

## Grazing the North: Creating wealth and sustaining the land

By DAVID GRAMSHAW and DAVID LLOYD. Published by Queensland Department of Primary Industries, 1993. ISBN 0 7242 3911 1.

Produced as part of the Queensland Government Information Series, this book has a simple, open style which allows the reader to quickly find information on almost any aspect of the northern grazing industries. To quote from the Preface, "This book has been designed to: i) promote northern Australia's pastoral wealth and its opportunities for production of grazing livestock; ii) provide introductory information on the northern grazing industries suitable for secondary and tertiary students; and iii) provide a perspective and general reference for investors and those developing careers within these industries". It thoroughly meets these objectives.

The book consists of 79 pages and is illustrated with 147 photographs; data are presented graphically in 38 graphs and figures plus 3 tables. There are 5 Chapters and an Appendix.

The first chapter, entitled "Wealth for a Nation", details the wealth created by the industries and describes the significance of the grazing industries, the export markets, domestic consumption, and northern grazing properties and rural life. The history of pastoral development is presented in "Expansion of Pastoralism" under the headings, a pastoral diary, the first 100 years, the pioneer pastoralists, changing fortunes and resourcefulness, sheep or cattle, protecting the sheep, and a changing landscape.

The extent and nature of the pasture and

livestock resources are covered in 2 chapters. "Forage Resources and Development", under native pastures, sown pastures and forage crops, covers important advances that have been made in pasture and livestock technology. The beef, dairy and wool industries are detailed in "Livestock Resources and Production Systems".

Possible future development and challenges are discussed in "The Future" under the headings, flexible production and competitive marketing, advances in technology, and sustaining pastoralism and the environment. The "Appendix" has 2 sections, namely, further information, and common and scientific plant names. "Further information" section lists publications, computer software and educational projects, while 72 names of plants and diseases are listed in the second section.

The list of acknowledgements demonstrates the degree of collaboration involved in the production of this book. The significant collaboration of the Queensland Department of Education ensures the book links with its syllabus and is particularly relevant for education purposes. Besides students, this book will be useful to the serious as well as the casual reader, and provide a useful guide for new investors interested in the grazing industries of northern Australia.

The publication is available from QDPI Publications, GPO Box 46, Brisbane, Qld 4001.

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