

From the Editor

Seasons greeting to all
our clients from all the
staff at Practical Systems



Wrap up of 2007

The year that was. In a lot of ways 2007 has been a year of great contrasts. Promises of a break to the drought with good Autumn rains; huge kick in the guts with months of dry weather to shrivel up the promise of a bumper crop; and, as I write, the promise of an La Nina summer to hopefully break the grip of this long drought once and for all.

Politically, we have had a change of Government. The effect on the rural industries we are yet to see, although Farmbiz has been an early casualty. Also, the increasing rhetoric about action for climate change will impact on farming as we move forward - just what sort of impact this will have is unclear.

On another matter, I read with some interest an article by Alan Jones in the NSW Farmers Association paper "The Farm Post" December 2007 issue, where he highlights the lack of vision and courage by successive Governments in Australia to address the big picture infrastructure items that are really needed to continue the development of this great nation. He specifically mentions Mr Everaldo Compton, the Managing Director of the Australian Transport and Energy Corridor Limited company (ATEC), who has articulated one possible solution to Australia's future water and power requirements. I commend the article to you.

Please note: Practical Systems office will be closed for the Christmas break from 22nd December to 1st January (incl)

Stockbook Technical Tips

Ruddweigh/Gallagher RW 800 Trait Recording

Stockbook has a very flexible system of trait recording. The number of traits allowed is unlimited and they can be used to measure or make observations about almost anything the user requires. This makes the interaction with the trait recording system in the RW 800 an important part of the capability of the RW 800 and its use as a data collection tool, in addition to its weight recording role.

Following is a list of the traits that could be setup on the RW 800 and imported into the Stockbook program:

- Basic animal details - IDs, sex, mob, dentition, breed, colour, horn etc.
- Preg test results
- Live muscle scanning results
- Joinings
- Subjective traits - as many traits as you like; you set them up.
- Treatments

In this newsletter:

Editorial	page 1
Stockbook Technical Tips	page 1
Practical Systems Internal Management Software	page 2
Product Review - Farmbook	page 3
Web Site Customer Login	page 3
Cashbook Technical Tips	page 4

Practical Systems Limited
PO Box 876
Armidale NSW 2350
161 Rusden Street
Armidale NSW 2350

Phone: 02 6772 6672
Fax: 02 6771 3737

Email: sales@psystems.com.au
Internet: www.psystems.com.au

Stockbook has numbers against many of the setup lists so that it can easily import data to various fields by referring to the field by its number rather than name. This makes it useful for importing data from the RW 800 where the number of characters in an import file is limited to nineteen.

Setting up Gallagher's MyScale Pro software for trait recording

The Trait Tables feature of MyScale Pro when used with the Ruddweigh 800 Scale gives you the option to record details of individual animals by entering values against various characteristics.

You can customise your own traits to be recorded. The trait table allows you to customise the traits you want to record. The trait table is then copied to the Scale. The table becomes the basis for the traits you can record when a new trait session is started on the scale.

To configure your own Trait Table, from the MyScale Pro main menu:

- click on the button "Configure trait Custom Table"
- Select the number required from the drop-down
- In each text box on the Trait Custom window, type the name you want to use for each trait field. These labels will display on the Scale during a weighing session. After entering the label, use the drop-down list to choose the maximum number of characters that need to be recorded for this trait label during a session. The minimum is one and the maximum is eight.

To send the template to the RW700/800 later, select the "Copy Trait table to scale" option on MyScale Pro.

MyScale Pro data files are imported into Stockbook through the *File/Import Options/Animal Details from Data Collector File* menu option.

Practical Systems Internal Management Software

MODSPROJ (Mods what ????)

Practical Systems has developed its own little bit of software to track program modifications. Its called MODSPROJ. Its entries look a bit like this:

Mod No.	Logged by	Log Date	Program	Section	Database Mod.	Version	Release	Status
2,817	Hugh	12/10/2007	Cashbook Plus!	Invoice	112	8	4.4.1	Complete

This program is very important to us, and to you. It is where all your suggestions get entered into when you email them to us, or more likely when you talk to Nathan or Belinda about what you would like to see in the software.

From there they are sorted into order of importance, modification designs constructed, code written, included into a test program for beta testing, versions tracked, documentation updated and finally commercially released to your computer for upgrading, or to a new client for installation.

Keep those mods coming. We really value your input. Together we can build some great software - especially suited to your needs. Ask Microsoft to do that !!! Hmmm.

ACT!

It might seem like it sometimes, but no, this isn't a stage show; its just our client management database program. This piece of software helps us to help you. It contains your important details such as: address details for posting CDs; telephone numbers for calling you back with program help; email address for sending you information; software programs and versions you have installed to help keep you up-to-date; history of our letters and emails to you, so that we can check that we are doing our job and sending you newsletters and upgrade disks etc.

Please help us to do this even better by making sure that when you change address, telephone number, email address or anything that might be useful to keep in touch, you tell Practical Systems , as well as your family and friends. We are one of the family too 😊

Product Review

Farmbook Version 4.4

Farmbook Premium has undergone only minor changes since the release of version 4.3

*[Next Issue: We will be reviewing the new release of **Stockbook**]*

Grazing Chart

A new report has been added to produce a grazing chart for any property for any selected 12 month period. For any 12 month period, this chart displays the DSE Days (DDH)/100mm rainfall, actual rainfall and an input grazing benchmark.

QA Animal Feeding Report

The stock feeding report has been enhanced to give the option of just reporting on stock feeding for the time the mob was in its current paddock, or for all feeding events over a selected reporting period

Livestock Reporting Classes

Reporting classes can optionally be added to each mob of livestock. This feature now means that livestock can be classified into classes eg. Females, Steers, Bulls etc.

Livestock Reconciliation Reports

There is now much more flexibility in livestock reconciliation reporting. Reports can be raised for any selected period by:

- Mob
- Reporting Class
- Reporting Class and Mob
- Reporting Class and Property
- Property and Mob

Feed Mix

A feed mix purchase capability has been added. This allows you to purchase ingredients for a feed mix and then add the mix to your inventory by using proportions of the basic ingredients at their cost so that the mix calculates its own cost.

Web Site Customer Login

Using the internet to update your programs

With the wider use of the internet and more people being able to use broadband, we are increasingly using this medium to update you with information and the latest versions of our software. This will become more important still as we move forward.

At this time we have kept it fairly simple and the process largely under your control. It will remain like this until we are convinced that we will not be disadvantaging our clients who are totally unable to get useable internet access.

In the meantime please login (www.psystems.com.au) from time to time and check the download files that are there. The version number and the date should be on them so you can check to see if your program has a later version available to download.

Cashbook Technical Tips

Electronic Funds Transfer

Cashbook Plus! allows for recording of EFT type payments and the creation of a data file for Direct Credits to supplier bank accounts. In order to utilise this data file, you must have access to a banking software package provided by your banking institution e.g. National, Westpac, Commonwealth or ANZ. The banking package must also accept a data file in the standard format approved by the **Australian Bankers Association**.

Instructions for setting up for EFT

- From the **Setup** menu, go to **Settings** and then click the **EFT** tab
- Complete the detail for Payer Name, BSB and Account Number, EFT registration number (supplied by your banker) and banking software package used (select from drop-down list).
- If you will be making EFT payments from more than one bank account, you will need to go to **Setup/Chart of Accounts** and **Edit** each bank account to record: Payer Name, BSB number, bank account number and EFT number
- Setup for all required suppliers - from the **Setup** menu, select **Suppliers and Customers**. **Edit** the relevant supplier record and click the **EFT** tab to display the bank and EFT payment reference details. Ensure that the supplier **BSB** and **Account numbers** are entered - entries in the **Payee Code** and **Particulars** fields appear as default "Payee Reference" on the transaction entry screen

Entering EFT transactions

- From the Cashbook Receipts and Payments listing, click **Add** to enter a new transaction and tick the **EFT** checkbox. Use EFT as the **Reference** and complete the rest of the transaction in the usual manner.
- Use the "Payee Reference" field to include a message that will appear on the payee's bank account along with the direct credit amount. The note field will default to Payee Code/Particulars held in the EFT tab of the Supplier file, but can be changed as required. **Note that an entry in this field is compulsory in order to produce a valid EFT transaction.**
- Save the transaction (click OK) as normal.

Producing the EFT file for the bank

For more information on using EFT, and for [producing the special file for the Bank](#), please use the extensive and illustrated help system in Cashbook Plus! ...

"*Help/Programme Documents/Notes for using EFT*"