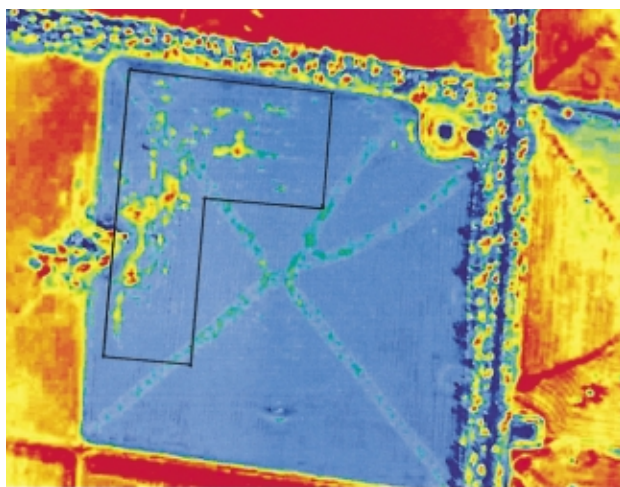


CSIRO Publishing

# Australian Journal of Experimental Agriculture



VOLUME 41, 2001

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*Australian Journal of Experimental Agriculture*  
CSIRO Publishing  
PO Box 1139 (150 Oxford Street)  
Collingwood, Vic. 3066, Australia



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Published by CSIRO Publishing  
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Agriculture and Resource Management (SCARM)**

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## Foreword

The advent of the Cooperative Research Centres Program in 1990 opened up new opportunities for Commonwealth funding for research and development. The CRC philosophy was based on 3 tenets: scientific excellence, cooperation between institutions and between science and industry. This was a novel approach by Government to encourage research institutions to pool their intellectual and physical resources and to convince industry to become involved in the research and development process.

The rewards offered by the Government were substantial: relatively long-term funding (7–10 year time frame) and substantial Commonwealth cash for selected research and development (A\$2.5–\$3.0 million per year and an overall budget of \$60 million). Researchers responded enthusiastically and CRCs appeared on the drawing boards across Australia in large numbers.

It is now well known that the University of New England (UNE), CSIRO, Queensland Department of Primary Industries (QDPI) and NSW Agriculture accepted the challenge and were successful in establishing the *CRC for the Cattle and Beef Industry (Meat Quality)* in 1992 in a very competitive environment. The CRC brought with it a new way of undertaking beef research: an industry-driven Board was in control, institutions that had not previously worked together were now jointly planning their beef research and

the commercial beef sector was ready to contribute substantial resources in the form of cattle, cash, equipment, abattoirs and know-how to the process.

The Cattle and Beef CRC has now completed its first 7-year term and a phase 2 *CRC for Cattle and Beef Quality* has begun a new 7-year term. This special edition reports scientific outcomes of the first phase of the CRC.

The papers in this volume provide enough new information to develop a blueprint for the genetic and non-genetic improvement of beef cattle in Australian cattle herds. These results, and indeed all beef research and development initiatives, are crucial for the continued success of the Australian beef sector's leadership in world beef trade. Global beef competition is now more intense and success depends more and more on meeting the exacting specifications of consumers in 110 customer countries, worldwide. The CRC is pleased to be part of this challenge and I commend to you the contents of this special edition, on behalf of the Board and Core Parties of the CRC for Cattle and Beef Quality.

Dick Austen, AO  
CRC Governing Board Chairman

December 2000

