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Diversification of
Wairarapa Hill Country :
the Potential for Agroforestry.

A Thesis presented in
Partial Fulfilment of the
Requirements for the
Degree of Master of Agricultural Science
at Massey University.

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1987

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

There are many people to whom the author is indebted for this study.

The initiative for the research topic came from the Wairarapa United Council while the Forest Research Institute and Riverside Trust Fund provided valuable financial assistance.

I am in debt to my supervisor, Dr Anton Meister, who gave very patient support, considerable time, and constructive guidance at all stages of the study. Other Massey staff members, in particular Professors Bob Townsley and Allan Rae, also provided valuable inputs. I am also appreciative of the extra time provided by the agricultural faculty to finish the study.

Staff from the Forest Research Institute, New Zealand Forest Service, Wairarapa Catchment Board, and Plant Materials Centre provided considerable help. At the risk of leaving individuals out, I would particularly like to thank Chris Morey of the Forest Research Institute for guidance with SILMOD; Mark Alladice, formerly Forest Service Masterton, for providing forestry data for the Gladstone area to the extent of thinning a farmers shelterbelt; and Dean Williamson, New Zealand Forest Service, for guidance on suitable regimes and assisting with SILMOD.

I would also like to thank the farmers who contributed to the study; in particular the case study farmers, Jamie and Ricky Strang, who willingly gave their time and data for the linear programming model, and who also provided enjoyable hospitality.

Particular thanks must also go to the typists, Janet Oliver who deciphered much of the hand written script, and Valancy Hansen who prepared the final manuscript.

Finally I must acknowledge the patience and support of my family; my parents who looked after the farm in my absence, and my

wife Christine for her constant understanding and encouragement.

The usual caveat applies to all those mentioned above.

ABSTRACT

The purpose of this study was to investigate the potential for agroforestry on Wairarapa Hill Country farms. It was set against a background of a marked decline in real farm income on hill country sheep and beef farms in recent years.

A broad perspective on project evaluation was taken with a review of the system components presented; covering hill country farming in New Zealand, the Wairarapa, Forestry in New Zealand, and Agroforestry.

The results of an intertemporal linear programming model covering a 21 year period, suggest that agroforestry can be both a profitable and feasible investment for Wairarapa Hill Country farmers. Profitability is shown to be strongly influenced by the suitability of planting sites and final timber value. With respect to feasibility, cash-flow considerations are of overriding importance. Together with factors considered outside the model, particularly the management of an integrated livestock and agroforestry property, the need for individual evaluation of each circumstance is stressed.

It is recommended that significant development of agroforestry in the Wairarapa will require some form of District Association to co-ordinate planting and marketing, and provide suitable extension and management services.

Further development of the model for both agroforestry and land use evaluation is suggested.