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## **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](mailto: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/fmcsa/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).

**A BIBLIOGRAPHY OF AUSTRALIAN FARM MANAGEMENT  
RESEARCH AND PUBLICATION**

Compiled by  
**Ian M. Cooper**  
Senior Lecturer in Farm Management  
Department of Agronomy & Farming Systems  
Adelaide University

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**Introduction**  
This bibliography was initiated as part of a project to record the work of the Australian Farm Management Society and its members. However it has expanded to cover research and publication in Farm Management and aspects of closely related disciplines. All pages are currently under construction. I would welcome any general comments or advice on errors and/or omissions.

Deciding what should be included or excluded from this bibliography is difficult, it depends on the definition of the discipline of farm management. This is further explored in "[What is Farm Management?](#)" Initially I have tended to include a wide range of publications that some may believe may not strictly be "Farm Management".

The Australian Farm Management Society began in the early 1970's (incorporated in 1973) developing from the Farm Management Section of the [Australian Institute of Agricultural Science](#). AFMS was wound up in 1997 following financial difficulties. One of the strongest branches of the AFMS, the South Australian Branch endeavoured to continue the aims and objectives of the parent society but merged with the [Australian Agricultural and Resource Economics Society \(AARES\)](#) in early 2001.

**Index to pages**

[List of Authors](#) (with links to individual author pages)

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="#">AFMS General Publications</a></li> <li><a href="#">AFMS National Conferences</a></li> <li><a href="#">Other Conferences</a></li> <li><a href="#">Publications by Groups or Organisations</a></li> <li><a href="#">General Publications relating to Farm Management (Author Order)</a></li> </ul>	<p><b>Periodicals</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="#">Farm Management (Vol. 1-1 Mar. 1965 - Vol. 8-4 Dec. 1972)</a></li> <li><a href="#">Australian Farm Management Journal (Vol. 9-1-3 1973)</a></li> <li><a href="#">AFMS Newsletter V.1.1 (Jan 1974 - V17-4 Apr 1990)</a></li> <li><a href="#">Economic Forum</a></li> <li><a href="#">The Australian Farm Manager</a></li> <li><a href="#">Grow</a></li> </ul>
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Page created by [I. Cooper](#) July 2001 Last updated January 2002  
Mail [Ian.Cooper](#) with suggestions or comments.

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.

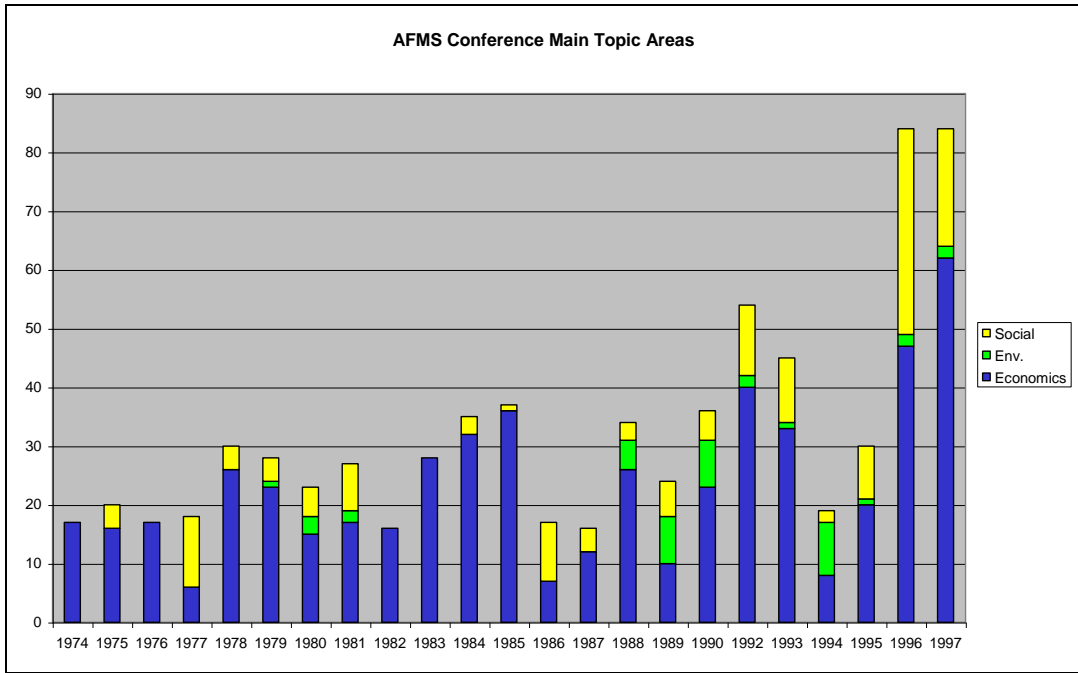


Figure 2 General Classification of AFMS Conference Speaker's Topics

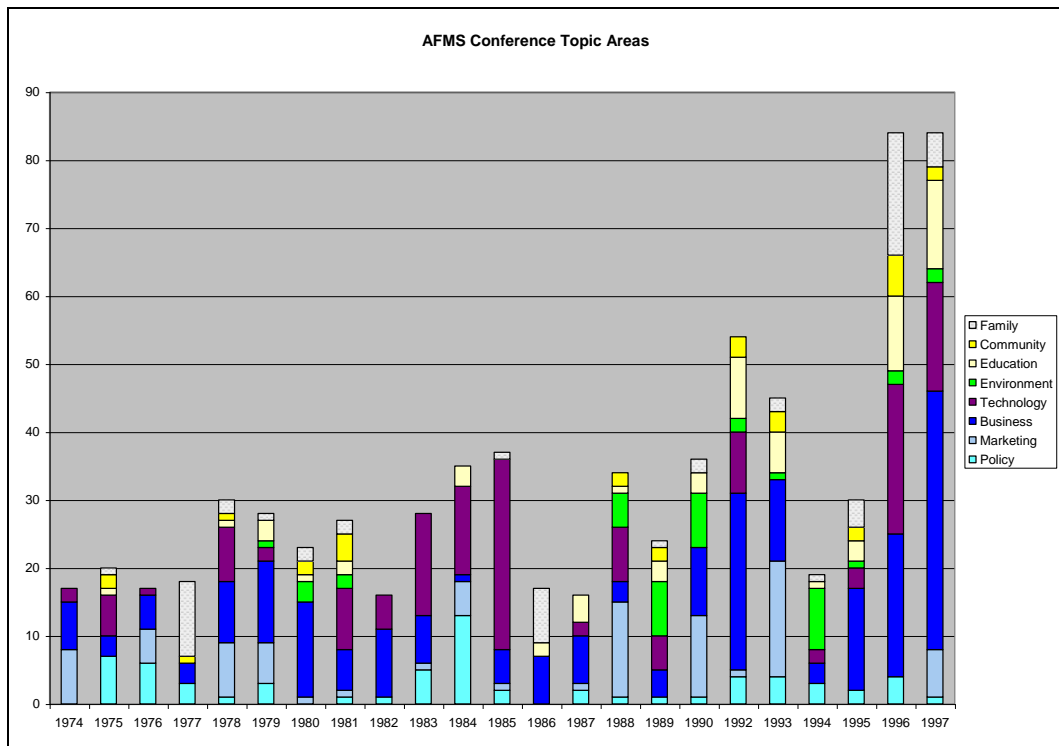


Fig. 3 Classification of AFMS Conference Speaker's Topics

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 produced 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.

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