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**Review**

Subsoil constraints to crop production on neutral and alkaline soils in south-eastern Australia: a review of current knowledge and management strategies.

*D. Adcock, A. M. McNeill, G. K. McDonald and R. D. Armstrong* 1245–1261

**Viewpoint**

Reading the public mind: a novel approach to improving the adoption of new science and technology.

*N. I. Fisher, J. H. J. Cribb and A. J. Peacock* 1262–1271

**Animal Production**

Effects of genotype, sex and stocking rate on postweaning efficiency and value-adding potential at turnoff of weaners grazing improved pasture in the Douglas Daly region of the Northern Territory.

*T. J. Schatz, P. E. R. Ridley, D. J. M. La Fontaine and M. N. Hearnden* 1272–1276

Reducing dark-cutting in pasture-fed beef steers by high-energy supplementation.

*B. W. Knee, L. J. Cummins, P. J. Walker, G. A. Kearney and R. D. Warner* 1277–1283

An economic assessment of forage options to improve the profitability of smallholder beef cattle enterprises in the Red Soils region of China.

*N. D. MacLeod, S. Wen and M. Hu* 1284–1296

Response of beef calves to different levels of postweaning ingestion of gastrointestinal parasite larvae.

*V. T. Burggraaf, A. R. Brooky and C. J. Boom* 1297–1303

Relationship between real-time ultrasound and carcass measures and composition in heavy sheep.

*D. L. Hopkins, D. F. Stanley and E. N. Ponnampalam* 1304–1308

Growth and carcass characteristics of cast-for-age Merino ewes fed sorghum-based feedlot diets.

*M. K. Bowen, P. M. Pepper, E. Patterson, I. McConnel and D. J. Jordan* 1309–1316

Concentrates based on sorghum grain provide a basis for a finishing system for crossbred lambs.

*M. K. Bowen, P. M. Pepper, J. Winkleman and I. McConnel* 1317–1325

Alternative replenishment regimens to maintain diazinon concentration during shower, plunge and immersion cage dipping of Merino sheep.

*G. W. Levot and R. D. Lund* 1326–1332

Reduced protein intake during the weaner period has variable effects on subsequent growth and carcass composition of pigs.

*C. L. Collins, D. J. Henman and F. R. Dunshea* 1333–1340

**Pasture, Fodder Crops**

Application of composted pig bedding litter on a Vertosol and Sodosol soil. 2. Effect on soil chemical and physical fertility.

*R. D. Armstrong, C. Eagle and S. D. Jarwal* 1341–1350

Effects of cutting and grazing on newly sown plants of *Phalaris aquatica* cv. Sirosa at Tamworth, New South Wales.

*G. M. Lodge* 1351–1358

Pasture management in semiarid tropical woodlands: improving the herbage quality of stylos and grasses.

*John G. McIvor* 1359–1367

**Field Crops**

Productivity of crops grown on raised beds on duplex soils prone to waterlogging in Western Australia.

*D. M. Bakker, G. J. Hamilton, D. J. Houlbrooke, C. Spann and A. Van Burgel* 1368–1376

Determining the agronomic value of composts produced from garden organics from metropolitan areas of New South Wales, Australia.

*K. Y. Chan, C. Dorahy and S. Tyler* 1377–1382

*Front cover:* Smallholder farmers selling Chinese yellow cattle at an informal sale held on vacant industrial land, Gao'an County (Jiangxi Province), in the red soils region of central China. The selling price for these cattle was approximately 6 Yuan Reminbi per kilogram liveweight. *Back cover:* Smallholder farmers preparing land for forage crops (ryegrass) in Gao'an County (Jiangxi Province) in the red soils region of central China. Note these labourers are rural women, the adult males having moved to pursue seasonal industrial employment in other regions of China (see MacLeod *et al.*, pp. 1284–1296). Photographs supplied by Mr Neil MacLeod, CSIRO Sustainable Ecosystems, Australia.