

## TERRY HEHIR

- Dairyfarmer with wife Pauline
- Farm in northern Victoria, Australia
- Milk 660 cows
- Cows are on pasture at all times
- Nuffield Scholar – Chairman Nuffield Australia

*“Passionate about sustainable systems and farmers co-operating to ensure fair returns”.*





Organic Dairy Farmers of Australia –  
(established 2002).

Inaugural and Current Chair

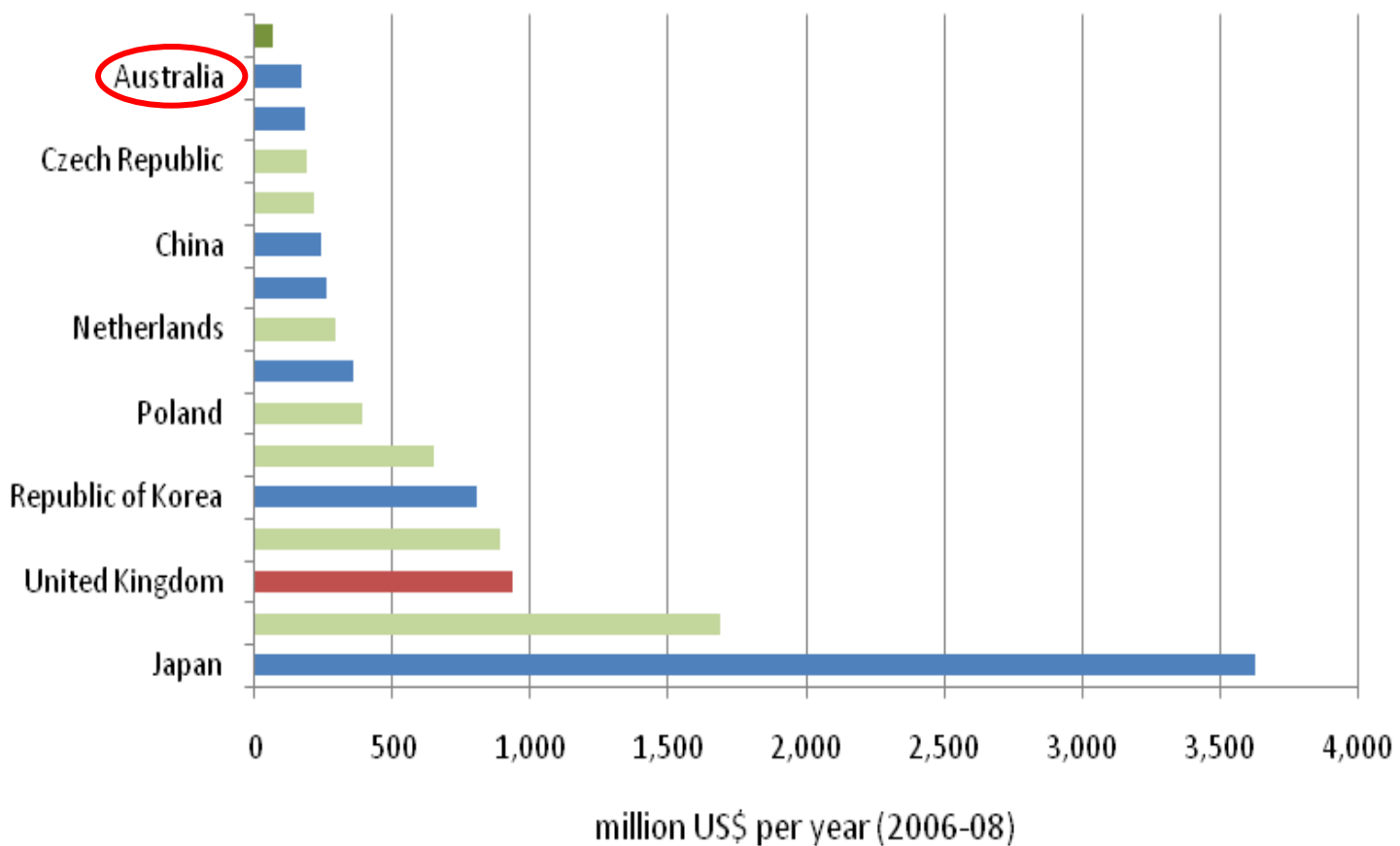


*“The current water-intensive, fertiliser intensive and energy-intensive agricultural practices of European countries are unlikely to be sustainable in the near future.”*

Power in Agriculture Report



Figure 2.7 Yearly pork imports of world's top importers  
(Source: FAO-TradeStat)



# Table 5.1

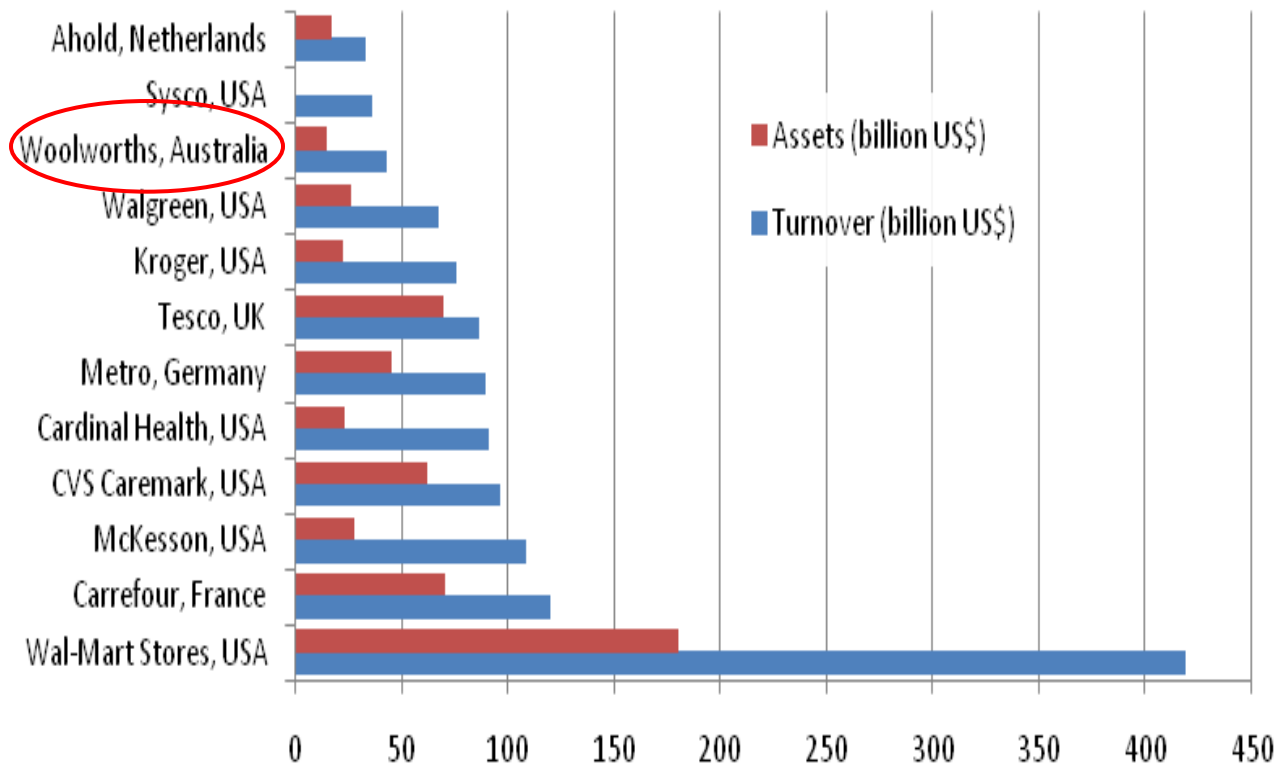
## Regional Power Index for Agriculture

Dimension	EU27	US	Brazil	Russia	China	Australasia	Japan	UK
Trade	4.5	5.0	2.0	3.0	3.0	2.5	2.5	3.0
Corporate	5.0	5.0	1.0	1.0	2.0	2.0	3.0	3.0
Political	5.0	5.0	1.0	3.0	2.0	1.0	4.0	4.0
Natural	3.5	4.0	3.3	3.5	4.5	3.3	1.5	2.0
Minerals	1.3	2.5	2.3	4.3	3.3	1.0	0.0	1.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>19.3</b>	<b>21.5</b>	<b>9.5</b>	<b>14.8</b>	<b>14.8</b>	<b>9.8</b>	<b>11.0</b>	<b>13.0</b>

“Hassad, which is owned by the Qatar Government, has bought 170,000 hectares of Australian farmland and plans to spend \$200-\$300 million buying more. It aims to supply 30-35 per cent of Qatar’s food from those farms.”

Weekly Times, December 7<sup>th</sup> 2011.

Figure 2.17 Annual turnover and asset values of world's top food retail TNCs  
(Source: FT Global 500)



Co-operatives -  
A counterbalance to TNCs?

# Standardisation + Specialisation + Consolidation

= monoculture

= Industrial Agriculture

= Farmer 'serfs' beholden to TNCs.

**What comes next?**

# Vertically co-operative food chains

- In harmony with environment
- Not depleting natural Resources
- Connection to Consumer
- Responsible to society
- Mutual dependency redefines 'power'

# SUMMARY

- This response to the “Power in Agriculture” supports its findings on how power is exercised globally and the implications for farmers world-wide.
- Agricultural power in Australasia is rapidly becoming concentrated and may be further entrenched than EU.
- The Tomato and Pork industries are already controlled by TNCs in Australasia and provide insight to the implications when power shifts away from farmers.
- Doubt exists as to whether TNCs confer benefit to the nation where they are based. This impacts the Power Index.
- Population and competition for agricultural labour are key factors in determining a nation’s capacity for exerting influence in agriculture.
- Land is already being procured in vast amounts by foreign countries to secure future food supplies.
- Farmer Co-operatives do wield power if well managed. Co-operatives should have skills based boards and mechanisms to block disempowering takeovers.
- Industrial farming based on non-renewable resources will collapse.
- Vertical Co-operation, based on sustainable farming practise, is an alternative which can empower farmers.

# What will Oxford Conference 2050 look like?

Serving the 'serfs' of industrial Ag

OR

Serving the farmers making meaningful decisions?