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FarmGAS Calculator to help farmers understand greenhouse emissions

The Australian Farm Institute has launched the FarmGAS Calculator, an online calculator which enables farmers to model both the financial and greenhouse emission implications of decisions about different farm enterprises.

The FarmGAS Calculator is available free online, through the Australian Farm Institute's website.

The FarmGAS Calculator includes individual modules for all the major livestock and cropping enterprises, and any combination of these enterprises can be included to develop an individual farm business profile. Users can come back to the calculator at any time to update or change their production data, or complete the process in stages.

The greenhouse emission calculation methodology used in FarmGAS is identical to the methodology used by the Department of Climate Change in determining Australia's National Greenhouse Gas Inventory (NGGI).

"FarmGAS uses nationally and internationally consistent greenhouse emission calculation methodologies, providing farmers with an accurate picture of total farm emissions and enterprise emissions, and enables farmers to clearly understand both the financial and greenhouse emission implications of changes in farm enterprise mixes," said Mick Keogh, Executive Director of the Australian Farm Institute.

"Gaining an understanding of both the financial and greenhouse implications of different farm enterprise decisions is not a simple matter. Changes in one enterprise can affect other enterprise choices, and can also have important greenhouse emission implications.

"However the FarmGAS Calculator is an important step in simplifying decision-making by farmers, helping them to understand the greenhouse emission profile of their farm business, and enabling them to explore ways to reduce emissions while retaining farm profitability.

"The Calculator will provide useful information for farmers about the implications of future agriculture and emission policy decisions."

FarmGAS has been developed as part of an Australian Farm Institute research project on greenhouse gas mitigation options for Australian farmers. Funding for the project was provided by the Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry under the National Agriculture and Climate Change Action Plan: Implementation Program. Staff of the NSW Department of Primary Industries were also part of the project team.

Ends

The FarmGAS Calculator is available at www.farminstitute.org.au Please register as a new user and create your own individual login details to access the Calculator.

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