



Australian farming through history

Here are some interesting events that have influenced the Australian farming industry. Cut them out and put them in date order to create a timeline.

1876

Richard Bowyer Smith displays his invention of the stump-jump plough (now known as 'rock hoppers'), which allows farmers to use land containing tree roots and stumps. This opens up the Mallee Country in Victoria and South Australia for farming.

1878

The Great Artesian Basin is discovered. This basin sits under one-fifth of the Australian continent and is believed to hold 65,000 million megalitres of water. Its discovery means that much of Australia's arid land can become productive grazing land.

1880s and 1890s

George Chaffey, and his brother William, introduce an irrigation system, which he first developed in California, to Mildura in Victoria.

1813

Gregory Blaxland, William Charles Wentworth and William Lawson cross the Blue Mountains to find more farming land.

1796

John and Elizabeth Macarthur, who established Elizabeth Farm in 1793, buy their first Merino sheep. They send their first bale of wool to England in 1807.

1930s

Arthur Turner and his team develop a vaccine for contagious bovine pleuropneumonia, making it the first cattle disease in Australia to be eradicated (completely gone).



1788

Three months after the First Fleet arrives in Australia, the colony's livestock includes 7 cattle, 29 sheep, 74 pigs, 18 turkeys, 29 geese and 35 ducks.

1930

CSIR (now the CSIRO) scientists, led by Arthur Turner, develop a vaccine for black disease, which is considered to be the most serious infectious disease in sheep in Australia at this time.

1972

The first Belmont Red cattle are released to a cattleman near Rockhampton as part of a program to develop cattle breeds for Australia's tropical regions. Other breeds have been developed in Australia such as the Braford, which is a cross between Brahmans and Herefords. Brafords are resistant to ticks and can cope well with drought.

2009

All living creatures have a 'map' of chemicals in their body that determines what their offspring (children) will look like. In 2009, scientists discovered the full 'map', called a 'genome', for cattle. This led to important discoveries for cattle breeders, such as which animals will have the best chance of having healthy calves.

1950

The myxoma virus is released to control rabbits. Rabbits are a pest as they compete with livestock for food.

1790

Governor Phillip gives ex-convict James Ruse land at Rose Hill (now Parramatta) in New South Wales. This becomes Australia's first wheat farm.