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Investment and effort by industry organisations and producers have seen pork production develop into the country's second-lowest greenhouse gas agricultural source. Photo: Diego San

Pig waste turned into clean and green power

AUSTRALIAN producers are converting their animal waste into fuel for biogas power plants – turning ponds of poop into power.

Not known for being clean or green, piggeries are rapidly becoming greener than vegetables where climate change is concerned.

Investment and effort by industry organisations and producers have seen pork production develop into the country's second-lowest greenhouse gas agricultural source.

Berrybank Piggery operator Jock Charles started

investing in waste-to-energy systems nearly 30 years ago.

At the 20,000-pig property, Charles built a bio-digester.

The bio-digester varies from the traditional 'collected pig waste dumped into effluent ponds where it's treated and broken down' method in that it pumps the waste into a machine that operates parallel to a pig's stomach.

Bacteria breaks the waste down into manure and produces methane, which is converted by turbine into heat and generates 90

percent of the property's electricity, with additional benefits.

"We are producing about the same as we use, but during the day when we're running the feed mill and a few other things, we are pulling some power in from the grid, and then in the evening, we export power," Mr Charles said.

"Seventy percent of odour from piggeries comes out of lagoons or ponds, so if you eliminate the ponds, which we've been able to do, then you're only dealing with 30 percent."

Research from the Grattin Institute shows that only 2 percent of all agriculture related emissions come from pork now, less than vegetable production and transformative for the Australian pork industry.

Australian Pork Limited reports that 80 percent of all farm emissions can be reduced by using biogas, with 16 percent of piggeries in Australia operating bio-digesters for green energy generation.



Bio-digesters are revolutionising biogas energy production for pork producers in Australia.

What does 2022 have in store

AUSTRALIAN Pork Limited chief executive officer Margo Andrae was taking a well-deserved break after a busy 2021, so I thought I'd take the opportunity to share a market update as we move into 2022.

As we say farewell to a year of lockdowns and disruption both in city and regional areas, it is a good time to stop and put 2021 into perspective.

January is also a critical time for APL to begin planning for the year ahead.

In November at the delegates forum, the APL team outlined a few assumptions we were making about the next couple of years.

We were clear that we do not know what is going to happen either domestically or globally in such uncertain times.

Having said that, we do need to contemplate what might happen, so we can anticipate at least those things on balance could occur.

The global context is that the recovery of meat production volumes is gaining pace.

World pork production was still down 8 million tonnes versus 2018



Executive General Manager

by PETER HAYDON



percent over the July 2022 to June 2023 financial year.

From there, growth may slow to 1 percent over the July 2023 to June 2024 year.

This prediction around slower growth is based on potential stabilising of the sow herd – given the COVID-19 supply chain interruptions that may have tempered capability to execute growth plans.

This being the case, we are working through how we can fund additional investment in consumer demand options to try to ensure there is a motivated buyer for every pig.

To reinforce how uncertain 2022 is, we are undertaking our planning based on all Australian food channels being open in a 'living with COVID world' and also that Australia will continue to be ASF free.

As we said, we can't know how these things will pan out, but these are APL's planning assumptions looking ahead.

We always welcome any opinion, so if you have any thoughts, let us know – any feedback is good feedback in this rapidly changing environment.

– when China declared African swine fever – but poultry is up around 12 million tonnes.

Beef and lamb production globally appear stable, so meat production volume has caught up and will probably match global demand by the end of 2022.

According to Meat & Livestock Australia's November projections, domestic beef production is likely to remain below the five-year average for both 2022 and 2023, so beef prices may well stay high for the next couple of years.

The domestic lamb projections are looking to be slightly lower than the five-year average but higher than the last three years.

It seems possible that lamb prices may fall as

demand and supply re-balance.

The biggest change in the outlook since the November delegates forum however is that several producers have decided to depopulate and repopulate their herds.

The implications of this in the short term – between now and May – is that there could be fewer pigs around than the plentiful supply for the same period in 2021.

Though if that occurs, it is likely to be only a short-term situation.

Obviously, the purpose of such exercises is to increase animal health, welfare and productivity.

This has caused us to update the production survey information.

Producers are now suggesting meat production may grow rapidly at 6

	Year to 30 June 2022	Year to 30 June 2023	Year to 30 June 2024
Slaughters	5.6m	5.9m	5.9m
Meat produced	4.4%	6.0%	1.0%
COVID	Sporadic border closings	All Channels open	All Channels open
ASF	Australia ASF Free	Australia ASF Free	Australia ASF Free
Progeny sold per week	103,567	107,523	107,520

A summary of APL current planning assumption.



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Pork Industry Calendar of Events

2022

JAN 11 – Banff Pork Seminar 2022 (Virtual)
– Banff, Canada www.banffpork.ca

FEB 23 – Queensland Pig Consultancy Group (QPCG) Industry Day 'Building Resilience in a Changing World' Toowoomba

APR 18-20 – United Pork America's – Orlando, United States www.unitedporkamericas.com

APR 26-29 – Anuga FoodTec – Cologne, Germany www.unitedporkamericas.com

MAY 15-17 – Pork Production, Poultry Information Exchange and Australasian Milling Conference (PIX/AMC) – Gold Coast www.pixamc.com.au

AUG 19-21 – Kingaroy Baconfest 2022 www.kingaroybaconfest.com.au

2023

NOV 13-16 – Australasian Pig Science Association (APSA) Conference www.apsa.asn.au

How to supply event details: Send all details to Australian Pork Newspaper, PO Box 162, Wynnum, Qld 4178, call 07 3286 1833 or email: ben@collins.media

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Seeing is believing with feral pigs

THERE is much to be said for the adage 'seeing is believing'.

It can be difficult for a land manager to accept that feral pigs are now in their local area – and are likely responsible for the extensive 'earthworks' recently observed in paddocks, crop damage or reduced lambing percentages – without ever having seen any.

This is a common situation.

It can also be exacerbated by land managers not knowing what signs to look for when feral pigs have never been seen in the area before.

A new fact sheet is now available on our website to assist with this – feralpigs.com.au

Field cameras or camera traps are some of the tools used to provide much-needed information to assist land managers with the control of feral pig populations.

Camera trapping is a widely used survey tool used around the world to monitor wildlife, including feral animals.

Remotely activated cameras take pictures when an object is in view and detected by either motion sensor, infrared sensor or light beam.

The pictures are stored as digital images.

The key elements for successful feral pig control, as discussed in previous APN articles, are:



by **HEATHER CHANNON**
National Feral Pig Management Co-ordinator



- Coordinated control over large areas by getting all land managers to work together

- Apply an integrated, best practice management approach – in areas that can be accessed by a vehicle, use low impact control first such as baiting or trapping to minimise spreading of pigs across the area, move to other methods such as aerial shooting for less accessible areas to try to remove as many remaining pigs as possible

- Utilise seasonal conditions – when it is dry, apply a good plan and aim for 100 percent removal

- Monitor before and after control efforts are undertaken, and act early.

As we enter into the summer period, target your feral pig surveillance and control activities around water sources.

Maximising value from field camera traps and using information collected to monitor and control feral pig populations was the focus of our final virtual stakeholder forum for 2021.

Three informative presentations were made by Dr Andrew Bengsen from NSW Department of Primary Industries, Chris Gaschk from Western Downs Regional Council and Dr Justin Perry from the North Australian Indigenous Land and Sea Management Alliance Ltd.

These are now available for viewing on our website.

Practicalities of camera trapping

Dr Bengsen emphasised that when using cameras, it is important to first be clear on what you are wanting to find out or

the outcomes you want to achieve.

This will influence what methods are used and how the cameras will be set up in the landscape.

There are a lot of different types of cameras available with different functionalities, so the choice of which ones to use must be driven by the purpose of the work and not the other way around.

So, while field cameras are relatively easy to set up and use in the field, a good understanding of how they work and where to place them is needed to maximise their value as a survey tool.

This enables land managers to estimate a relative abundance index more effectively, determine feral pig presence and absence in the landscape, and measure changes in population over time.

Too often in pest animal management, the measure of success of a management campaign is taken from the kill sheet, which can mislead the evaluation process.

An important yardstick to remember is that to effectively suppress growth and recovery of feral pigs, an annual reduction of at least 70 percent of the population is required.

While knowing numbers of pigs dispatched may be interesting, it doesn't mean much if there is no estimate of the actual population present before the control efforts were undertaken.

Engaging land managers

In 2014, the Western Downs Regional Council in Queensland commenced work to implement its long-term regional pest management program.

This program ensures that public funds being invested in feral animal management are achieving meaningful and successful outcomes.

Chris Gaschk from the WDRC explained at the forum that following a pilot program, external funding was secured that enabled a 22km grid of 85 field cameras to be established across 3 million hectares to identify long-term activity indices.

These field cameras are connected to the mobile network and many of these have been placed around watering points.

An additional eight cameras are still to be deployed – an alternative technical solution is needed for these cameras due to the selected sites being in cellular black spots.

It was recognised that manually going through the large volumes of images captured would be a mammoth task.

The WDRC is working with start-up company eVorta based in Melbourne and has adopted automated image analysis software to analyse all pictures captured.

The system provides real-time alerts via a mobile app to the land manager when a species of interest is captured on the camera located on their land.

Individual logins are also provided to group coordinators to enable them to better engage with all of the land managers in that region – noting that GPS coordinates are not shared with the coordinators for privacy reasons.

This is being done by the WDRC to encourage land managers to use the information being collected to continuously improve their on-ground management practices.

The ability for this system to provide site-specific information to land managers is vital – the cameras don't lie.

Having locally relevant real-time images from cameras showing that a mob of pigs is present on their land is extremely powerful in engaging and motivating action – similar to using GPS-collars.

These notifications are resulting in increased engagement of land managers in community-led control programs.

Importantly, it is shifting decision making from a predominantly reactive approach to a proactive method.

Other benefits have flowed from the WDRC having this system in place.

It enables the council to more effectively report on the outcomes of state or Commonwealth funded projects and positions the council as a trusted organisation for program delivery.

In general, feral pig management programs are not guided or informed very well by data.

Yet, with the use of technology such as cameras, a plethora of data can be collected.

Determining what useful data needs to be collected for monitoring purposes is key, so that more time can be spent on targeted management.

continued P4



Remote field camera connected to the mobile network. Photos: Western Downs Regional Council



Feral pigs at a water point identified and counted using automated artificial intelligence.

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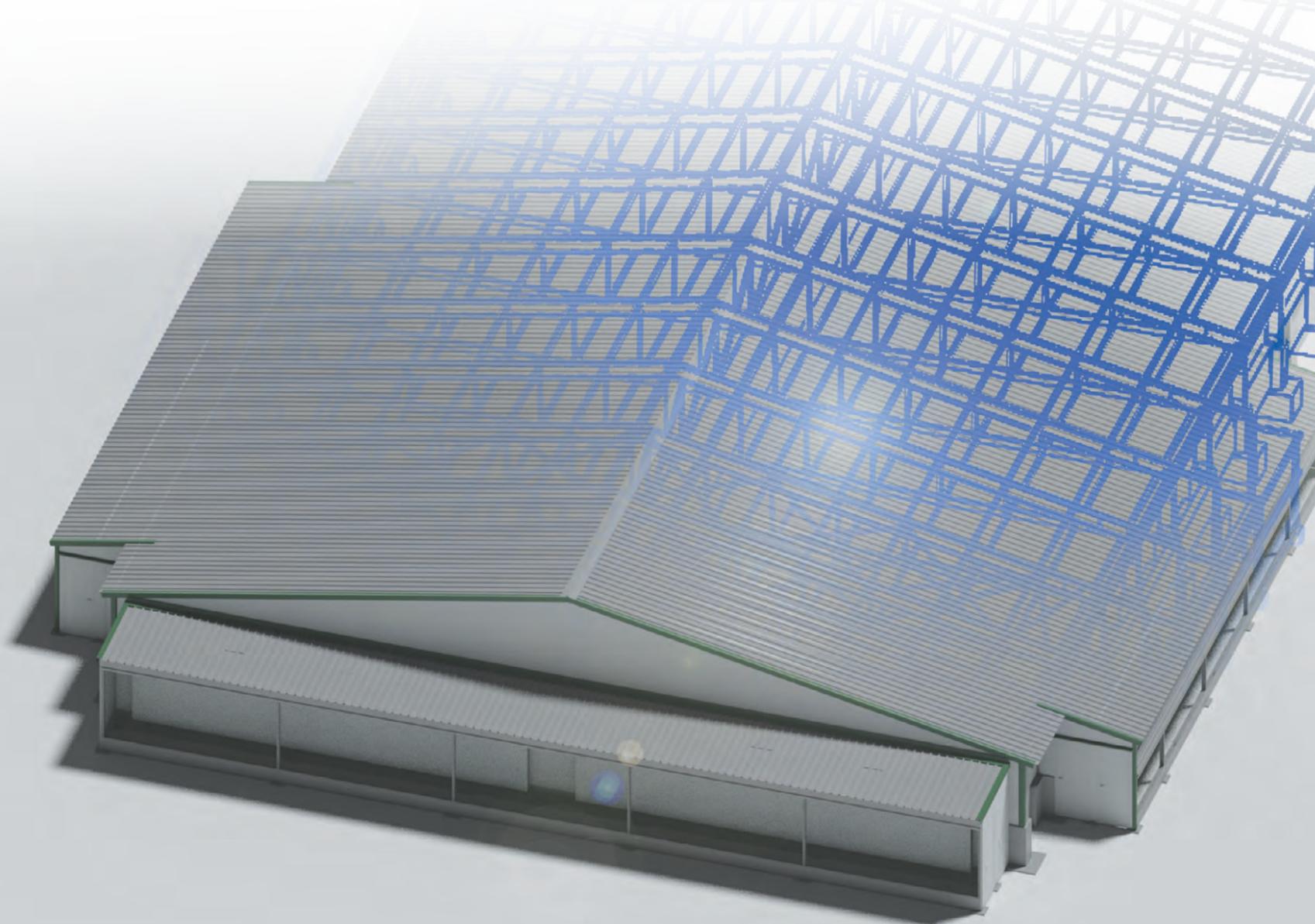


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D'Orsogna a worthy winner

EARLY last month Woolworths named its top suppliers in its annual Supplier of the Year Awards, with smallgoods supplier D'Orsogna taking out two awards.

Woolworths' official media statement of December 1, 2021 stated that D'Orsogna was recognised as a partner that had consistently worked with Woolworths to deliver quality deli products that met the changing needs of customers over the years.

The business was awarded 20-year Significant Contribution as both a company and for D'Orsogna account manager Colin Sullivan – one of the longest serving current Woolworths account managers of any supplier.

The awards ceremony marked the 20th anniversary of Woolworths' Supplier of the Year Awards and included special recognition honours for those who have shaped categories and relationships over the past two decades, as the retailer continued to invest in long-term partnerships.

Colin Sullivan shared the award with Felice Testini, owner of Trade Partners, who has launched 28 products in Woolworths stores since 1999 and is renowned for his passion and knack for bringing new products to the shelf.

Woolworths chief commercial officer Paul Harker said, "Every week we serve millions of Australians in communities across the country and none of it would be possible without the teamwork that takes place between our team and our suppliers."

"It's the people behind these businesses, from

growers to account managers, who work alongside us each day to deliver great products to our customers.

"Their dedication has persisted through the most challenging of situations, as we've seen over the pandemic.

"This year marks two decades of celebrating our suppliers big and small in this special annual event and we're proud to be championing those who've made an enduring impact on our business and truly represent what it means to be better together."

Clearly sincere relationship building – both with its workforce, its customers and its suppliers – has been the cornerstone of the successful D'Orsogna business since its foundation in Western Australia by D'Orsogna brothers Tommaso and Giovanni 70 years ago.

Headquartered in Western Australia, market leader D'Orsogna produces a range of cured and cooked whole and sliced hams, gourmet continental goods, bacon and cooked sausages.

The landmark Western Australian premises at Palmyra near the port of Fremantle has been D'Orsogna's home since 1973.

The iconic Western Australian company firmly planted its national footprint in 2019 when it commenced production at its \$66 million state-of-the-art 11,000sq m food manufacturing facility at Merrifield Business Park, 30km north of Melbourne.

With the new production base in Victoria and its established headquarters in Palmyra, D'Orsogna is one of the most nationally recognisable smallgoods brands.

Managing director Greig Smith, speaking at the



Cant Comment
by BRENDON CANT

2019 Merrifield official opening alongside chair Tony Iannello and directors Marco D'Orsogna and Massimo Valentini, said the D'Orsogna name, brand and products were firmly established on the east coast.

"We've taken a measured approach to such a substantial investment after establishing a modest footprint in Victoria 10 years ago at Mt Waverley," Mr Smith said.

"The new Merrifield production facility will secure the future of the D'Orsogna business."

D'Orsogna chair Tony Iannello told the 50 guests that the new Victorian facility would double D'Orsogna's production capacity and generate development opportunities for its extensive range of innovative ham, bacon and other meat protein products.

"Proximity to major markets, streamlined manufacturing processes and state-of-the art equipment, all supported by well trained staff, a committed management and board and supportive customers should ensure its success," Mr Iannello said.

"Productivity per square

metre of floor space will be leading edge – allowing us to be competitive and satisfy growing consumer demand for fresh conveniently packaged modern meat protein products.

"This facility incorporates the latest energy and water conservation technology, reflecting our focus on sustainable and efficient processes to drive design and ultimately production efficiency.

"The 8500sq m of rooftop solar powers a one-megawatt system that will greatly reduce operational costs and carbon emissions on site."

Mr Iannello said D'Orsogna chose Victoria for its competitive operating environment, reputation in foods, access to key transport infrastructure and rapidly growing local and export markets.

"D'Orsogna is proudly Australian owned with a focus on quality, growth and local investment and we have ambitious expansion plans over the next few years," he said.



D'Orsogna MD Greig Smith when quoted in December said demand was strong for Christmas hams and shoppers should order early.



D'Orsogna managing director Greig Smith discussed the important relationship between D'Orsogna and Woolworths with Melbourne-based Colin Sullivan at the opening of D'Orsogna's Merrifield Victoria production plant in 2019.

Seeing feral pigs is believing

from P2
Impact assessment using image analysis

The use of image analysis to track impacts caused by feral pigs on Cape York Peninsula, funded by the National Environmental Science Program, was discussed by Dr Justin Perry during the forum.

A series of reports, automated workflows and interactive dashboards were created using thousands of images captured during surveys conducted using a helicopter fitted with a camera.

The system is used by Indigenous rangers to inform their decision making, enabling them to better design and

adapt their control programs in key areas to protect targeted assets including marine turtles from feral pigs.

Information on wetland impacts is collected and logged into an app so that actions being undertaken and costs to do the work can be compared over time with the assets that need protection.

For full details on this program, the final report is now available at nespnorthern.edu.au/projects/nesp/feral-animal-management/

In conclusion, Dr Perry stated that while all the technology is available, it is critical that people engage with it, use it and interact with it.

This is the focus of

current activities being driven by NAILSMA in northern Australia.

Opportunities to extend this work for adoption by other ranger groups on Cape York Peninsula will be initially explored through one of the plan's demonstration sites involving the Western Cape Turtle Threat Abatement Alliance and the Catchments to Coral program being facilitated by Cape York Natural Resource Management.

Feel free to contact me at heather.channon@feralpigs.com.au or call 0423 056 045 to discuss your feral pig management issues or any information presented in this article.



D'Orsogna Board members Massimo Valentini, chair Tony Iannello and Marco D'Orsogna at the opening of D'Orsogna's \$66 million food manufacturing facility at Merrifield Business Park in Melbourne.

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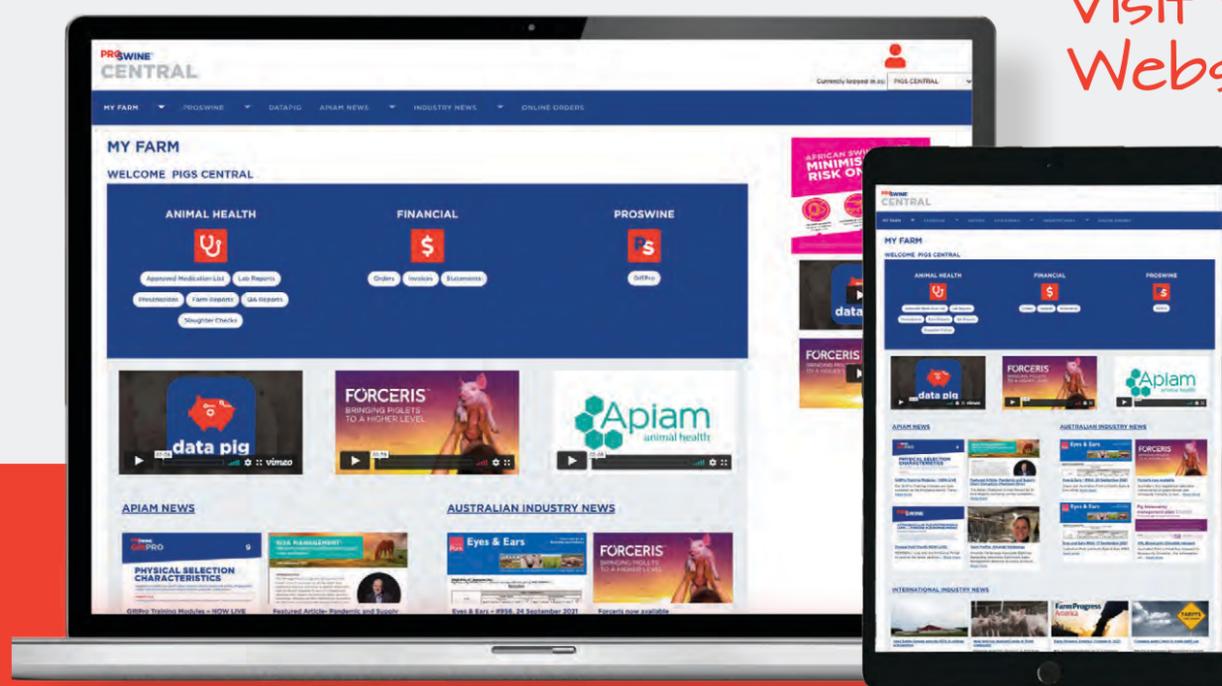
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AusScan Early Harvest Report

AUSSCAN Online will be producing a monthly Early Harvest Report from November to April for the 2021/22 harvest.

This year the report will include statistical data for Moisture (%), Protein (%), Broiler AME (MJ/kg), Broiler AME Index, Pig Faecal DE (MJ/kg) and Pig Ileal DE (MJ/kg).

The report contains data for scans completed within the month of November and does not include any new season's grain.

It will therefore serve as a good baseline comparison as mills transition from stored grain to the new season's harvest, which will be coming through in the December scans.

This report will be sent out in January 2022.

AusScan Online calibrations include samples of weather damaged grain.

The original premium grain for livestock production calibrations contained a little over 100 grain samples.

It was understood at this stage the energy calibrations had relatively few weather-damaged and pinched grains or triticale samples.

Subsequent pig digestible energy experiments completed at the University of Melbourne and supported by the Pork CRC – Project 4B-117 – contained a wide range of cereal grains from



Australia, including natural and artificially weather-damaged grains.

Furthermore, progressive upgrades were made to the broiler apparent metabolisable energy calibrations through the Pork CRC administered AusScan project, which also included the weather-damaged grains.

These additional experiments improved the robustness of the AusScan Online calibrations and will aid in differentiating the quality of cereal grains for the current 2021-22 harvest.

Below are comments from the ABARES Australian Crop Report December 2021 edition – awe.gov.au/abares/research-topics/agricultural-outlook/australian-crop-report/overview – that briefly summarises the state of this season's harvest.

Due to a series of heavy rainfall events during November, there is a delay in the harvest of winter crops across NSW, Queensland, Victoria and

South Australia.

This is likely to result in quality downgrades and some damage crops especially in northern NSW.

This is a result of a La Niña event being established in the tropical Pacific during November, increasing the chance of above average rainfall across much of northern and eastern Australia during summer.

The forecast for the new season's grain is likely to reach a new national record of 58.4 million tonnes and is mainly due to record high production in Western Australia and second highest on record for NSW.

Production in Victoria and South Australia is expected to be well above average.

Wheat is expected to yield 34.4 million tonnes, and canola and barley 5.7 and 13.3 million tonnes respectively.

The AusScan Online Early Harvest Reports will be published in this publication over the next few months to cover the 2021-22 harvest.

Immunocastration benefits

BOAR taint is one of the main reasons consumers may have product failure rates.

Immunocastration is one of the tools producers can use to deal with off-odour and off-flavour issues in pork.

However, while approximately 60 percent of the Australian herd utilises IC in their production, the remaining portion may not use this technology due to the perception that the costs outweigh the benefits.

With this in mind, Australian Pork Limited has run a comprehensive benefit cost analysis, completed in October 2021.

The research considered the industry-wide benefits and costs for producers and consumers of IC of pigs.

Costs associated with IC accounted for in the study

- The costs of the vaccine
- Additional labour costs
- Added costs in processing caused by potential abscess formation at the vaccine site – the costs associated with abscesses include product downgrades or stopping the slaughter line for cleaning.

Benefits associated with IC accounted for in the study

- A reduction in consumers having poor eating experiences of fresh pork
- Potential benefits of avoiding customer loss through reducing the occurrence – and risk of occurrence – of having an unsatisfactory experience preparing and eating pork
- Potential increasing demand above what it would be with the continuation of poor experiences and the known risk of poor experiences with boar-tainted pork.



Pork Integrity

by DR VAIBHAV GOLE



their way through the value chain, most of the costs and the benefits end up with consumers – pig producers receive 12 percent of total benefits and costs, value chain participants receive 9 percent of total benefits and costs, consumers receive 79 percent benefits and costs

• Importantly, net economic surplus to the industry is highly likely to be increased.

This research concluded an increased use of IC in Australia's pig industry reduces the prevalence and risk of boar taint, and poor preparation and eating experiences associated with boar taint.

IC adoption has a very high likelihood of delivering a net benefit to industry participants and the total benefits will exceed the costs of implementation, resulting in both consumers and producers being benefited.

For further information on this report or for the full copy of final report, contact Dr Vaibhav Gole on 0436 934 763 or email vaibhav.gole@australianpork.com.au

riences with boar-tainted pork.

This analysis is unable to determine the exact loss or gain in demand that may occur due to less prevalence of boar-tainted pork resulting from increased use of IC.

This study has evaluated the net benefit under different scenarios of adoption, cost of the technology and changes in demand.

Results

For different scenarios, a range of benefit cost ratios have been calculated.

These scenarios included two different costs of implementing IC at producer level (\$/kg IC cost) and the percentage of annual total pork demand that has to be either retained or increased.

Results suggested that the sooner IC is fully adopted, the better the investment in IC for the Australian pork industry.

In the best case, only 0.5 percent of pork consumption is required to be retained or gained due to lower incidence of bad smell or taste.

This would be as a result of the elimination of boar taint in 100 percent of the national herd.

If the adoption of IC takes time – five years – or if it is never fully adopted, depending upon on the size of demand gained or retained, it could still be a good investment.

The results of the benefit cost analysis were tested using an equilibrium displacement model of the Australian pig industry:

- The EDM confirmed that only small changes in demand are required to offset the industry-wide costs of an expansion in the use of immunocastration
- The EDM suggests once the effects of added costs and benefits of widespread use of IC have worked



An increased use of immunocastration in Australia's pig industry reduces the prevalence and risk of boar taint, and poor preparation and eating experiences associated with boar taint. Photo: Matka Wariatka

AusScan Early Harvest Report: November 2021																								
Protein Moisture and Energy Values for Cereal Grains																								
Barley																								
Region*	Protein %				Moisture %				Pig Faecal DE MJ/Kg				Pig Ileal DE MJ/Kg				Broiler AME MJ/Kg				Broiler AME Index			
	Mean	SD	Min	Max	Mean	SD	Min	Max	Mean	SD	Min	Max	Mean	SD	Min	Max	Mean	SD	Min	Max	Mean	SD	Min	Max
NSW1	10.5	1.64	8.6	20.2	11.6	0.93	10.6	13.8	13.3	0.14	12.5	13.8	10.6	0.35	9.1	12.2	11.8	0.29	10.4	12.5	69.5	2.41	63.8	79.6
QLD	12.2	0.87	10.1	14.9	11.5	1.39	7.6	13.9	12.5	0.19	12.0	13.8	10.5	0.26	9.6	12.1	12.1	0.29	11.5	12.8				
SA	10.8	0.92	9.0	12.6	10.3	0.99	7.1	12.9	12.6	0.22	12.2	13.7	10.4	0.30	9.8	11.8	11.8	0.38	11.1	13.0				
SA1	10.6	1.05	8.2	13.0	12.5	1.57	9.4	16.1	13.1	0.21	12.6	14.0	10.7	0.24	10.2	11.7	12.3	0.40	11.4	14.8	67.1	2.88	59.2	82.5
VIC	10.9	0.74	9.8	12.0	9.8	1.23	8.1	12.4	12.4	0.23	12.1	12.7	10.2	0.24	9.8	10.5	11.5	0.22	11.1	11.9				
VIC 1	10.6	1.69	8.6	14.7	9.8	1.59	6.8	12.6	12.4	0.09	12.2	12.5	10.4	0.37	10.0	11.2	11.7	0.56	11.1	13.0				
VIC 2	11.7	1.16	9.4	13.8	11.5	1.83	8.2	14.9	12.5	0.11	12.3	12.8	10.3	0.27	9.8	10.9	12.0	0.46	10.9	12.7				
VIC 3	10.4	0.84	9.1	13.1	10.0	1.29	6.7	12.7	12.5	0.12	12.2	12.7	10.4	0.31	9.8	11.3	11.5	0.37	10.9	12.6				
Sorghum																								
Region*	Protein %				Moisture %				Pig Faecal DE MJ/Kg				Pig Ileal DE MJ/Kg				Broiler AME MJ/Kg				Broiler AME Index			
	Mean	SD	Min	Max	Mean	SD	Min	Max	Mean	SD	Min	Max	Mean	SD	Min	Max	Mean	SD	Min	Max	Mean	SD	Min	Max
QLD	13.8	3.55	11.1	30.3	10.4	0.94	6.9	11.8	14.2	0.48	12.1	14.8	13.4	1.69	11.8	18.9	14.9	0.47	13.1	15.5				
Wheat																								
Region*	Protein %				Moisture %				Pig Faecal DE MJ/Kg				Pig Ileal DE MJ/Kg				Broiler AME MJ/Kg				Broiler AME Index			
	Mean	SD	Min	Max	Mean	SD	Min	Max	Mean	SD	Min	Max	Mean	SD	Min	Max	Mean	SD	Min	Max	Mean	SD	Min	Max
NSW1	12.1	1.22	10.0	14.6	10.9	0.37	10.2	12.6	13.9	0.21	13.3	14.2	12.0	0.41	10.6	12.4	12.5	0.34	11.8	13.1	76.1	3.46	67.8	84.2
QLD	11.4	1.04	8.6	14.7	14.2	1.59	9.6	18.3	13.8	0.18	13.2	14.8	12.1	0.24	10.8	12.7	13.0	0.46	11.5	14.8				
SA	11.0	1.08	8.3	13.2	12.5	1.45	9.5	18.3	13.8	0.10	13.4	15.1	11.8	0.27	11.3	13.7	12.9	0.34	11.9	15.5				
SA1	11.7	1.14	9.2	14.7	10.3	1.87	8.2	14.2	14.0	0.19	13.4	14.3	12.3	0.32	11.5	12.7	13.4	0.25	12.9	13.9	75.0	1.97	70.7	78.6
VIC	11.0	1.14	8.7	13.5	11.6	1.21	9.6	15.4	13.8	0.05	13.6	13.9	11.8	0.17	11.5	12.3	12.8	0.26	12.2	13.3				
VIC 1	10.9	1.20	7.6	14.0	11.6	1.29	8.7	16.3	13.7	0.08	13.2	13.8	11.9	0.18	11.5	12.6	12.8	0.29	12.0	13.5				
VIC 2	10.5	1.31	7.8	14.3	12.8	1.57	9.3	16.5	13.7	0.05	13.6	13.9	11.6	0.22	11.2	12.2	12.7	0.33	12.1	13.6				
VIC 3	10.5	1.13	7.8	14.4	12.1	1.53	8.5	17.1	13.7	0.11	12.8	14.0	11.8	0.22	10.7	12.6	12.7	0.37	10.8	13.8				

* Each row represents a Feed Mill in the Region, for example NSW and NSW1 represent different feed mill companies within the state.



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APL's Pan Pacific Pork Expo 2022 cancelled

AUSTRALIAN Pork Limited has made the difficult decision to not proceed with the Pan Pacific Pork Expo in 2022.

After postponing the 2021 event due to COVID-19 restrictions, the APL PPPE steering committee felt it was unable to deliver a high-quality event to give APL members value for money in 2022.

APL will work with producers to design a new event that will focus on connections and celebration of the Australian pork industry, seeking producer and industry input into content and format of a reinvented event.

APL team members will also be hitting the road to meet with industry face-to-face.

Look for dates of an event in APL update emails or by contacting events@australianpork.com.au

The usual schedule of the APL delegate meetings in May and November will continue, and we are underway with plans to do this face-to-face.

The PIX AMC event is going ahead on the Gold Coast from May 15-19, 2022 – this year joined for the first time by the SunPork Group.

This event aims to bring together pig, poultry and milling industries, with a focus on the latest industry developments.

Stay tuned for more updates from APL on future events, or if you're organising your own event this year, APL are always open to sponsorship or providing speakers.

Get in contact to discuss your needs – we look forward to connecting in person with you all soon.

Julia Unwin
Communications
Director, APL

Producer relations and industry insights

AUSTRALIAN Pork Limited's producer relations team came into being in June 2020 to allow for better engagement with the industry.

Since then, the team has taken over the Pig-Pass Helpdesk, become the first port of call for pig-related enquiries via APL's phone lines and inboxes, and built relationships through regular phone contact with producer members.

When I started around 18 months ago, the team were ringing members fortnightly or monthly to ensure producers knew who we were and to open a two-way exchange of information.

For producers, these calls were an opportunity to raise concerns, ask questions and give feedback about APL's activities or wider industry trends.

For APL, it was about better knowing our producers and understanding the challenges and opportunities facing



by **PAUL BONIGHTON**
Director Producer Relations



them, so that we were better placed to respond on the industry's behalf.

The benefits of this approach have been enormous.

First, we have taken industry advice and formed small producer groups across Australia.

Second, we've unlocked another way to provide industry with information about new research findings and opportunities to reduce cost of production.

And the relationships we've made have helped us support affected producers, for instance during COVID-19 abattoir closures in 2020.

These are only a few of the outcomes we've achieved through these dialogues.

As most things do, this contact from the producer relations team has evolved over time.

These days rather than a fortnightly or monthly outreach initiated by APL, we see more producers contacting us for help, answers and news when needed.

The team still call to check-in and collect industry insights to support APL's policy, marketing and research activities.

The insights and information collected during these conversations are invaluable and contribute to shaping future activity for APL.

Our next stage of evolution is the industry insights program, which takes the form of quarterly surveys sent to members and levy-payers.

These surveys mean we hear feedback from all producers – regardless of size, production system and location.

The surveys will be short easy to complete questionnaires and we'll ensure they are not overly time-consuming.

You'll be able to fill them in when it suits you, rather than when it suits us.

You will have received an email link in December – by following it, you'll be taking the first step in making sure we know what we need to about you and your business.

This ensures APL has the information necessary to support you and secure a profitable and sustainable future for the pork industry, so we appreciate your involvement.

To those of you who have been involved with the producer relations team – thank you for your time, openness and engagement.

We look forward to continuing to work with you in future.

To those of you who may not have had much to do with us as yet, we hope you'll take part in the industry insights program.

And if you need any help, have any questions or ideas, reach out to the APL producer relations team.

Here's to enabling a thriving pork industry in 2022.

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Gorman-Rupp pump solves blockage issue

CENTRAL Agri Group is one of Australia's leading fully integrated beef farming, backgrounding, feed lotting and meat processing companies.

Established in 1991, it has loyal domestic customers, supplies to over 50 exports markets and has invested heavily in state-of-the-art meat processing facilities.

The problem

However, the Trafalgar plant had some issues with the wastewater pump.

Running copies of the Gorman-Rupp self-priming pump on green waste, the group were attending the pump daily to fix blockages.

On occasion, these issues would cause the well

to overflow, requiring the need for outside contractors to be called in to help deal with the inflow into the well.

Another processor running genuine Gorman-Rupp pumps suggested they contact Hydro Innovations.

Solution

Hydro Innovations recommended the existing pump be replaced by a Gorman-Rupp T3A71S-B Super T Series trash pump fitted with an 'Eradicator' solids management system, featuring hardened internal parts to deal with the grit and stringy materials flowing into the well.

The well had a high loading of grass and so the pump was setup to deal with this too.

Benefits of the installation

After almost two months post-installation, Central Agri Group plant maintenance supervisor Josh could not be happier.

"The Gorman-Rupp is a great pump – far better than what we had before," Josh said.

He hasn't had to attend the Gorman-Rupp pump at

all, as opposed to the previous pump requiring work once or twice each day.

The savings are quickly adding up and Josh has now recouped the time to work on other projects at the plant that he couldn't get to before due to maintaining the old pump.

Gorman-Rupp self-priming trash pumps are available in sizes from 2"

through to 10", with flows to 200L per second and pressures to 90m.

The Gorman-Rupp pumps are extremely popular, particularly in difficult wastewater pumping applications in animal processing plants across Australia.

For more information contact Hydro Innovations on info@hydroinnovations.com.au



The new Gorman-Rupp T3A71S-B Super T Series trash pump fitted with an 'Eradicator' solids management system at Central Agri Group's Trafalgar plant.



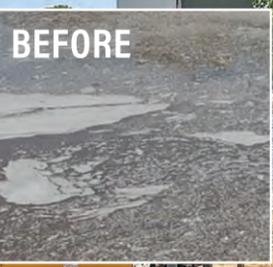
The new Gorman-Rupp T3A71S-B Super T Series trash pump.

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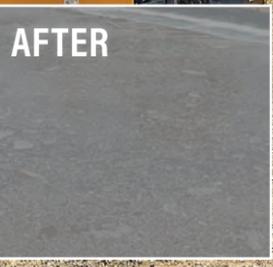
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1. Australian Veterinary Journal Volume 97 No 7, July 2019



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The five domain model

■ Promoting positive welfare in pigs

PUBLIC concern for the welfare of farmed animals is growing, as is consumer demand for higher welfare animal products.

But how can we tell if welfare is good?

When scientists talk about animal welfare, we are talking about how an animal is experiencing its world, or what it is 'feeling'.

Assessing animal welfare can be difficult because we can't simply ask animals about their experiences and there is no way of 'measuring' experiences such as pain or pleasure.

We can only infer what an animal might be experiencing, using observable indicators such as changes in physiology or behaviour.

To understand an animal's overall welfare status, we need to consider all possible factors and conditions that might influence their experience.

The five domains model is a comprehensive welfare assessment framework that gives us the tools to understand what an animal might be experiencing at a given time.

It guides welfare evaluation by systematically considering a wide range of factors and conditions that can impact on welfare.

The model consists of five areas or domains.

Four physical functional domains – namely nutrition, physical environment, health and behavioural interactions – and a fifth mental experience domain.

The first three domains consider nutritional, environmental or health-related factors that can influence the animal's internal physical functional state, whereas the fourth deals with features of the animal's external physical and social environment.

Domain 4 is further subdivided into three categories – interactions with the

environment, other animals and people.

Once factors and conditions in the first four domains have been considered, the likely consequences – in terms of the animal's subjective experiences – are assigned to domain 5, mental experience.

The integrated outcome of negative and positive mental experiences in domain 5 represents the animal's current welfare state.

Early welfare assessment models focussed solely on identifying and alleviating negative experiences.

It is now recognised that alleviating negatives can achieve neutral welfare at best, and that good welfare requires an animal to have positive experiences as well as minimising negatives.

One of the advantages of the five domains model is that it helps the user to identify opportunities for welfare enhancement, as well as identifying risks for welfare compromise.

The most recent version of the model provides numerous examples of factors or conditions in domains 1-4 that may impact welfare, along with their associated negative or posi-

tive mental experiences in domain 5.

When it comes to promoting positive welfare, we typically focus on domain 4, behavioural interactions.

This is because correcting factors or conditions in domains 1-3 that lead to negative experiences can achieve neutral welfare at best.

As an example, treating an injury can alleviate the negative experience of pain but doesn't typically result in positive experiences.

In contrast, alleviating negative experiences due to compromise in domain 4 can result in negative experiences being replaced by positive ones.

For instance, if we consider interactions with other animals, moving a single-housed social animal into group housing could replace negative experiences such as loneliness with positive experiences such as companionship and pleasure associated with social bonding.

Promoting positive welfare in farmed pigs

Using existing scientific knowledge, the five domains model can be used

▶ continued P12



Dr Nikki Kells of Massey University in New Zealand.



Since completing the farrowing shed, there has been an increase in all key production figures including piglets weaned and weaning weights along with fewer sickness outbreaks.

Insight into Stockyard Industries

WHEN it comes to building new production facilities and refurbishing or expanding existing sheds for producers, Stockyard Industries are at the forefront of the industry.

Stockyard has grown to become the largest supplier of pig equipment in Australia, with coordination of materials and equipment the company's speciality.

Recently, Stockyard were approached by Jamie and Alexis Green to build a farrowing shed.

Based in southeast Queensland, the specifications for the construction were of course in consideration of the environment.

The project scope for a 28 crate 30m x 8m shed

with natural tunnel combination ventilation and Big Dutchman equipment, included complete turnkey build and install.

When asked what had led him to approach Stockyard Industries, Jamie said, "Everyone I've spoken to in the industry knows about Stockyard Industries."

"I had initially purchased a few feeding products through the company and then, after getting to know Joe Oliveira, we were able to discuss the future expansion plans for our farm and how Stockyard could assist in this process."

"Very quickly I knew that Stockyard was not only able to assist with the complete build and installation of product through

their vast background in turnkey projects but could also offer valuable knowledge and feedback to tailor the build to our farm's requirements."

The new farrowing shed was a priority given the existing buildings age and the current difficulties in achieving optimal climate conditions for both animal well-being and maximising production.

"The older sheds were becoming not only difficult to maintain but were also challenging for our employees," Jamie said.

For efficiency, the new farrowing shed has Big Dutchman automatic curtains to regulate shed temperature in both summer and winter reducing electricity costs.

It also has installed

the Big Dutchman Rainmaker evaporative cooling system, which is controlled by the Big Dutchman Climate Production Computer 307Pro to allow for automatic regulating of shed temperature.

"The new shed complete with Big Dutchman automated climate and feeding control and flooring has now enabled us to provide optimal condition all year round for our sows and has reduced the overall labour within the shed," Jamie said.

"Since completing the farrowing shed, we have seen an increase in all key production figures including piglets weaned and weaning weights along with fewer sickness outbreaks."

"After the success of the first shed, we are now confident to move forward with additional development plans in future, utilising Stockyard Industries and Big Dutchman equipment."

The benefits are obvious. When considering new, refurbished or extensions to production facilities, contact Stockyard Industries – stockyardindustries.com



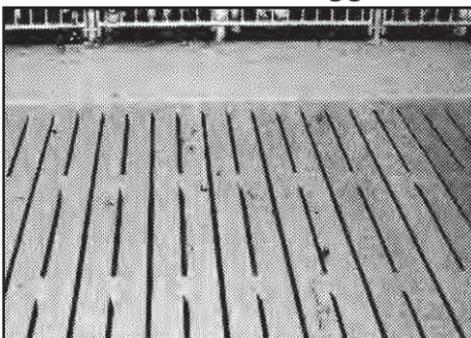
The new shed complete with Big Dutchman automated climate and feeding control and flooring provides optimal condition all year round for the sows.

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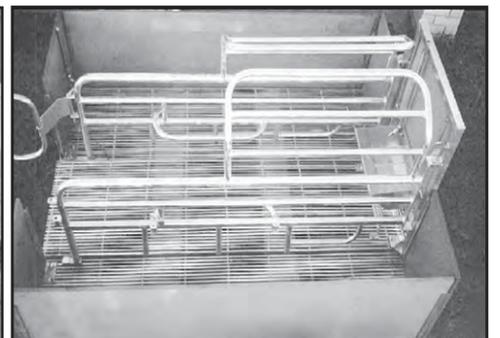
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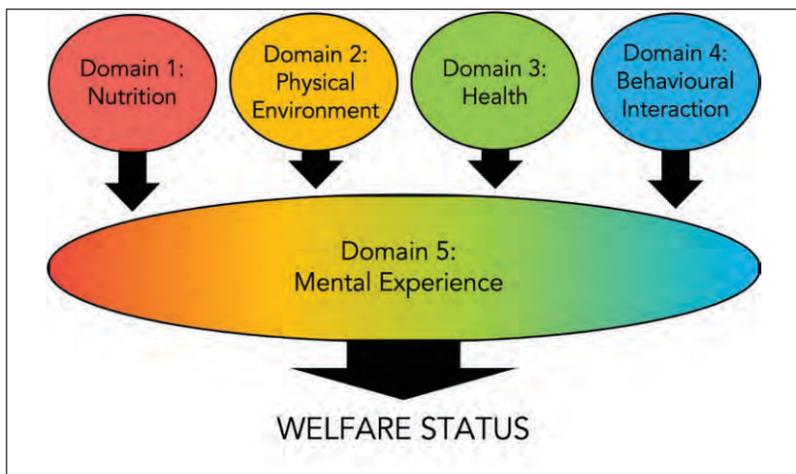


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The five domains model is a comprehensive welfare assessment framework providing tools to understand what an animal may be experiencing at a given time.

The five domain model

from P10

as a guide to identify opportunities for welfare enhancement in domestic pigs.

The following briefly considers opportunities for welfare enhancement in each domain 4 category.

Interactions with the environment

Exploration and nest building have been identified as highly motivated behaviours in pigs that are associated with rewarding positive experiences.

Natural exploratory and rooting behaviours can be promoted by providing growing pigs with straw or similar manipulable materials, leading to positive experiences such as engagement, excitement and pleasure.

Similarly, providing sows with straw prior to farrowing promotes nest building activities, reducing stress and anxiety, and promoting calmness and contentment.

Interactions with other animals

Among younger pigs in particular, play is known to be desirable and highly rewarding.

Providing young pigs with space and manipulable objects can promote play behaviour, leading to excitement and pleasure.

Play can also reduce aggressive pig-to-pig interactions and potential injuries later in life, therefore enhancing welfare in the longer term.

Interactions with people

Gentle handling, along with regular petting or

scratching has been shown to reduce fear of people – a negative experience – in pigs and promote calmness or even pleasure in the presence of familiar stockpersons.

This not only promotes positive welfare but also improves management, as calm animals are easier to handle and move.

Selecting stockpersons with a good attitude toward animals and providing appropriate training in animal handling and management can also reduce fear of people and improve pig welfare.

While it is recognised that incorporating welfare enhancement opportunities into modern intensive farming systems may be challenging, doing so may

provide benefits to both animals and stockpersons, as well as meeting public and consumer demand for high welfare standards.

The five domains model provides a useful framework for identifying both risks to welfare and opportunities for welfare enhancement.

Using the model as a guide, it has been identified that providing pigs with opportunities to forage, play and engage in nest building, along with improving the quality of pig-human interactions, can promote positive welfare in both the short and longer-term.

For further information and references, contact Dr Nikki Kells on n.j.kells@massey.ac.nz
Dr Nikki Kells

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Future leaders of pork value chain

THE Australian pork sector is full of hard working and passionate people and, for many, it is more than just a job – the role they play in society is fundamental to their identity.

When supply chain participants are attacked for carrying out their professions and their passion, it can become a personal attack on their livelihoods, community and their families.

Australian Pork Limited, on behalf of the whole industry, are committed to sharing real stories with the wider community, so that more informed opinions can be formulated, and decisions made about the role the sector plays in Australia.

One of the ways APL identified doing this was by creating a network of advocates outside of our own organisation.

Then to equip those advocates with the key skills to deliver their stories.

To that end, in late 2021 APL enlisted the help of the Livestock Collective, who over the past three

months have delivered a virtual leaders' workshop, tailored specifically to the pork sector.

Twelve men and women from the pork supply chain – from producers and veterinarians to butchers and chefs – were selected for the workshop series.

The training included six members of APL's on-going leadership program.

The aim was two-fold – to ensure the participants felt confident in the key messages of the Australian pork sector and to develop the skills to comfortably share these messages via media interviews, social media or simply around a barbecue among family and friends.

The attendees learned from several in-field experts around themes such as what journalists are looking for, how to structure a compelling conversation, value-based messaging and when and where to input key messages during an interview.

After two jam-packed days of learning, the participants were put to the test and confronted with

an intense mock radio interview with presenter and radio personality James Lush.

From an APL perspective, we were floored by the sheer talent and love for the industry that was conveyed through each of these interviews and we're thrilled with the outcome of the workshop.

It was an extremely humbling and satisfying process to be able to not only give back to those who work so proudly for

the industry, but to witness firsthand the passion of the people who work in the Australian pork sector.

Keep an eye on the APL socials as we share their stories and what our supply chain leaders have put into action following the workshops.

If you'd like to be involved in similar training in 2022, reach out to events@australianpork.com.au

Ashley Gray
 APL



APL welcomes Kenton Shaw to Board

AS a Queensland University student, Kenton Shaw began his career in the pig industry at Gatton Campus piggery.

After graduating in 1989 with a Bachelor of Applied Science, he worked on numerous family piggeries in Queensland before heading south to join Rivala as a stockperson.

Over the next 31 years, he worked in various roles across diverse pig-gery production systems throughout Southern NSW and Victoria.

These ranged from large scale pig farms to free-range farms to family farms in the contract farming system.

Kenton describes his career choice in the pig industry as engaging, challenging, and enjoyable.

"This dynamic industry is full of great

people, and we have a key goal to encourage the next generations of pig industry people and leaders," he said.

After 31 years at Rivala, Kenton returned to Queensland in 2020 to accept the role of Executive General Manager Farms at SunPork Consolidated.

When asked about his goals in being elected to the Australian Pork Limited Board, Kenton acknowledged the diversity within the industry and shared his commitment to representation and long-term sustainability.

"My 32-year career in pig production in Australia has provided me with a full set of skills and knowledge of pig production that includes family farms and large corporate farms," he said.

"I believe I will be able

to represent all sectors of the industry as a director of APL and work to ensure long-term sustainability of the Australian pork industry for all participants of all size farms and entities."

For the past 14 years, Kenton has served as an APL delegate.

Kenton has previously been a director of Rivala, Diamond Valley Pork, Pork CRC and APRIL.



APL welcomes Kenton Shaw to the Board.

Piggery pumps pros and cons

Submersible or surface-mounted pump advantages

MOST major piggeries operate a mixture of both surface-mounted and submersible pumps.

Here, the pros and cons are clearly highlighted by Aussie Pumps – giving a better understanding to operators as to which way to go for pump system selection.

Aussie Pumps is regarded highly in the livestock industry for its range of heavy duty trash pumps.

The company previously had a lot of experience in supplying Tsurumi submersible pumps in applications before resigning the franchise from this major Japanese manufacturer.

The decision was based largely on a desire to focus attention on the many advantages of surface-mounted pumps compared to submersibles.

Aussie Pumps acknowledges that submersible pumps have a place but argues that in most applications, a surface-mounted pump has considerable benefits.

Which include overall lower cost and substantially longer life than a product that is submerged in extremely aggressive liquids for much of its life.

Aussie Pumps chief engineer John Hales said, “We’ve seen submersibles come in from abattoirs and piggeries with holes in the side of the pump casing.”

“Admittedly, that was a Chinese factory-made Tsurumi product, but we were astonished to find the casing thickness in the pump unit itself was substantially thinner in some areas.

“This shows a surprising inconsistency.”

The company ended up giving the customer a brand-new pump, but Aussie Pumps realised there were dangers that the same issue may occur again.

Why self-priming?

Self-priming centrifugal trash pumps have been around for a long time.

The original designs of the Aussie GMP range go back to around the 1950s.

They consist of a big cast iron bowl with an incredibly simple arrangement for seal and impeller, and the volute – or ‘peeler’ – cast into the body.

Aussie Pumps are considered the number one specialist in self priming in the market, because the company realised that the

inconvenience of having to prime an end-suction pump was something most pump operators wished to avoid.

Considering that 90 percent of pump effluent applications consist of moving water from a drainage pit to a lagoon or settling pond, the primary issue of being able to draw water through a vertical lift of 6m would appear to be essential.

Aussie Pumps product range in this area begins with a 2” cast-iron semi trash that will pass solids up to 11mm, while their bigger pumps – an 8” gobbler with a 37kW motor – will handle 70mm solids.

That amounts to almost 3”.

“These pumps aren’t for pumping 3” rocks but rather designed for effluent style jobs,” Mr Hales said.

“You can imagine the advantage of a surface-mounted self-priming pump that draws the liquid up, compared to a submersible pump.”

Convenience is important

Surface-mounted pumps don’t need any crane or steel structure to pull them out of a pit in the event of failure.

The surface-mounted pump is already accessible, with a close coupled or long coupled motor ready to do its duty.

Pumps with flows up to 8000L/min are part of the Aussie GMP range, but the company finds its XR-A/ST range in 2”, 3” and 4” are the most popular.

The big 4” pump will handle 2300L/min, can handle a 39mm solid and can push water 29m vertically – an astonishing head for an open-impeller pump.

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Heat stress cost to pork industry

SUMMER is here – has your pig farm prepared for a heatwave?

Pigs are highly susceptible to heat stress.

Understanding the major impacts of heat stress in pigs can help pig producers prioritise investments in mitigation strategies.

A recent review paper presented at the Australasian Pig Science Association 2021 Conference summarised three major impacts of heat stress in the pig industry.

It is estimated that the three major impacts of heat stress may cost the Australian pig industry \$22 million per year.

Rivalea Australia research scientist Dr Fan Liu and his research collaborators from University of Melbourne and Cornell University conducted this literature review, aiming to provide the pig industry a progressed understanding of major impacts of heat stress and an update on mitigation strategies.

Impact one

Impact one is the reduced growth rate of grower finisher pigs during the hot season.

The summer conditions in Australia were reported to reduce the growth rate by 8 percent – this magnitude of reduction can cause a 5kg reduction in carcass weight.

As the peak pork consumption season in Australia is in summer, Australian pig producers do not have the flexibility in delaying slaughter age to maintain carcass weight.

The 5kg reduction in carcass weight is estimated to be a \$10.90 loss per finisher pig, equivalent to \$13.6 million for the 1.25 million finisher pigs slaughtered during summer in Australia.

Strategies

Increasing dietary fat or oil inclusion rate has been reported as a major dietary strategy to improve the growth rate of finisher pigs under hot conditions.

However, it is advised that pig producers should evaluate the cost and benefit of this strategy given the current high price of tallow. The pig industry is still

looking for a cost-effective strategy to improve the growth rate of pigs under hot conditions.

Impact two

Impact two is sows mated in summer having a reduced farrowing rate – known as 'summer infertility'.

In Australia, the sows mated in summer had approximately a 10-15 percent reduction in farrowing rate compared with the yearly average.

The low farrowing rate manifests as an increased proportion of early pregnancy disruption observed around 35 days post-mating.

To maintain the constant supply of finisher pigs to the market, pig producers impacted by summer infertility usually need to mate extra sows to compensate for the reduced farrowing rate.

For compensating a 15 percent reduction in farrowing rate, it is estimated that feeding and mating the extra sows and the prolonged non-reproductive days will increase the cost of production by \$2.70 per finisher pig born to the sows mated during the summer infertility window.

The economic loss is equivalent to \$3.4 million for the 1.25 million finisher pigs that were born to the sows mated in summer in Australia.

Strategies

Multiple strategies have shown beneficial effects in improving the farrowing rate of sows mated in summer, including supplementing essential fatty acids during summer lactation, dextrose supplementation during the weaning-to-remating interval, hormone support for early embryo survival, vitamin Bs supplementation during gestation and optimising stocking rate of gestation pens.

Impact three

Impact three is progeny born to the sows mated in summer having increased carcass backfat at slaughter, resulting in a seasonal peak of backfat around October in the Australian pig industry – termed as 'October fat pigs'.

High carcass backfat attracts price penalties in the Australian pig market.

With the funding support from Australian Pork Limited, researchers from Rivalea Australia and the University of Melbourne completed a collaborative project to understand the October fat pig phenomena.

Farm data suggested that the sows mated in summer had an increased proportion of born-light – less than 1.1kg – piglets from 16-24 percent.

It is estimated that the greater proportion of born-light piglets can increase populational carcass backfat by 0.3mm at slaughter, resulting in a \$4.20 loss in the carcass value, equivalent to \$5.3 million loss for the 1.25 million finisher pigs born to the sows mated in summer in Australia.

University of Melbourne PhD student Mr Weicheng Zhao found that the increased carcass fatness of progeny born to sows mated in summer may be related to the impacts of gestational heat stress on foetal development.

Data published in *Scientific Reports* showed that exposing pregnant gilts to hot conditions during early-mid gestation can reduce placental nutrient transporters and reduce foetal muscle fibre numbers.

The impaired muscle fibre proliferation during the foetal phase may compromise muscle deposition potential in the later life, thus resulting in more energy deposited as fat tissue.

So far, no effective strategy has been developed to offset the negative impacts of gestational heat stress on progeny pigs.

Summary

In summary, the above three major impacts of heat stress are estimated to cost the Australian pig industry around \$22 million per year, while the heat stress associated with increased mortality rates, additional labour and energy costs have not been calculated.

The current heat stress mitigation strategies developed are mainly nutrition-based, as nutritional strategies are suitable for seasonal usage and mainly a one-off investment.

More comprehensive strategies should be investigated, such as environmental control, animal housing and management, and breeding pigs with greater heat resilience and reversing the pace of global warming.

This literature review has been published in the open-access journal *Animal*, and can be accessed via sciedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1751731121001920

For more information on this review and the authors, contact Dr Fan Liu at fliu@rivalea.com.au

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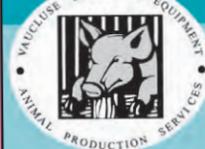
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