Farm Business Management: The Fundamentals of Good Practice

Chapter 16: Farm Computing and Software

Tasks

1. Consider the typical use of farm computers in your area. Explain the type of decisions that farmers make with the help of the software used. And list out the additional decisions that might in theory be helped by suitable computer software.

2. Considering the software of the future that you listed in the question above, take one example and describe how it would work, and the extent of help it would be to farmers.

3. Discuss the statement 'farm computers will never be more than recording systems because they can never be better than a farmer's intuition in making decisions'.

4. Explore what is meant by an 'expert system computer package'. Explain what they do and whether you believe they might have a place in successful primary production. Use examples from your knowledge of primary production.

5. Increasingly the futurists are talking about the use of remotely controlled drones and satellite imagery in decision making. Discuss how computer software might use the output from these devices in providing farm decision help.