier conferences are available in full. Another page lists other publications of the society, generally proceedings of seminars run by branches.

There is a page devoted to other farm management related conferences and one to other publications by groups or organisations.

2. Pages of periodicals

The periodicals looked at trace the evolution of these publications in relation to farm management. The indexes of each of the issues are available and in some cases there are links to complete articles (where they are available).



Fig 1 "Home" page of the bibliography

The series commences with "Farm Management", the journal of the Farm Management Section of the Australian Institute of Agricultural Science. It commenced in March 1965 and the last issue was Volume 8, No. 4, December 1972. When the Farm Management Section of the AIAS evolved into Australian Farm Management Society, the journal continued for one year (1973) as the Australian Farm Management Journal (AFMJ). These journals primarily published papers from the annual congress and were replaced by AFMS News and proceedings of the annual conference.

AFMS News commenced in January 1974 with volume 1 number 1, and continued as a 'journal' until Vol. 17, No. 4 in April 1990. It contained some articles as well as

administrative and news report from branches. The articles in each issue are listed in the website on the page for each volume. With the advent of “The Australian Farm Manager” the newsletter became a single sheet insert to that publication of administrative notices and brief reports.

About the same time as the AFMJ ceased publication, the South Australian Department of Agriculture began “Farming Forum”. This publication was the product of the agricultural economists of the department and had a farm management focus. There is a page in the bibliography for each volume (normally of four issues). The last issue was in April 1990 when it merged with "AFMS-News" to become "The Australian Farm Manager"

The Australian Farm Manager was published between June 1990 and August 1994. The bibliography contains a page for each volume (four issues per volume) and links to the full text of some articles.

In late 1994 the AFMS formed a new partnership with the Institute of Farm Business Management at Orange Agricultural College to produce a new magazine – Grow! The Journal of Farm and Business Management. Grow was published jointly for two years and the Institute published it for a further year (1997). The bibliography has a page for each issue listing the contents.

3. Pages for individual authors accessed through an index page.

The bibliography has a page for each author recorded and a general page for all authors that have only one publication recorded.

Analysing the bibliography information

As yet my efforts have been in building the bibliography with little analysis. Some analysis of the topic areas of the AFMS conferences has been attempted and this is referred to in Glenn Ronan’s (2002) paper at this conference. This analysis looked at the topic areas of speakers at AFMS conferences to see if there were any trends over time. The topics were categorised into three broad areas – Economic, Environment, and Social (See Fig. 2). Two of these were further categorised. Economics was sub divided into Policy, Marketing, Business and Technology. Social was subdivided into Family, Community & Education. The results are displayed in the figures below.

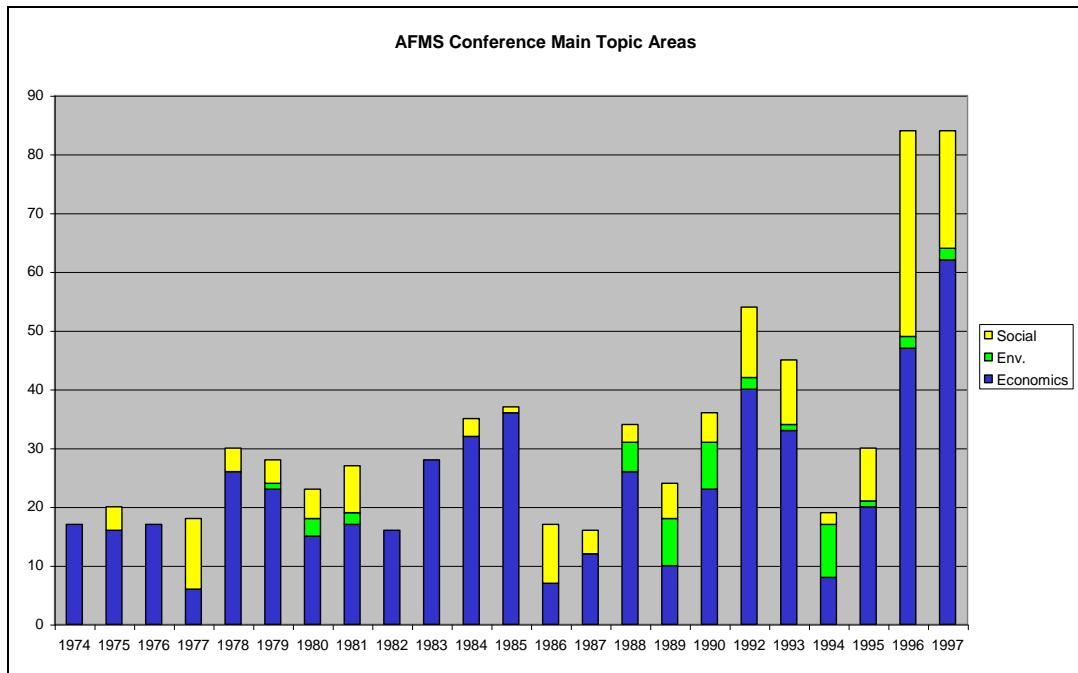


Figure 2 General Classification of AFMS Conference Speaker's Topics

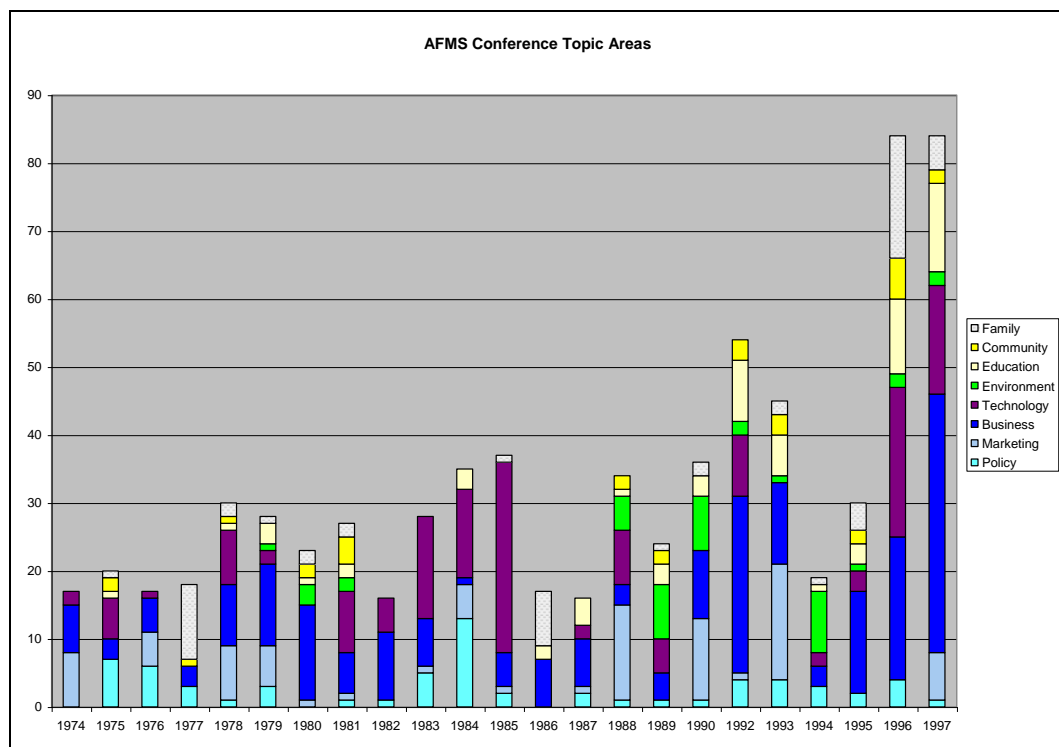


Fig. 3 Classification of AFMS Conference Speaker's Topics

It can be seen that there considerable variability in the size of the conferences (number of speakers) and the topic areas. Social issues were frequently mentioned (first in the second conference!) and tended to gain in importance over time. Environment issues are also

common, being first in the program in 1979. Business topics were always on the agenda and policy and technology were topics at nearly all the conferences.

Conclusion

From my searches on the web I believe I have produces the first web-based bibliography of Farm Management in Australia (or anywhere else in the world for that matter). I hope it will prove a useful asset to those interested in the subject. It is not of course complete and I intend to add to it as time permits. Any contributions would be welcome. If you have information to contribute feel free to email or post it to me.

References

Cooke-Yarborough, R. E (1971) Farm Management Bibliography July 1969 – June 1970. *Farm Management* Vol 7 No. 1 pp 1-40

Dillon, J. (1965), Farm management as an academic discipline in Australia. *Review of Marketing and Agricultural Economics*, 33 3, pp. 175-189.

Ronan, G. (2002), Delving and Divining for Australian Farm Management Agenda: 1970-2010, *AARES 46th Annual Conference*, Canberra, ACT.

Schapper, H. (1981), Farm Management For The 1980's, in *Australian Farm Management Society Newsletter* Vol. 8 No. 2 March pages 1-3.

Wilson, J. (1988), *Changing Agriculture: An Introduction to Systems Thinking*, Kangaroo Press, Kenthurst, NSW.