

Acknowledgements

For over 20 years we – John Moran and Philip Chamberlain – have been very fortunate to be able to travel around many countries in South and East Asia and (for John), more recently, in Africa. The reasons for our travels are many and varied, but they are primarily related to opportunities to learn more about how farmers can make a better living out of their dairy cows and to share that knowledge with other farmers, university students and other stakeholders in Asia's dairy industries. These travels have taught us so much about the tenacity of the human spirit because humans the world over love their cows and even love to tell others about them. Life as dairy farmer is a 24/7 devotion to their stock, whether they like it or not: generally dairy farmers do this each and every day because it can, and generally does, bring them a relatively quick return for their farming efforts. Cows require milking twice daily and because raw milk is so perishable, it must be quickly sold into the next step in the value chain, usually the milk trader, cooperative or milk-processing agent. It is little wonder that recent estimates of dairy farmers the world over (which includes people living within dairy farming households) are of the order of 750 to 900 million people.

There are so many people we must acknowledge and thank for their input into satisfying our lifelong thirst for knowledge. They have provided insights into the background technical information we have today, as well as the practical skills on 'how we can get our cows to produce more milk and more baby calves'. If we mention any names, it would be unfair to others whom we do not mention. Therefore, we will generally thank the thousands and thousands of dairy farmers from whom we have both learnt much, as well as the hundreds and hundreds of those we call 'their service providers'. These groups include government and private dairy specialists, who have all contributed in their own way to support their dairy farmer clients in their professional quests to increase their profits in order to improve their livelihoods as efficient converters of livestock feeds into a human food of the highest nutritive value and diversity of tastes. Thank you all for input into our most enjoyable travel and learning opportunities over the last 20 years.

We would also like to acknowledge the CSIRO Publishing team for the highly professional way they have put this book, John's sixth tropical dairy farming book, together and arranged for all his publications to be made freely available to all readers of tropical dairy production. This was all made possible through The Crawford Fund's generous financial support. John took many of the pictures during his recent trips to study the dairy industries of North Vietnam and Kenya,

both in the tropics but with very different climates. The Kenyan smallholder farms were literally on the Equator but, being at high altitudes (1700 m), had constant comfortable temperatures year-round. In contrast, the Vietnamese feedlot farms although 18°N, and only 20 m above sea level, suffered severe winters and extremely hot summers. Two very different tropical environments and milk production systems that have resulted in vastly different blueprints.

We are also grateful to Kate Blasak, of the World Society for Protection of Animals, Sydney, and Phillip Schultz, of Daviesway, Kyabram for allowing us to use one of their photographs.

John Moran and Philip Chamberlain
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