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SHORT REPORT ON NATIONAL WORKSHOP ON FARM ACCOUNTING

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(Organizing Committee)

At the Society's Annual Conference in Melbourne in February, 1966, an evening session was held to establish the progress being made in each State towards standardization in farm management accounting. Representatives of the accounting organizations and other interested bodies were invited to this meeting as observers.

The meeting resolved that a "National Workshop on Standardization of Terminology and Procedures in Farm Management Accounting" be conducted at the University of New England in August, 1966, under the sponsorship of the Society. Invitations were sent to all institutions known to have an interest in standardization of farm accounting and also to certain individuals prominent in this field. Invitations to co-operating institutions specified that nominees be actively engaged in farm management accounting and be of sufficient standing in their profession, not necessarily to commit the support of their organizations, but at least to carry weight in subsequent consideration of any recommendations which might arise from the Workshop.

Response by interested organizations and individuals to the Society's invitation was very good and the Workshop was held as planned over August 17-21, 1966. Professional representation was both strong and diverse. Apart from the Society itself, organizations officially represented were as follows: Australian Association of Farm Management Consultants, Australian Society of Accountants, Bureau of Agricultural Economics, Bureau of Census and Statistics, Commonwealth Development Bank of Australia, Farm Management Section of the Australian Institute of Agricultural Science, Federation of Farm Management Advisory Services of Western Australia, I.B.M. Australia Pty. Ltd., Institute of Chartered Accountants in Australia, N.S.W. Department of Agriculture, National Cash Register Company, N.Z. Society of Accountants, Queensland Department of Primary Industries, Queensland Joint Committee on Standardization of Farm Management Accounting, Reserve Bank of Australia, Tasmanian Department of Agriculture, Taxation Office of the Commonwealth Treasury, University of Melbourne, University of New England, University of N.S.W., University of Queensland, University of Sydney, Victorian Department of Agriculture and the Western Australian Department of Agriculture.

The total number of attendees was 49 and these split into professionally mixed seven-member syndicates which came together for plenary sessions. Each syndicate contained at least one accountant, farm management consultant, public servant and academic.

Accounting and Planning for Farm Management (Report of a Joint Committee on Standardization of Farm Management Accounting, Queensland Department of Primary Industries, Brisbane, 1966) was used as the basic working paper of the Workshop. With minor amendments, the report was unanimously approved by the Workshop as a basis for farm management accounting and Workshop members unanimously expressed their gratitude and extended their congratulations to the Joint Committee for their broad-minded approach to the subject and for the high standard of their work. Other major working papers of the Workshop were *Coding Farm Accounting Data: A Manual on Coding Principles and a Proposed Coding System* by W. H. Vincent (A.E. Report No. 7, Michigan State University, May 1965) and *Farm Accounting in New Zealand* (N.Z. Society of Accountants, Wellington, 1966).

The Workshop was extremely successful, and not least in terms of setting up guidelines for the standardization of terminology and procedures in Australian farm management accounting. Details of the Workshop recommendations and suggestions, along with a list of attendees, are to be found in *Report of the National Workshop on Standardization of Terminology and Procedures in Farm Management Accounting* which is available from the Society's Secretary or the Department of Farm Management, U.N.E., Armidale, N.S.W. This *Report* also contains the stage-setting papers presented at the Workshop and a Bibliography of Farm Management Accounting prepared for the Workshop.

The major recommendation of the Workshop was as follows:

"This Workshop recommends that a Steering Committee to be known as the Australian Committee for Coding Rural Accounts be established for the purposes of:

- (a) Developing a system of coding farm accounts sufficiently comprehensive to be acceptable generally to the accounting profession.
- (b) Developing a detailed glossary of all terms required for farm management accounting.
- (c) Establishing liaison with all other interested bodies in order to keep them informed of progress made and to facilitate their support in the development and introduction of the proposed coding system into general practice throughout Australia.

Further, that the following five bodies should each be invited to nominate a representative to form this Committee:

- (i) the Australian Society of Accountants;
- (ii) the Bureau of Agricultural Economics;
- (iii) the Department of Farm Management, University of New England (Convener);
- (iv) the Farm Management Section of the Australian Institute of Agricultural Science, also representing the Australian Association of Farm Management Consultants; and
- (v) the Institute of Chartered Accountants in Australia.

Further, that the liaison activities of the Committee should encompass such relevant organizations as the following, as well as those represented on the Committee:

- (i) Australian Agricultural Economics Society;
- (ii) Australian Institute of Valuers;
- (iii) Commonwealth Bureau of Census and Statistics;
- (iv) Commonwealth Development Bank of Australia;
- (v) Commonwealth Taxation Office;
- (vi) Computer Companies and Bureaux;
- (vii) Divisional Councils of the Australian Society of Accountants;
- (viii) Divisional Councils of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in Australia;
- (ix) New Zealand Society of Accountants;
- (x) Pastoral Houses, Fertilizer and Machinery Firms;
- (xi) Primary Producer Organizations;
- (xii) Reserve Bank of Australia;
- (xiii) State Departments of Agriculture;
- (xiv) Trading Banks;
- (xv) U.S.D.A. Committee on Farm EDP;
- (xvi) Universities and Agricultural Colleges;
- (xvii) Westralian Farmers Co-operative Limited."

Moved: A. H. Rowe. *Seconded:* W. Bowie Wilson.
Passed unanimously.

In conclusion the Organizing Committee wishes to thank all those organizations who gave their support to the Workshop and especially to convey its thanks to those individuals who, in many cases at considerable cost to themselves, attended the Workshop.

Editor's note: ACCRA, the Australian Committee for Coding Rural Accounts, has now been formed with the following membership:

Mr. P. Carrick, Australian Society of Accountants.

Mr. G. Lines, Farm Management Section of the Australian Institute of Agricultural Science, also representing the Australian Association of Farm Management Consultants.

Mr. G. Meredith, Department of Accounting, University of New England.

Mr. J. Parker, Institute of Chartered Accountants in Australia.

Mr. R. A. Pearse (Chairman), Department of Farm Management, University of New England.

Mr. E. J. Waring, Bureau of Agricultural Economics.