After four years of development, Saltbush Software is about to launch an exciting range of new and enhanced products at major events throughout the country. These events include Beef 2006, National Beef Expo (Bendigo) and Primex Casino. The new products maintain the position of Saltbush as the preferred supplier of stud management software while introducing a range of new systems for commercial cattle producers.

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 Saltbush’s three new products.

HerdMASTER has been the dominant herd management software for stud breeders in 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.

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 Saltbush and ABRI to develop the functionality required in JASMaster Corporate. Using 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’s new products use efficient methods of electronic capture of NLIS ID’s and weights in the yards and fast transmission of data to third parties.

Check them out at one of the upcoming trade shows or contact our office on 1800 111 637 for more information.
**Government Subsidies – NLIS Software and Readers**

RaceMATE comes in 2 versions to cover all sectors of the market. RaceMATE lite is for single smaller herds. RaceMATE Commercial is designed for larger herds that require more management information and may run cattle over a number of properties.

Victorian beef producers and dairy farmers with 50 or more adult cattle on their properties from July 1st 2005 are eligible to apply for a grant equivalent to 50% of the purchase price of scanning and associated software up to a maximum of $500 per producer. This can be used for purchasing RaceMATE.

NSW Government has offered a subsidy of up to $500 as well but it is limited to the purchase of reading equipment such as scanners. Queensland has also welcomed the announcement by the Commonwealth Government for $5.3 million additional funding for the NLIS. Of this $2.62 million has been set aside for rebates to producers for purchase of NLIS readers after 1st Jan 2005. Exact details are yet to be finalised so for more information contact the Qld DPI & F.

**Training and Information Days**

Saltbush is looking to conduct a number of training days throughout the country in the coming months. We are currently putting together a range of dates and packages. If you would like to have a workshop or information day in your region please contact Kylie Bailey on (02) 6773 2407.

**Beef Australia 2006**

**National Beef Expo**

**Primex**

**HerdMASTER in Canada**

In February/March this year Cory Wilson was joined by two staff of the Canadian Angus Association (CAA) to give a series of workshops on HerdMASTER and use of Internet Solutions – a web information system installed by ABRI for CAA. This tour was a great success with 95% of attendees ordering HerdMASTER.