

It was pleasing to see the book addressed the spatial variability of rainfall effects associated with the SOI and also emphasized that the SOI and El Niño are not the only mechanisms responsible for rainfall variability in Queensland.

*Will it Rain?* is illustrated liberally with figures and tables and includes a glossary which provides easy to read explanations of such phenomena as 'the sub-tropical ridge', the 'Inter-tropic Convergence Zone', and 'The Walker Circulation' — all terms once only the preserve of meteorologists.

To detract from the excellence of this little book, I noticed the figures in Chapter 1 were not referred to in the text. I was also a little dismayed by a statement made on page 22 that 'we cannot predict the weather' (why do we have a Weather Bureau?). The subtlety of the argument further in the text as to what makes a 'prediction' as opposed to a statement of the probability a certain event has taken place in the past together with the *implication* it may take place again would, I suspect, not be understood by many readers.

*Will it Rain?* has application to other than to farming. I can see it being useful as a late high-school/early university text to provide a first synopsis of recent El Niño/Southern Oscillation research. (Readers of *Will it Rain?* are also guided to further reading on the subject.) That so much detailed and often complicated research could be summarized so concisely is a credit to the producers of *Will it Rain?*

Roger Stone

## Terminology for grazing lands and grazing animals

The Forage and Grazing Terminology Committee, Vivien G. Allen, Chairman.

Pocahontas Press Inc., Blacksburg, Virginia, U.S.A. 38 pp.

Recommended retail price \$US5.00 plus \$US2.50 shipping & handling with a 10% discount on bulk orders of more than 5 copies from the publishers at 2805 Wellesley Court, Blacksburg, VA 24060-4162, U.S.A.

This small booklet could have filled a very much needed want in the field of pasture literature. Unfortunately it has been prepared by a committee of 30+ Americans and only 2 international members (one Australian and one New

Zealander). As a result its application to the "true" English speaking countries is minimal.

For example **Pasture** is defined as — "A type of **grazing management unit** enclosed and separated from other areas by fencing or other barriers and devoted to the production of **forage** for harvest primarily by grazing". In other words, in our language, a paddock of pasture rather than the pasture itself.

In contrast a **Paddock** is defined as — "A grazing area that is a sub-division of a **grazing management unit**, and is enclosed and separated from other areas by a fence or barrier". Or is there really a contrast between Pasture and Paddock as defined in the booklet? **Pasturage**, as a result, is "not a recommended term."

Specific pasture types, sown pasture, native pasture, ley pasture or permanent pastures do not even rate a mention. The term pastoral, as in pastoral industries or pastoral lands is only mentioned in two land use types: agro-silvo-pastoral and silvo-pastoral.

**Herbage** is defined as — "The biomass of **herbaceous** plants, other than separated grain, generally above ground but including edible roots and tubers", rather than the broad-leaved, herb component of the pasture as we would define it, especially in native pasture areas.

**Continuous grazing** is "Not a recommended term because animals do not **graze** continuously. If used it is synonymous with **Continuous stocking**." There is some logic in this one.

The booklet is divided into a number of sections. The active ones being:

Terms for forage and grazing lands

Vegetation terms

Grazing land terms

Kinds of grazing lands

Ecological land types

Miscellaneous terms

Management concept terms

Terms of measurement, space, time or degree

Terminology of area

Terminology to compare animals

Land- and/or forage-to-animal relationships

Terminology referring to measurements of forage

Terminology referring to time

Methods of grazing

Appendix

The appendix contains a useful table for converting the numbers of grazing animals of different species by weight into standard livestock units. The latter is defined as "a non-lactating bovine weighing 500 kg". The conversion factors used are shown.

Many of the definitions are valuable and could

be adopted, but there are too many of the type listed above. This is especially so of those that strike at our very usage of the term pasture, as a specific form of forage; this makes the booklet of limited use in Australia.

*D.G. Cameron*