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The Economic Implications Associated with Part-time  
Farming on Rural Subdivisions: A Case Study  
in the Manawatu

by

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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>
Acknowledgements	i
Table of Contents	ii
List of Tables	v
List of Figures	viii
Abstract	ix
Introduction	x
 <u>Chapter</u>	
I Review of Literature	
Land Use	1
Urban Sprawl and Speculation	7
Part-time Farming	10
II Methodology	
The Questionnaire	12
Analysis	12
The Synthetic Farms	17
Pre-test	21
Data Collection	21
Response Rate	24
Test for Response Bias	25
III Findings: The Rural Subdivisions and the Part-time Farmer	
Area of farmlets	26
Residence of Respondents	27
Age of House	28
Housing Area	29
Household Water Supply	30
Distance to Work	32
The Part-time Farmer	33
Family Income	38
Mortgage Requirements	39
Reasons for the Property Purchase	44
Ownership of other Real Estate	47
The Purchase Decision in Retrospect	48

<u>Chapter</u>		<u>Page</u>
IV	Findings: Farming Activities	
	Farming Enterprises on Farmlets	52
	Self-sufficiency in Food	59
	Intended Main Farm Enterprise Changes	59
	Farming arrangement	61
	Employment of Farm Labour	65
	Use of Contractors	67
	More Time for Farming	68
	Problems Facing the Part-time Farmer	68
V	Findings: Agricultural Land Use Intensity	
	Farmlets Concerned with Animal Production	71
	Farmlets with Cropping or Horticulture as Main Commercial Enterprises	77
	Farmlets under Forestry	79
	Farmlets where Farming Details were mainly Unknown	80
	Mean Farm Outputs of Farmlets	82
	Conclusion	87
VI	Summary and Discussion	88

<u>Appendix</u>	Page	
I	Questionnaire	92
	Telephone Reminder	93
II	Summary of Gross Margins Used to Calculate Values of Farm Production (\$/ac)	94
	Gross Margin Calculations	96
III	The Synthetic Farms: Gross Margins	123
IV	Occupation of Husband/Bachelor	127
	Occupation of Wife	129
V	Interest Rates	130
VI	Other Combinations of Main Reason for Property Purchase	131
VII	Other Unforeseen Disadvantages	132
VIII	Other Secondary Enterprises	133
IX	Cattle Policies on Farmslets Owned on Own Account with Cattle as the Main Enterprise	134
X	Cattle Policies on Farmslets Owned on Own Account with Cattle as the Secondary Farm Enterprise	135
XI	Intended Changes to Farming Enterprises	136
XII	Other Contracting Services Employed and Intended Use over the next Two Years	137
XIII	Other Three Major Problems Facing the Part-time Farmer	138
	References	140

## LIST OF TABLES

<u>Tables</u>		<u>Page</u>
2.1	Livestock Conversion Ratios for Livestock Owned and Carried on the Property	13
2.2	Conversion Ratios Taken for Grazing Stock	14
2.3	Synthetic Dairy Farm: Livestock Wintered and Carrying Capacity (Ewe Equivalents) for the Farming Year	19
2.4	Synthetic Sheep/Cattle Farm: Livestock Wintered and Carrying Capacity (Ewe Equivalents)	20
2.5	Carrying Capacity and Gross Margins of Synthetic Farms	20
2.6	Response Groups	25
3.1	Distribution of Parcel Sizes	26
3.2	Intending Residents: Length of Time before Residence	27
3.3	Length of Ownership in Relation to Residence Status	28
3.4	Distribution of Age of Houses and Parcels	28
3.5	Distribution of Housing Area	29
3.6	Housing Area in Relation to Age of House	30
3.7	Sources of Household Water Supply of Residents	31
3.8	Age of Respondents	33
3.9	Age of Children of Part-time Farmers	34
3.10	Schools Attended/Intended by Children of Part-time Farmers	34
3.11	Occupational Groups of Husbands/Bachelors	36
3.12	Occupational Groups of Wives	37
3.13	Employment Basis of Wives	38
3.14	Distribution of Family Income Groups	39

<u>Tables</u>	<u>Page</u>	
3.15	Percentage of Debt Relative to Current Market Value on Mortgaged Properties	40
3.16	Type of Lenders and Number of Mortgages	41
3.17	Type of Mortgage Repayment	42
3.18	Length of Term of Mortgages	43
3.19	Interest Rates	43
3.20	Main Reason for Property Purchase	44
3.21	Secondary Reason for the Property Purchase	45
3.22	Ownership of Other Real Estate Properties in Relation to Residence Status	47
3.23	Unforeseen Advantages	49
3.24	Unforeseen Disadvantages	50
4.1	Main Farming Enterprises	52
4.2	Secondary Farm Enterprises	53
4.3	Sheep Policies on Farmlets Farmed on own Account with Sheep as the Main Enterprise	55
4.4	Main Purpose for the Ownership of Horses not as the Main Farm Enterprise	57
4.5	Self-sufficiency in Food Items	60
4.6	Farming Arrangements on Farmlets	61
4.7	Residence on the Farmlet in Relation to Farming Arrangement	62
4.8	Grazing Rates	63
4.9	Grazing Arrangement	64
4.10	Employment of Farm Labour by Part-time Farmers	65
4.11	Work Participation Amongst Family Members	66
4.12	Hours Worked per week on the Farm by Family Members	67
4.13	Type of Contracting Service Employed and Intended Use Over the Next Two Years	68

<u>Tables</u>	<u>Page</u>	
4.14	Indication of Three Major Problems Facing the Part-time Farmer	69
5.1	Soil Types of Farmlets Classified as Suitable for Dairying	72
5.2	Soil Types of Farmlets Classified as Suitable for Sheep/Cattle Farming	73
5.3	Livestock Wintered (E.E.) in 1973 on Farmlets Suitable for Dairying or Sheep/Cattle Farming	74
5.4	Comparison of Carrying Capacity Between Synthetic Farms and Average Carrying Capacities of Farmlets	75
5.5	Distribution of Carrying Capacities on Farmlets Suitable for Dairying or Sheep/Cattle Farming	76
5.6	Comparison Between Farm Production on Synthetic Farms and Mean Farm Production on Farmlets Concerned with Animal Production	77
5.7	Area of Crops Grown on Farmlets with Cropping or Horticulture as Main Commercial Enterprises	78
5.8	Farming Arrangements and Area of Farmlets where Farming Details were Mainly Unknown	80
5.9	Average Carrying Capacity and Farm Outputs on Farmlets where Farming Details were Mainly Unknown	81
5.10	Intensity of Agricultural Land Use on Farmlets Suitable for Dairying or Sheep/Cattle Farming	82
5.11	Distribution of Agricultural Land Use Intensity on Farms Suitable for Dairying or Sheep/Cattle Farming	83
5.12	Comparison of Intensity of Agricultural Land Use Between Synthetic Farms and Part-time Farms	85
5.13	Comparison of Intensity of Land Use Between Synthetic Farms and Part-time Farms	87

LIST OF FIGURES

<u>Figure</u>		<u>Page</u>
1	Map Showing Counties of the Manawatu Included in the Survey	22

## ABSTRACT

This thesis set out to examine the land use changes associated with part-time farming on rural subdivisions. These farmlets and their location are first described. Cattle and sheep farming were the main agricultural activities although a wide range both on commercial as well as 'hobbyist' basis was evident. The study revealed that motives for ownership of these rural holdings were mainly non-economic in nature.

In the second section, farm production comparisons are made with synthetic farms evolved for this purpose. Two, a dairy unit and a sheep/cattle farm were constructed. The farm production and intensity of agricultural land use (dollars per acre) on these synthetic farms are assumed to be that before the subdivision of the farm land. It was found that the intensity of agricultural land use was at a higher level after the subdivision of farm land suitable for dairying and sheep/cattle farming.

## INTRODUCTION

Land can be considered as a factor of production or a consumption good as in the provision of housing sections and parks. Land use associated with part-time farming on rural subdivisions can both be used productively in an economic sense as well as serving recreational and residential purposes.

New Zealand is a highly urbanised country. Greater mobility afforded by the automobile has enabled location of residence further away from the place of work. Part-time farming is one development of this increased mobility and affluence in New Zealand.

This research is timely in that there is a dearth of information on the agricultural land use on rural subdivisions farmed on a part-time basis. In addition, an understanding of the reasons behind the preference for these rural lots may help in the planning of housing development in the future.

Literature related to land use, speculation and part-time farming is reviewed in Chapter 1. Chapter 2 details the methodology of the study. The sample characteristics of part-time farmers and their properties are reported in Chapter 3 while Chapter 4 documents the farming activities. A comparison of the intensity of agricultural land use between part-time farmed properties and commercial farms is undertaken in Chapter 5. The final chapter summarises the finding and discusses their implications.