

About the author

Dr John Moran is an Australian senior research and advisory scientist from Victoria's Department of Primary Industries, located at Kyabram in northern Victoria. He spends half his time advising farmers in southern Australia and half his time working with dairy farmers and advisers in South-East Asia. His specialist fields include dairy production, ruminant nutrition, calf and heifer rearing, forage conservation and whole farm management.

John graduated in 1967 with a Rural Science honours degree from The University of New England at Armidale in New South Wales, followed by a Master's degree in 1969. In 1976, he obtained a Doctorate of Philosophy in beef production from University of London, Wye College in England.

During the 1980s, John lived in Indonesia for three 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 policy makers in Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, Vietnam, East Timor and more recently, in China. In so doing, he has built a team of Australian dairy extension specialists in forage production, silage making, nutrition and ration formulation, extension methodology, milking hygiene and reproductive management.

Since 1990 John has worked with an extension team to prepare an extension and training manual on 'Feeding Dairy Cows' for the Victorian dairy industry. He has modified the recommended practices specifically for small holder farmers in the humid tropics based on his South-East Asian experiences and using the same basic principles of nutrition.

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 on 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 now 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 initial training in a systems approach to livestock science, together with his many years working closely with dairy industries in Australia and South-East Asia stands him in great stead to write this book. This is both a training manual of dairy cow nutrition plus a series of observations on how successful and profitable small holder farmers manage their dairy herds.

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