MEDIA RELEASE
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For Immediate Release

SALTBUSH SOFTWARE GOES COMMERCIAL

After many years of being a leader in the supply of information systems to the stud industry worldwide, the Armidale-based Saltbush Agricultural Software (SAS) in conjunction with the Agricultural Business Research Institute (ABRI) is unveiling a range of new software products at Beef 2006 aimed at helping the commercial cattle producer.

ABRI Managing Director, Dr Arthur Rickards says that traceability of cattle and its implications for quality assurance has emerged as the Number 1 agribusiness issue in the global beef industry. Australia’s NLIS is providing a national id system which forms the platform for the three new products.

HerdMASTER has been the dominant herd management software for stud breeders in Northern Australia. In fact, mainly due to HerdMASTER the Brahman Association receives around 95% of performance records electronically. Saltbush Software the PC division of ABRI has now created a lower-cost version called HerdMASTER Commercial for commercial producers who want to record and manage their cattle based on performance and interface with NLIS as well.

The second product in the family is RaceMATE. This is a simple and practical program to help commercial breeders to meet their recording and data transfer requirements with NLIS. RaceMATE is available in two versions. RaceMATE Lite costs only $330 and is designed for herds of up to 300 head. Larger herds will be very interested in the release of RaceMATE Commercial. This is in use by MDH Ltd on 35,000 head at present and this will be increased to cover the entire herd of 150,000 head running across 12 properties. Saltbush has used some very innovative software techniques to speed the electronic reading of cattle details and the transfer of data to head office and to the NLIS.

JASMaster is the third member of the new range of software. It permits capture and transmission of the detailed data required to achieve compliance with the Japanese Agricultural Standard (JAS). JASMaster is available in an on-farm version for individual producers who are part of a strategic marketing alliance that is seeking JAS accreditation. A JASMaster Corporate version of the software is being developed for application in feedlots, abattoirs and live exporters. One of Australia’s leading suppliers of premium beef to the Japanese market is Security Foods which has worked closely with SAS and ABRI to develop the functionality required in JASMaster Corporate. Using ABRI software based on this functionality, Security Foods recently achieved JAS accreditation for the whole of its supply chain. This is an important step in being able to achieve price premiums in the Japanese market.
All of Saltbush Software’s new products use efficient methods of electronic capture of NLIS IDs and weights in the yards and fast transmission of data to third parties.

The primary aim of Saltbush’s new products is to create greater efficiencies and profitability in the management of commercial cattle. The products can be previewed at the Saltbush stand at Beef 2006, located in booths 12 and 13 of the Durack Pavilion.

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