

# 2014 International Year of Family Farming

*Feeding the world; Caring for the Earth*



## Family Farm Snapshots

### Our grazing farm in north east Victoria.

#### Our Family

When we first began farming, I was a 'stay-at-home' mum and my husband had a variety of fulltime jobs as we were getting established. We would work together on the weekends doing the farm jobs and during the week, I would check that the animals were alright. The farm has never been productive enough to live off, so now that the three children are grown up, both of us work off-farm during the week and farm jobs are done in our 'spare' time.

#### Our Farm

We run beef cattle and sheep [for wool and fat lambs] in the north east of Victoria. Our nearest town is 30kms away. Our property is under 200 acres, smaller than the average farm in the north east; however, it has its own spring water and good pasture.



#### How we are 'Feeding the world' =

We run about 50 head of cattle and 100 sheep. We slaughter some sheep for our meat; the remainder are sent to local markets.

Our beef cattle are sent to market in Wangaratta, Shepparton or Corowa [depending on sale prices] once or twice a year. They end up in the slaughter yards or on another farm where the steers grow to marketable size.



Each spring the sheep are shorn and their wool is sent into the wool store at Benalla and then to Melbourne. Depending on its fineness, it may be sold to companies around the world who produce fine woollen fabric.

On our farm, we also have for our use :

- our hens provide eggs;
- our orchard of fruit trees, such as citrus and stone fruit. We share the excess fruit with our friends.
- our berry canes produce enough fruit to make plenty of yummy jam for the family each year.
- our nut orchard of 200 almond and hazelnut trees. The nuts we collect are eaten or used in cooking but ... .

### How we are 'Caring for the Earth' =

Most of the time, parrots and galahs destroy the nut's blossom or eat the nuts before they can be harvested.

*Can you find the silhouette of the Gang-Gang Cockatoo pecking the almond tree in the centre of this photo.*



*Discover what this bird needs for shelter and food from the [Gang Gang Cockatoo](#) webpage of the Museum of Victoria. Which of these needs is provided by the nut trees in our orchard?*

Our dam water supply encourages native wildlife to come from the foothills of the Great Divide – the mountain range. We find that kangaroos, wombats and feral pigs frequently graze with the cattle, sometimes becoming a problem when feed is low.

To combat erosion from the high rainfall, we have planted native tree reserves in our gullies.

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**For more information about the IYFF go to:**

<http://www.familyfarms.enviroed4all.com.au> for more in this series of snapshots

<http://www.fao.org/family-farming-2014/> <http://www.familyfarmingcampaign.net> for the official IYFF sites

<https://www.facebook.com/InternationalYearOfFamilyFarmingIYFF> for the facebook updates.