

Kicking the Dust

The Past, Present and Future of Young Farmers in Rural South Australia

Ann Clarke & Bradley Morgan



Why look at young farmers?

- Under-represented
- Small Population
- Viability Concerns
- Participation and Consultation
- Media Portrayal



Method

- Young Farmers (18-35 years)
- 16 males 4 females
- Qualitative
- Semi-structured interviews
- Diversity of farming situations
- 1,000 -24,000 acres
- Rainfall 12-24 inches



Method

- Social Determinants of Health
- Limitations: Broad, Focus on one area of the state, Small Study



The Voice of Young Farmers

- History
 - Generational
 - Family and Environment
 - Identity
 - Pride
 - Fear of Losing the Farm



The Voice of Young Farmers

- Reasons for being a farmer:
 - Lifestyle
 - ‘In my Blood’
 - Always wanted to be a farmer
 - Enjoy working with stock and machinery
 - Like primary production
 - Enjoyment and Meaning
 - Not for financial gain
 - Leaving is a last resort
 - ‘Only leave in a wooden box’



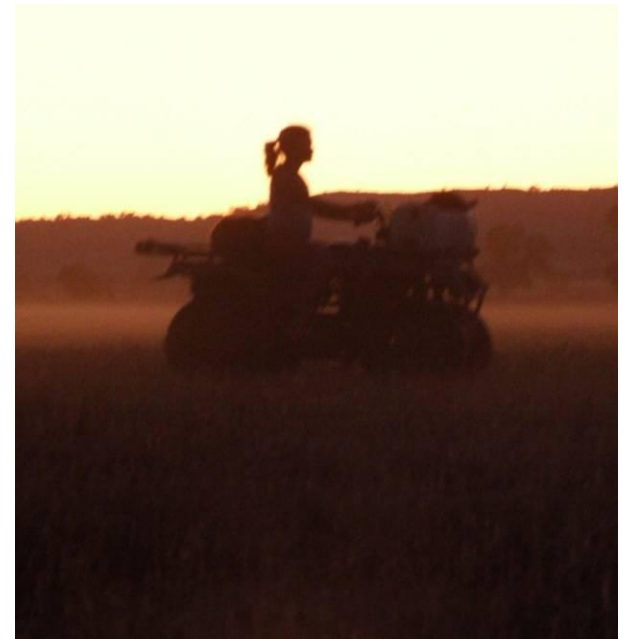
The Voice of Young Farmers

- Stress:
 - Stressors were expected
 - Not that stressed
 - Stressors were: Lack of money, powerlessness, uncertainty, debt
- Supports
 - Families
 - Close Friends and neighbours
 - Would not seek support from professional services



The Voice of Young Farmers

- Succession and Inheritance
 - Some had planned for the future
 - Fear about paying out other family members
- Education
 - Formally qualified
 - Lifelong learning
 - Needs: Marketing/Computing



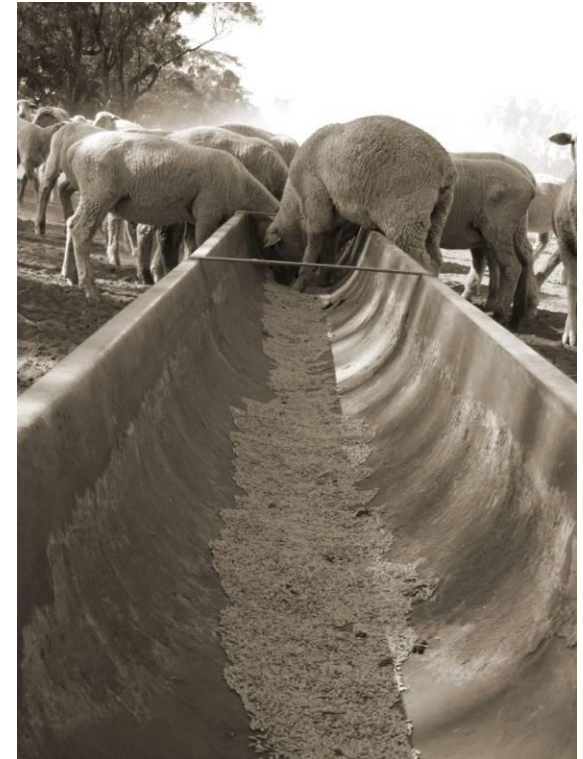
The Voice of Young Farmers

- Future
 - Optimistic
 - Fear
 - Complexity
- Public Policy
 - Unable to identify
 - Lack of Participation
 - Lack of Consultation



Young Farmers and Public Policy

- Inconsistent values
 - Meaning Vs Neo-liberal Policy
 - Family Farm Vs Business
- Globalisation



Young Farmers and Public Policy

- Rural Futures
 - Unclear Vision
 - Strategic Plan
 - Rural Decline
 - Consultation and Participation
 - Representation and Advocacy



Questions or Comments?

- Please ask us any questions or provide any comments.

Acknowledgements

Young Farmers in the Mid North of South
Australia

Photos

Georgia Girdham & Bradley Morgan

References

- Barr, N. 2002. 'Going on the Land – And Getting Of It: Farm Incomes and Farm Adjustment', *Connections*, Department of Natural Resources and Environment. Victoria.
- Blandy, R. 2004. South Australian Farmers' Federation Rural South Australia Policy for the Future: A Triple Bottom Line for the Bush, South Australian Farmers' Federation, Adelaide.
- Clarke, A. 2007. 'Kicking the Dust: the Past, Present and Future of Young Farmers in the Mid North', Unpublished preliminary report for Country Health SA.
- Halpin, D. & Guilfoyle, A. 2004. 'Attributions of Responsibility: Rural neoliberalism and Farmer's explanations of the Australian rural crisis', *Rural Society*, Vol. 14, No. 2, pp. 93-111.
- Pritchard, B. 2005. 'Implementing and maintaining neo-liberal agriculture in Australia: Constructing neoliberalism as a vision for Australian agriculture', *International Journal of Sociology of Agriculture and Food*, Vol. 13 No. 1, pp. 1-12.
- Vanclay, F. 2003. 'The impacts of deregulation and agricultural restructuring for rural Australia', *Australian Journal of Social Issues*, Vol. 38, No. 1, pp. 81-94.