

About the author

For 30 years, Dr John Moran was an Australian senior research and advisory scientist from Victoria's Department of Primary Industries (DPIV), located in northern Victoria. Over the last 10 years, he spent half his time advising farmers in southern Australia and half his time working with dairy farmers and advisers in South and East Asia. His specialist fields include dairy production, ruminant nutrition, calf and heifer rearing, forage conservation and whole farm business management. Following his retirement from DPIV in June 2011, John formed a consulting business, Profitable Dairy Systems, located in Kyabram, Victoria.

John graduated in 1967 with a Rural Science honours degree from New England University at Armidale in NSW, followed by a Masters degree in 1969. In 1976, he obtained a Doctorate of Philosophy in beef production from the University of London, Wye College in England.

During the 1980s, John lived in Indonesia for 3 years, working in beef cattle and buffalo research. Since 1999, he has initiated and conducted training programs on small holder dairy production to farmers, advisers and policymakers in Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, Vietnam, China, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and East Timor.

As a result of his Asian programs, in 2005 John wrote his first dairy manual, *Tropical Dairy Farming: Feeding Management for Small Holder Dairy Farmers in the Humid Tropics*. As well as hard copy, the book was published on the internet, making it freely available to dairy stakeholders throughout the world. In 2009, John wrote his second manual on tropical dairy farming, namely *Business Management for Tropical Dairy Farmers*. By November 2011, the two books had received over 56 000 'hits' on the internet, indicating their relevance particularly to Asian tertiary teaching institutes and government livestock departments.

During 2009, John was commissioned by LIVECORP, Australia's coordinating agency for exporting cattle and sheep to many countries throughout the world, to develop a series of management packages for tropical and temperate dairy production technology. The background review for these packages forms the basis of this book – John's third tropical dairy manual – entitled *Managing High Grade Dairy Cows in the Tropics*.

John has published more than 200 research papers and advisory articles. He has also written several farmer manuals on dairy and beef cattle nutrition, veal production, calf and heifer rearing and silage production. The first edition of *Calf Rearing: A Guide to Rearing Calves in Australia*, published in 1993, sold more than 10 000 copies. The second edition, published in 2002, is still selling widely throughout Australia. He also published

a companion book on young stock management: *Heifer Rearing: A Guide to Rearing Dairy Replacement Heifers in Australia*. His book, *Forage Conservation: Making Quality Silage and Hay in Australia*, published in 1996, is now a set text for undergraduate study in several Australian universities. His latest book, *Feedpads for Grazing Dairy Cows*, which he wrote in 2010 with his DPI colleague Scott McDonald, is also a best seller in the dairy industry.

John's initial training in a systems approach to livestock science, together with his many years working closely with dairy industries in Australia and South and East Asia stands him in great stead to write this third manual, which complement his two previous books on tropical dairy farming. *Managing High Grade Dairy Cows in the Tropics* is both a training manual for farmers, dairy advisers, technical staff and other tropical dairy specialists, plus a series of observations on how successful and profitable small holder farmers manage their day-to-day farming practices.