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New website for animal industries antimicrobial stewardship

THE animal industries research, development and extension strategy now has a home.

The launch of the new Animal Industries Antimicrobial Stewardship RD&E Strategy website represents five years of work on behalf of Australian livestock industries, with the aim to understand and improve veterinary antimicrobial stewardship and share knowledge and ideas.

In Australia, the animal industries are responsible for maintaining the health, welfare and productivity of the livestock in their care and ensuring safe food products for human consumption.

Access to antimicrobials are an important part of maintaining this responsibility, however they must be used without detriment to human, animal or plant health.

Use of antimicrobials may result in the development of antimicrobial resistant bacteria, which subsequently reduces the efficacy of antimicrobials to treat infection.

The development of AMR is a threat to managing infections in animals and humans, however access to the current range of antimicrobials

needs to be preserved so that treatments remain available for injured or ill people and animals.

Historical Australian initiatives have resulted in very low levels of AMR bacteria from food animals, however, further progress is needed to ensure this situation remains and Australian industries are afforded relevant opportunities to capitalise on this status.

The Australian red meat, dairy, pork and poultry industries have formed strong links to share information, opportunities and experiences related to progressing AMS in Australian animal industries.

They recently collaborated on the preparation of the Antimicrobial Stewardship in Australian Livestock Industries report and the establishment of the Australian Veterinary Antimicrobial Stewardship conference in November 2018.

Since that conference, there has been discussion on how to better collaborate on AMS research, development and extension activities of mutual interest and benefit.

To this end, the Animal Industry Antimicrobial Stewardship Research,

Development and Extension Strategy has been produced.

This strategy is focussed on prioritising RD&E that enhances AMS activities, rather than a sole focus on reduction in AMR or AMU, which are already comparatively low internationally.

The AIAS has been developed primarily to meet the needs of Australia's food animal industries but will also benefit the implementation of Australia's National AMR Strategy 2 and the Australian Animal Sector National Antimicrobial Resistance Plan 3.

The Australian Veterinary Association, the Australian Government Department of Agriculture, and AMR management experts were also consulted during the development of the strategy to ensure the AIAS fit within national and international AMR management initiatives and linked to biosecurity initiatives that impact AMU.

Accordingly, the AIAS aims to create a collaborative mechanism for animal industries to identify common RD&E pri-

continued P2

The must have conversation

AS outlined in the Australian Pork Limited 2020-2025 strategic plan, we have set several bold and audacious goals moving forward.

The pork industry is progressive in its actions and will continue to be within our culture, our values and our ideals, as much as our activity.

At the very heart of our industry are our people, and it is the people who work within our sector that allow us to progress, to innovate and to thrive.

This, coupled with my own personal interest, saw APL facilitate our very first Women in Pork event around International Women's Day – to open the door on conversations that producers and the total meat sector needs to be having.

Meat Business Women, a global professional networking group for women working in the meat industry, produced a first-of-its-kind report last year, which built a case for immediate action in addressing gender inequality in the sector by highlighting a few very sobering facts. The research showed globally women are under-represented at every level, aside from junior positions.

In fact, women hold only 14 percent of Board-level director roles and only 5 percent of chief executive roles.

The study also identifies 'broken rungs' in the career ladder that prevent women in the meat sector from advancing to more senior roles.

It suggests women find it easier to pursue careers in marketing, finance, human resources, research and development, and quality fields.

However, those disciplines rarely act as stepping-stones into the



Point of View

by MARGO ANDRAE CEO



cluding APL's delegates forum

- Continuing visibility of woman in pork across the supply chain on all APL's communications channel

- Support MBW and territory partner AMIC to create more inclusive networking opportunities, providing a platform for women in the industry to connect.

Continuing the theme of attracting and retaining the best possible talent for our industry, particularly as we are facing a critical labour shortage, APL's policy team will continue to highlight to government the significant role that temporary migrant workers play in sustaining our businesses, local communities and the broader Australian economy.

To reiterate the earlier sentiment of this article, the very heart of our industry is our people, and we will continue to fight the red tape that continues to hamper our industry's growth in 2021.

I'll expand on this work and APL's positioning in this space in upcoming issues of this publication. 🐷

most senior positions.

In addition to these insights, we had 90 producers and others representing the supply chain join us for the virtually run Women in Pork event, and 60 percent of these women agreed the biggest challenge they face is feeling accepted and being taken seriously in a traditionally male-dominated industry.

We also asked the group to select what they saw as the key priorities for women working in the sector:

- 45 percent determined creating visibility of women in the industry was most important

- 30 percent identified mentoring the next generation as a priority

- 10 percent said the industry needed more opportunities for diversity and inclusion.

The event was something I'm extremely proud to have been a part of.

It felt inclusive, energetic and productive, and to be involved in a meat industry call with the faces of 90 women looking back at me, as opposed to the frequent notion of being the only women in the room, was incredibly refreshing and exciting.

My team are working to support MBW and the Australian territory partner AMIC by ini-



Margo Andrae, CEO, APL
Women in Pork event



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Pork Industry Calendar of Events

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E: pppe@australianpork.com.au

AUG tbc – Kingaroy Baconfest
www.kingaroybaconfest.com.au

SEP 7-10 – International Animal Production Show www.feriazaragoza.com/figan-2021

NOV 15-18 – Australasian Pig Science Association (APSA) Conference
www.apsa.asn.au

NOV 21-23 – AVAMS21, Gold Coast
www.avams2020.com.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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Policy priorities African swine fever and biosecurity

THE foundation for my new role at Australian Pork Limited, as a policy analyst working across biosecurity and animal welfare, was sparked by a passion for pigs and the industry from growing up on a family hobby farm.

At university, I explored this interest through my electives and 'pig club', and graduated with a Bachelor of Science (Animal Science).

Before joining APL earlier this year, I worked for the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment in the biosecurity and animal welfare areas.

Australia's biosecurity system is fundamental to the success of our agricultural industries, and to the health of our natural environment, communi-

ties and economy.

With the ever-present threat of African swine fever, biosecurity and emergency animal disease preparedness are a high priority for the APL policy team.

Biosecurity should be a prioritised shared responsibility of governments, industry and the broader community.

APL strongly believes this can be achieved by collaborating and strengthening our working relationship with state and territory governments, as well as DAWE.



Policy Perspective

by CHARLEY-ROSE FORD



Photo: Livestock Industries

New website for animal industries antimicrobial stewardship

from P1

orities for the effective monitoring of AMU and surveillance of AMR to inform stewardship actions that meet Australia's animal health and market access needs, without impacting food safety or human health.

Through this strategy, animal industries could maintain access to antimicrobials provided their use was:

- Reviewed using evidence-based science
- Responsible and appropriately managed the risks of AMR development
- Continuously refined and reduced
- Managing the risk of having to replace effective antimicrobials with less effective antimicrobials.

This strategy sets out the framework and how it was used to identify priority AMU and AMR R&D and how those outputs feed up through the logic to enhance AMS, through extension.

Formalised under the AIAS RD&E Strategy, the website is self-sustainable with contributions through the Australian Veterinary Antimicrobial Stewardship conference, which will be held at the Intercontinental Sanctuary Cove, Gold Coast in Queensland from November 21-23, 2021.

Australian Chicken Meat Federation deputy executive director and chair of the organising committee for AVAMS21 Dr Kylie

Hewson said, "This conference will provide those who manage animal health in all sectors the opportunity to contribute to, and learn about, the growing number of antimicrobial stewardship initiatives underway in Australia and develop collaborative opportunities to strengthen these initiatives and address barriers that impede further progress in antimicrobial stewardship."

"Australian approaches to the appropriate use of antimicrobials in animals have always had their basis in the principles of antimicrobial stewardship and lead the world in many of these initiatives," Dr Hewson said.

"However, there is

more that can be done to capture current efforts and clarify areas that require further progress.

"All animal sectors have the dual responsibilities of minimising the development of antimicrobial resistance, while upholding our collective responsibility to ensure high standards of animal health and welfare are maintained.

"While the COVID-19 pandemic has shifted global focus to human health, we must continue to focus on making improvements in animal health to minimise the potential risks to animal and human health, such as AMR.

"The efficacy of antimicrobials to treat human bacterial in-

fection, which are a common complication of respiratory diseases such as those caused by COVID-19, is now more important than it has been in a generation.

"We must ensure the animal sector is doing all it can to use antimicrobials responsibly to manage animal health and welfare while minimising its contribution to the AMR burden.

"I look forward to welcoming you to the Gold Coast in 2021, where there will be plenty of opportunity to expand professional networks and hopefully leave the conference with a resolve to action changes in your sector."

For further information, contact Charley Ford at charley.ford@australianpork.com.au

For further information, visit aiasrdstrategy.com.au

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Animal welfare during transport is everyone's responsibility

WITH heightened industry focus on biosecurity, it is important that we consider the implications biosecurity measures can have on our supply chain partners, such as livestock transporters.

When transporting livestock, it is essential they are managed in a way that reduces stress and minimises any risks to animal welfare.

All parties need to comply with the Australian Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines – Land Transport of Livestock and relevant state and territory legislation, which requires a thorough understanding of roles and responsibilities by both producers and transporters – animalwelfarestandards.net.au/files/2015/12/Land-transport-of-livestock-Standards-and-Guidelines-Version-1-1-21-September-2012.pdf

While legislation varies between states, a person in charge must exercise a duty of care to ensure the welfare of livestock under their control, and compliance with these transport standards.

The summarised chain of responsibility for livestock welfare in the transport process is:

- The livestock consignor is responsible for the livestock until they are loaded onto the transport vehicle, including the assessment and selection as 'fit for the intended journey', feed and water provision and holding periods before loading



Quality Assurance

by BJORN LUDVIGSEN



• The driver or transporting company is responsible for the livestock from the point of loading of livestock (including inspection and assessment of livestock during loading), to the point of unloading and notifying the receiver of the livestock at the destination, and

- The receiver is responsible for the livestock after unloading.

However, when it comes to the livestock transporter's responsibility under these standards, they now face a serious challenge.

Generally, piggeries implementing best-practice biosecurity would prevent a transporter from walking the holding yards to inspect stock prior to loading, which is contrary to what the transport standards require.

As such, transporters

may only get to inspect the pigs as they ascend the ramp or step onto the truck after the animal has crossed the farm's biosecurity clean-dirty line, a defined point of no return. Rejecting an animal identified as unfit for the journey beyond this point becomes a challenge as it cannot re-enter the farm, cannot continue the journey and often cannot be drafted to a holding pen.

It is therefore imperative that producers facilitate their own strong biosecurity practices by supporting their transporters and doing their own thorough pre-load inspection of every pig.

If an animal is not fit for the journey, the producer must then either treat the animal and reassess, consult their veterinarian, or humanely euthanise the animal via an approved means.

A pig with an ailment but deemed still fit to load must be clearly identified

via spray marking or ear tag, be pre-notified to the abattoir, be noted on the PigPass National Vendor Declaration and loaded at the rear of the truck, so they can be unloaded first and easily separated.

Proper assessment of fitness to load ensures pig welfare is not compromised and that neither the producer or transporter are going to be reported for loading and transporting an animal not fit for the intended journey.

Abattoirs and saleyards also have a duty of care to the livestock they receive.

If they receive an animal they deem unfit for the journey taken, these livestock will be managed according to their policies and procedures, which may include reporting to the department for investigation.

Just as everyone has a role to play in protecting

and maintaining the industry's biosecurity during loading and transport, everyone has a role to play in ensuring animal welfare is not compromised as a result.

The APL 'Is it fit for the intended journey' guide is available via the website at australianpork.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/FFTIJ-A-Guide-Final-Document.pdf

The guide has been developed to assist producers and stockpeople handling pigs to make informed decisions concerning the fitness of stock prior to and during loading.

Printed copies are also freely available.

If you'd like one, contact Rachael Bryant at rachael.bryant@australianpork.com.au or call 02 6270 8823.



All parties need to comply with the relevant state and territory legislation, which requires a thorough understanding of roles and responsibilities by both producers and transporters.

Under the microscope: Australia's efforts to curb antimicrobial resistance

THE Australian Government has published the final progress report for Australia's first national Antimicrobial Resistance Strategy 2015–2019, detailing efforts to limit the incidence of antimicrobial resistance in Australia.

AMR is recognised as one of the most serious

health problems facing the world.

As bacteria, viruses and fungi continue to develop resistance to existing medications, this presents a greater risk of serious health impacts, as well as affecting food production and the livelihoods and security of producers.

In 2020, the Australian Government released the national Antimicrobial Resistance Strategy 2020 and Beyond, and announced more than \$22.5 million over four years in the 2020–21 budget to implement it.

Minister for Agriculture, Drought and Emergency Management David Littleproud said that globally the use of antibiotics in livestock had been recognised as a potential source for antimicrobial resistance.

"Australia is a world leader in minimising the use of antibiotics in food-producing animals, which means that there is a low risk of developing antimicrobial resistance from animals in this country," Minister Littleproud said. "We have introduced regulatory and industry changes to ensure registered animal antimicrobials that are medically important for human health no longer claim to promote growth in animals."

Minister for Health and Aged Care Greg Hunt said the report identified important AMR initiatives and the collaborative efforts by government and private sector organisations across the One Health sectors of human and animal health, food and the environment.

"These combined efforts aim to minimise the emergence and spread of drug-resistant organisms in Australia, and the region will ensure antimicrobial medicines continue to be effective and available to treat infections into the future," Minister Hunt said.

"We have seen antibiotic dispensing rates for Australians steadily decrease, down approximately 13 percent since a peak in 2015, equating to around two million fewer prescriptions dispensed, which is a really positive development."

"This and other initiatives show there is increasing understanding and awareness among doctors and the community of the importance of only using antibiotics when absolutely necessary."

Minister for the Environment Sussan Ley said Australian research is adding to our understanding of how antimicrobials enter our environment and accumulate over time.

standing of how antimicrobials enter our environment and accumulate over time.

"It's not just limited to hospital floors, drug-resistant bacteria, viruses and fungi can evolve in any environment," Minister Ley said.

"Our new national AMR strategy will be supported with initiatives including developing a

One Health surveillance system, a national antimicrobial resistance research and development agenda and a national monitoring and evaluation framework."

Minister Ley is a member of the One Health Global Leaders Group on Antimicrobial Resistance.

For more information, visit amr.gov.au



The Australian Government announced more than \$22.5 million over four years for the national Antimicrobial Resistance Strategy 2020 and Beyond.

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ASF a major swing factor in global pork markets

AFRICAN swine fever is still actively driving pork markets around the world and creating many areas of uncertainty in China and Germany.

China is the most obvious country where ASF continues to have a major influence.

Its spread over winter highlights the challenges of managing this disease, and it has complicated the picture of China's pork supply and demand.

Rabobank global strategist animal protein Justin Sherrard said, "ASF is creating significant uncertainty in key areas, such as China's herd numbers and the outlook for 2021, especially for the sow population but also on China's pork production and pork prices."

While Rabobank believes pig supply will generally increase in 2021,

prices are expected to fluctuate due to the uncertainties of disease development, restocking interests, feed costs and import policies.

"Our view is that average hog prices in 2021 will be lower than in 2020 and subject to strong ups and downs during the year," Mr Sherrard said.

As China's economy is expected to recover further from COVID-19 impacts in 2021, this will support foodservice demand and institutional consumption, as well as household consumption.

As pork prices will soften from the high levels of 2020, they will get support from improved demand.

About the situation in Germany

The ongoing pressure from ASF's spread in Germany is also significant

and while progress has been made in containing the disease, more work is needed.

The situation in Germany has implications for other parts of Europe as well.

"After the ASF outbreak in Germany was confirmed in September 2020, 10 countries imposed import bans on German pork including China, Japan and Vietnam, leaving about an extra 70,000 metric tonnes of pork on the European market each month," Mr Sherrard said.

Though a number of countries recently relaxed import bans on German pork, the import ban by China will likely remain in place for the first half of 2021 at a minimum, as the situation is still evolving.

The outbreak has already had a significant impact on piglet and live

pig imports to Germany, and lower live animal imports will likely continue in 2021.

From September to November 2020, piglet imports from Denmark and the Netherlands – the two major suppliers of piglets to Germany – dropped by 25 and 31 percent respectively compared to the same period in 2019.

This represents a total of 0.7m less head imported to Germany – approximately 1 percent of the total slaughtered animals in 2020.

About the impact on world pork trade

The implications of ASF for world pork trade are a major swing factor in global pork markets.

China's booming import demand for pork and other species was a major demand driver in global animal protein markets in 2020, but Rabobank anticipates China's pork imports will decline in 2021.

"At the same time, we see all exporting countries looking to maintain trade with China," Mr Sherrard said.

"Price will be one major factor that determines which countries will maintain high pork trade flows to China in 2021, along with availability and geopolitical considerations."

CRISPR could help control ASF outbreaks

RESEARCHERS at the International Livestock Research Institute said that new vaccine trials against the east African strain of African swine fever are yielding promising results.

Scientists at the ILRI are using CRISPR Cas9 gene editing and synthetic biology to modify the African swine fever genome to produce attenuated virus for vaccines that could reduce deaths from the pig disease.

The method has yielded 10 potential vaccine candidates.

Leading scientist in the vaccine research on ASF at ILRI Lucilla Steinaa said, "This is the first test based on a genome to be conducted on genotype IX, which is prevalent in eastern and central Africa."

The genetic characterisation of all the ASF virus isolates known so far has demonstrated 23 geographically related genotypes with numerous subgroups, according to the Food and Agriculture Organisation.

"We have just started the lab experiment, a controlled animal experiment, which I estimate may run until the end of 2022 or thereabouts," Ms Steinaa said.

"By then, we hope to have found a candidate vaccine that can be produced."

Outbreaks of African

swine fever have been detected in 26 African nations, as well as parts of Asia and Europe.

An effective vaccine would be a major breakthrough for pig farmers and ensure global pork supplies remained stable.

"The only reason it's not yet a catastrophe here is that pig production is not one of the biggest commodities in Africa," Ms Steinaa said.

"But Africa is doing a lot more pig rearing year by year."

"It would be a disaster if they had a big production similar to say Europe."

With 400 million pigs, China has the largest share of the world's total population of 770 million pigs.

With a 100 percent fatality rate and a highly contagious nature, ASF poses a potent threat to the global pig farming industry.

The rapid spread of the disease portends social

and economic disruptions wherever it strikes.

Smallholder farmers are particularly vulnerable to the devastation wrought by the disease, which has seen many of them shun pig farming.

"A vaccine would obviously prevent that," Ms Steinaa said.

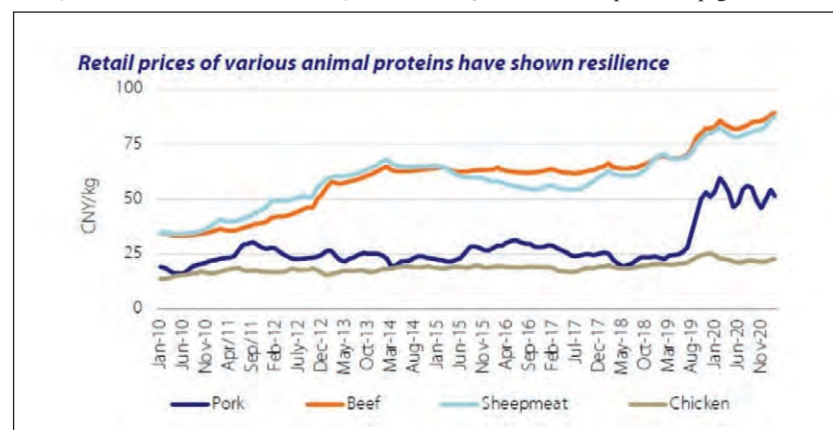
"If it can be availed at a price that is affordable, then this would be the easiest way to maintain production."

Successes in the ongoing vaccine trials on genotype IX will provide valuable lessons in the race for a comprehensive cure for ASF – a disease that has wreaked havoc in many parts of the globe since its discovery in Kenya about a century ago.

Steinaa added that scientists are also trying to attenuate theileria parva, the protozoan parasite that causes east coast fever, using the same technique used for ASF.



New vaccine trials yield promising results against the east African strain of African swine fever.



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

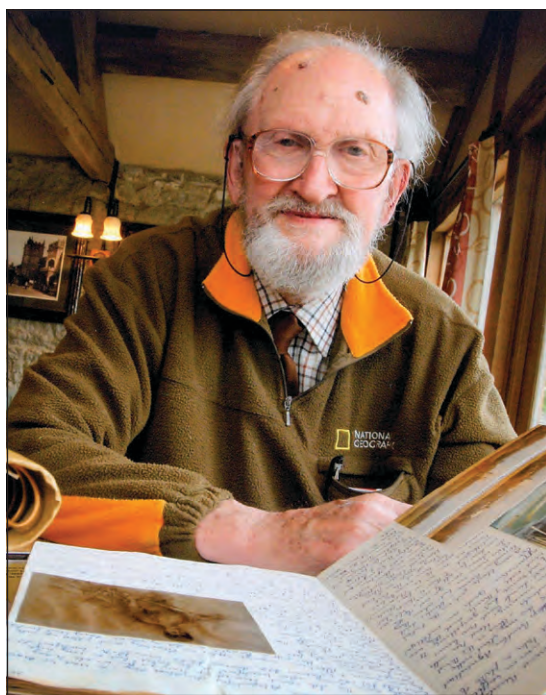


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John Gadd was not only a good speaker but also a meticulous record keeper. He kept a daily diary for many years, which he called the 'Omnium Gatherum', meaning a collection of miscellaneous people or things. Complete with an index, it comprised 170 volumes with at least 36,000 illustrations, mostly photos, and about 5 million words.

Gadd memories of Pig Day

Cant Comment

by BRENDON CANT



pork and bacon carcass competition were also announced and presented with their prizes.

A keynote speaker also took centre stage to inform and entertain the gathered throng.

One of the most memorable and informative of those was none other than acclaimed UK pig consultant John Gadd.

Others I recall introducing while working as Brad's public relations 'sidekick' and Pig Day master of ceremonies, included local identities Roger Campbell and Ross Cutler.

I recall John fondly as a quirky Englishman, with a sharp wit, who methodically offered several game changing and very practical solutions to pig-gery problems.

While I suspect he rattled off the same favoured game changers to similar audiences all over the world, he always delivered with an air of authority, believability, knowledge and more than a passing interest in the good and bad habits he saw in Australian piggeries.

Sadly, I recently learnt of John's August 2020 passing, at the quite ripe old age of 90, via a delightful piece put together in *Pig Progress* magazine by its editor, Vincent ter Beek.

virtually concluded his highly acclaimed professional pig career as chief executive officer of Pork CRC.

In his warm *Pig Progress* tribute to John, Vincent underlined what we all knew about John – his specialty was pig management issues, which he advised on so sagely in 300 or so columns in *Pig Progress* over the past 30 years.

In his long career, he had seen countless swine farms in the 33 countries he had visited professionally.

He kept a close record of everything he saw on farms, of what he advised and what he learnt.

With that, he could write

about do's and don'ts, about things that can go wrong and things that should be improved, in an easy-to-read style, combining a joke with hands-on advice.

How to find the best age for weaning, how to optimise ventilation in farms, how to do appraisals.

Every time a pig-related question included "how", John surely knew the answer.

Quite appropriately, his column series was called 'What the Textbooks Never Tell You About.'

RIP John Gadd and RIP Pig Day.

Both were ground breakers in their day and remain unmatched today.



Porker and baconer carcass competitions were a feature of Watsonia Pig Day.



At WA Pork Producers' Association annual dinner in 2014, industry veterans Brad Thomason (centre left) and Roger Campbell enjoyed a good old-fashioned chin wag, most probably reflecting on Pig Days back in the day.

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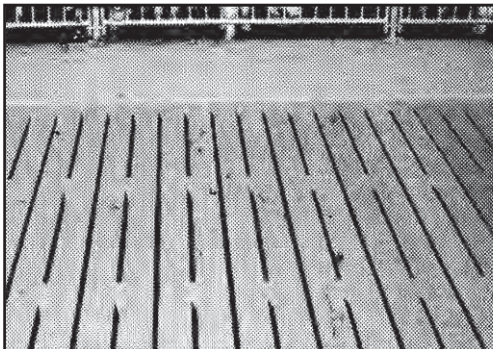
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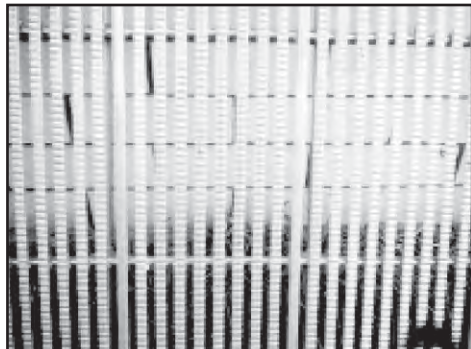
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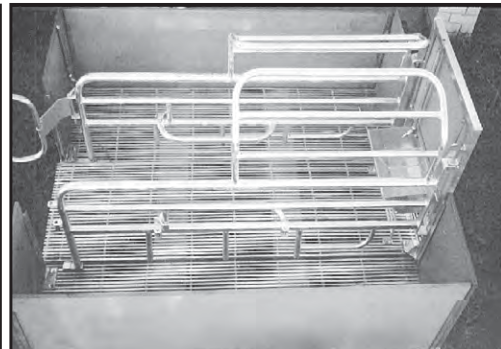
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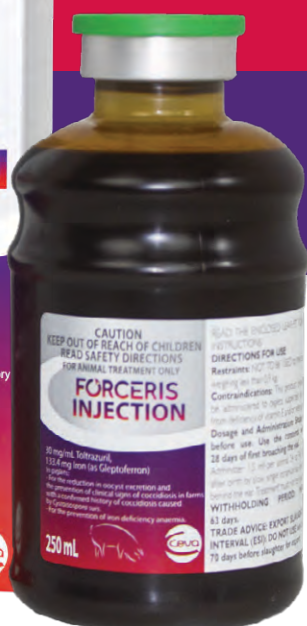


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*Commercially available toltrazuril / glepoferron combination. 1. Joachim et al., Parasites & Vectors, 2018. 2. Ceva internal data. 3. Sperling et al. Veterinary Record, 2018.

		AusScan Early Harvest Report: February 2021															
Energy Values for Cereal Grains																	
Barley																	
	Pig Faecal DE MJ/Kg					Pig Ileal DE MJ/Kg				Broiler AME MJ/Kg				Broiler AME Index			
Region	Mean	SD	Min	Max	Mean	SD	Min	Max	Mean	SD	Min	Max	Mean	SD	Min	Max	
NSW	12.5	0.13	12.3	12.6	10.1	0.10	10.0	10.3	11.6	0.23	11.1	11.8					
NSW1	13.3	0.08	13.0	13.5	10.7	0.18	10.3	11.4	11.9	0.17	11.4	12.3					
QLD	12.5	0.17	12.0	12.9	10.3	0.39	9.4	11.7	11.6	0.39	10.9	12.6					
SA	12.5	0.17	12.1	12.8	10.1	0.21	9.6	10.5	11.6	0.40	10.8	12.7					
SA1	13.1	0.27	12.4	13.5	10.8	0.29	10.1	11.2	12.5	0.38	11.9	13.1	66.4	2.94	61.4	72.3	
SA2	12.8	0.22	12.4	13.1	10.7	0.17	10.4	10.9	12.3	0.20	12.0	12.6	65.5	1.27	62.9	67.1	
VIC	12.5	0.18	11.9	13.7	10.4	0.35	9.6	12.1	11.6	0.39	10.4	12.7					
Sorghum																	
	Pig Faecal DE MJ/Kg					Pig Ileal DE MJ/Kg				Broiler AME MJ/Kg				Broiler AME Index			
Region	Mean	SD	Min	Max	Mean	SD	Min	Max	Mean	SD	Min	Max	Mean	SD	Min	Max	
QLD	14.4	0.18	14.2	14.7	11.8	0.55	11.0	12.4	14.6	0.31	14.1	15.1					
Triticale																	
	Pig Faecal DE MJ/Kg					Pig Ileal DE MJ/Kg				Broiler AME MJ/Kg				Broiler AME Index			
Region	Mean	SD	Min	Max	Mean	SD	Min	Max	Mean	SD	Min	Max	Mean	SD	Min	Max	
SA1	13.7	0.15	13.4	13.9	11.8	0.17	11.6	12.2	13.5	0.51	13.0	15.1	76.4	3.55	70.6	87.2	
Wheat																	
	Pig Faecal DE MJ/Kg					Pig Ileal DE MJ/Kg				Broiler AME MJ/Kg				Broiler AME Index			
Region	Mean	SD	Min	Max	Mean	SD	Min	Max	Mean	SD	Min	Max	Mean	SD	Min	Max	
NSW	13.6	0.46	12.5	13.8	11.6	0.68	10.1	12.1	12.9	0.55	11.7	13.3					
NSW1	13.9	0.15	13.2	14.4	12.0	0.24	10.8	12.6	12.8	0.24	11.9	13.5					
QLD	13.8	0.10	13.1	14.0	11.8	0.21	10.6	12.4	12.8	0.37	11.1	13.7					
SA	13.7	0.05	13.6	13.9	11.7	0.15	11.3	12.2	12.7	0.29	12.1	13.6					
SA1	14.0	0.18	13.6	14.3	12.2	0.15	11.7	12.5	13.2	0.37	12.4	13.9	71.3	4.2	63.1	81.1	
SA2	14.0	0.20	13.8	14.4	12.1	0.30	11.8	12.6	12.9	0.28	12.6	13.5	70.8	2.7	64.9	75.3	
VIC	13.7	0.10	12.5	13.9	11.8	0.20	10.1	12.5	12.7	0.30	11.7	13.9					

APRIL opens applications for Industry Placement Program Award

THE Australasian Pork Research Institute Limited is pleased to announce a call for applications for its Industry Placement Program Award scheme.

As a key part of APRIL's strategy to assist with human capacity building in the Australasian pork industry, funding is available to support another IPP award – to join IPP awards already in place with Lauren Staveley of SunPork Farms South in South Australia and Dr Maria Jorquera-Chavez of Rivalea Australia Pty Ltd in Corowa NSW.

The overall aims of the IPP are to:

- Retain graduates trained by APRIL, the Pork CRC, Australian Pork Limited and other applicable organisations, at the honours or post-graduate level, and attract others to the Australasian pork industry by sponsoring their placement in a commercial pork production organisation or an affiliated business within the Australasian



pork industry in a structured and enhanced development program

- Attract and stimulate graduates with an interest in pork production into the business side of the industry as a career, while continuing their development and understanding of how research and technology will enhance industry competitiveness and success
- Expose graduates wanting a long-term research or technical support role in the industry to commercial aspects of pork production and enhance their contributions and value to pork businesses in their future roles.

APRIL will provide the successful business applicant with \$75,000 over the first two years of a three-year agreement to help cover salary and other costs associated with training the awardee for the three years.

Applications must be lodged electronically by the applying business organisation, and include the name and qualifications of the proposed candidate, to the APRIL chief scientist and chief executive officer Dr John Pluske at j.pluske@april.org.au or 0410 436871.

Any questions on the IPP award or process can also be directed to Dr John Pluske.

Applications open on April 12, 2021 and close May 21, 2021, with the final date for decision being late June to early July 2021.

Information relating the IPP requirements and the application form can be found at apri.com.au/education/

APRIL launches the Commercialisation Advisory Panel

APRIL is often contacted by researchers with very innovative ideas seeking instant feedback, with the view to submitting a project for funding.

Usually the advice is to canvas your idea to industry stakeholders, and this takes time with responses often varied.

Momentum can be lost and the idea put aside, which is not a good outcome.

Hence APRIL's concept of providing an industry based advisory panel to assess and explore the proposed novel concept and then provide the innovator with direct feedback.

The APRIL Commercialisation Advisory Panel consists of industry leaders with vast experience in all facets of pork production, applied research and commercialisation.

ACAP is chaired by Dr Gerard Davis of BioInfo Consulting and Investment, and panel members are Dr Rob van Barmveld, Mr Kenton Shaw of SunPork Farms, Dr Cherie Collins, Mr David Henman of Rivalea Australia and Mr Neil Ferguson of Westpork.

The panel met for the first time in March this year to assess a possible project involving the application of the internet of things and accompanying support platforms.

This is a rapidly growing area and the availability of new technologies could provide opportunities across the industry.

The panel is expected to meet approximately four times per year, and researchers and innovators are encouraged to contact commercialisation and research impact manager Dr Charles Rikard-Bell at c.rikardbell@april.org.au or 0439 513 723.

Any questions regarding commercialisation or innovation applications can also be directed to Dr Charles Rikard-Bell.

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French study finds no evidence of prescribing bias of vets

A FRENCH study of veterinary prescribing practices, contracts and medicine purchases failed to find evidence that joint prescription and delivery introduces any potential prescription bias linked to conflicts of interest.

In France, as in Australia, vets can both prescribe and sell veterinary medicines, but there is substantial pressure on French vets to observe good antimicrobial stewardship due to the targets on reduced use set by the European Union.

This statistically complex study analysed a data set of nearly 500 purchasing contracts between 35 vet practices, 23 pharmaceutical companies and involved 125 medicines during the 2008-2014 period.

Its purpose was to ex-

amine whether the prescription behaviour of vets can be biased by joint prescription and sale.

It is of interest because in France more than 80 percent of medicine delivery is performed by veterinarians despite variations in livestock systems and species.

Behind the study is the idea that vets – following undue pressure by their customers or the pharmaceutical industry – will prescribe more antimicrobials than necessary and that this in turn will lead to increased antimicrobial resistance.

This has been found to be true in human medicine in Denmark.

There, in about 2011, an increase in the number – from 3 to 10 – of medicines containing ciprofloxacin was associated

with a 53 percent decrease in the price of those medicines.

Because of the price decrease, more ciprofloxacin was used and the proportion of urinary e coli resistant to ciprofloxacin increased by 200 percent in the following four years.

The analysis focussed largely on the rebates vets received relative to the amount of medicine sold when compared to their contract.

The price per unit after rebate of each drug and contract was calculated.

Several models of usage and price were compared, but the yearly income for the vet practices was not associated with rebates in any model.

Where rebates occurred, the decrease in price per unit after rebate was \$A0.095 per 100kg body weight for anticoccidiosis treatments, \$A0.045 per 100kg body weight for anti-inflammatories, \$A0.019 per 100kg body weight, \$A0.13 per animal for antiparasitics, and \$A0.048 per animal for intramammary antimicrobials.

For antimicrobial drugs, the rebate price was not related to increasing sales on a per kilogram body-weight basis.

On an animal basis, the antimicrobial price paid by the clinics decreased

by \$A0.048 cents per animal for each additional \$A1,550.54 of planned sales – hardly enough to seriously sway prescribing practice.

It looks as though French cattle vets are prescribing on the basis of selecting the best drug for the purpose rather than any profit motive.

The findings are consistent with a recent French project involving multiple stakeholders, which resulted in the reduced total consumption of antimicrobials in livestock by up to 37 percent from 2012 to 2017.

In the case of vets in the European countries where prescription and delivery are decoupled – that is vets can prescribe but not sell antimicrobial drugs – no systematic changes in the pattern of antimicrobial use have been observed.

Probably because several factors influence the end user.

Among them cost, ease of use, delivery, regulation, risk management and timing.

Vets apparently are not the rogues the European regulators thought they might be.

Disclosure: In an earlier life, the author was a consulting vet who prescribed medicines to his clients' herds.

Ross Cutler



Substantial pressure is on French vets to observe good antimicrobial stewardship due to the targets on reduced use set by the European Union.



Photo: NSW State Emergency Service

Support measures for farmers impacted by flood damage

AGRIBUSINESS banking specialist Rabobank has announced it will offer a range of support measures to farming clients adversely impacted by floods and torrential rainfall in NSW and Queensland.

Rabobank group executive country banking Australia Marcel van Doremaele said early indications were that damage from the recent extreme rainfall event affecting the eastern states had primarily been in coastal regions of NSW, particularly the mid-north coast, with reports of livestock losses, flooded paddocks, access issues and damage to fodder crops and fencing.

"As well as the devastating impact this rainfall event has had on a number of communities in northern NSW and southern Queens-

land, there are concerns about damage, particularly in the mid-north coast region of NSW," Mr van Doremaele said.

"We are keeping a close watch on the situation and are continuing to make contact with clients in impacted areas to offer support and gauge the extent of any damage they have sustained."

Mr van Doremaele said the bank would work directly with clients whose farms or agribusinesses had been impacted to provide support through immediate difficulties and offer a range of assistance measures in applicable circumstances.

These included:

- Deferral of scheduled loan payments
- Waiver of break costs on early redemption of farm management deposits

- Waiver of fees on loan increases necessary for rebuilding operations

- Waiver of fees for equipment finance contract variations.

Any farming clients who had been impacted by the floods and had not yet spoken to the bank, should contact their local branch or phone Rabobank on 1800 025 484.

Mr van Doremaele noted more heavy rainfall was forecast for northwest and western NSW, with heavy falls also experienced in southeast Queensland.

"While we hope good rainfall totals will be largely welcomed by producers in a number of those areas, there is the concern that excessive volumes could be damaging," he said.

For more information, visit rabobank.com.au



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The first crucial step of identifying a sow on heat and ready to mate hasn't changed.

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insemination techniques will rapidly become confident and even prefer Magapor PCAI solutions.

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Magapor PCAI solutions are so much faster and easier than conventional AI, that the reduced mating times and workload means you only ever need

your best staff on the job, even on the busiest days.

The time saved by using Magapor PCAI solutions can now be spent on the myriad of other tasks in a production facility, such as gilt stimulation, return detection, animal health and hygiene.

Australian producers are gaining confidence in Magapor PCAI solutions, which have been proven to maintain and occasionally even improve the basic parameters of farrowing rates and litter size in previously successful production systems.

In addition, Magapor PCAI provides many benefits not possible with traditional insemination methods.

Producers should be confident that the introduction of Magapor PCAI systems onto their farm carries little risk and offers many gains.

For more information, visit zamira.com.au



Wild boar roaming near houses in Lomianki county in Warsaw in 2018. Photo: Associated Press Czarek Sokolowski

ASF impact on pig production

AMID the continual media coverage of COVID-19, African swine fever continues to bubble along in the background, affecting pig production in Europe.

For the first time this year – and nearly a year on from their previous outbreak – a Polish farm has tested positive to ASF.

About 16,000 slaughter pigs at one of Poland's largest sow herds have been ordered to be destroyed after the herd was found to be infected with ASF.

Nordic News

by ASHLEY NORVAL



While authorities found the infection on March 17, the order for destruction was implemented a few days later.

The infected sow herd delivers piglets to other farms in the area for raising until slaughter. There is now concern that

these piglets could have transmitted the disease to receiving herds, and testing has been initiated.

So far, there have been no reports of other farms testing positive as a result of incoming stock.

The sow herd is located in Lubusz, western Poland.

This region has previously been hit, with many outbreaks of ASF among wild boar.

Lubusz is approximately 80km from the Polish-German border and as such, remains classified as a 'black' area for Danish trucks to transit through due to the high risk of ASF transmission.

ASF infected boars are still regularly found in Poland, as they have been for the past 12 months, however the outbreak is the first reported in a domestic herd in 2021.

In positive news, pig prices have slowly started to creep up over the past four weeks to about \$A2.20 – the highest in 20 weeks.

In a recently released report, SEGES has forecast that 2021 will be a year of growth in the prices of most agricultural products, including milk, pork and cereals.

The recently released *Markedsvurdering for landbrugsprodukter* – which translates to a market assessment for agricultural products, a biannual publication produced by SEGES – does not specifically state the expectation of commodity prices, but identifies a trend that there is the prospect of increases among products.

In particular, Danish pig prices have been negatively affected by the corona-crisis, in conjunction with the outbreak of ASF in Germany in 2020, however strong global demand has kept prices at a manageable level.

Due to the low pig prices in Germany as a result of ASF, piglet prices have fallen significantly – which is one of Denmark's largest export markets.

However, since the beginning of 2021, piglet prices have been increasing and SEGES is expecting further increases throughout the rest of the year.

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New learning management system for Australian pork sector

TRADITIONALLY the pork industry has long struggled with accessibility, availability and relevance of training due to geography, cost and limited training providers.

To address several of these issues, Australian Pork Limited has worked to set up an online learning management system to support industry access to training.

While not able to offer accredited training through the LMS – such as the Stockperson Skillset and Certificate III in Pork Production, which remain available through registered training organisations and technical and further education institutes – APL has transitioned the well-known ProHand Pigs over to this platform, as well as several other short online courses.

These newly developed courses will help build the skills of producers and their staff and will also be of benefit to those who support producers, such as service providers, biosecurity officers, and local and state government officials.



Producer Relations

by RACHAEL BRYANT



Access to the LMS is free for members of the Australian pork industry and being online, the content is optimised for use on desktop, tablet or phone.

Access customisation is available.

Administration level access – as a business owner or manager, you will be able to complete courses yourself plus create and manage learner accounts for other staff.

Learner level access – you will have access to the following courses depending on your role and what your employer requires:

ProHand Pigs

Targeted at farm stock people, this course explores both pig and stockperson behaviour to en-

sure pigs are being moved in a high-welfare, low stress manner on farm.

ProHand Abattoir

Targeted at transporters and lairage workers, this course explores both pig and stockperson behaviour to ensure pigs are being moved in a high-welfare, low stress manner at the abattoir.

Induction course 1 – Introduction to the pork industry

Targeted at new farm staff, service providers and government staff, this course provides an introduction to the Australian pork industry covering pig production and piggery biosecurity.

Induction course 2 – Working with pigs

Targeted at new farm

staff, service providers, and government staff, this course provides an introduction to on-farm activities and practices including pig behaviour, moving and handling pigs, medicating pigs, tagging pigs, euthanasia and disposal of pigs, and effluent and bedding waste.

Necropsy of a pig

Targeted at vets and farm staff, this course comprises of a series of videos showing how to compete a full pig necropsy, including which samples to take and submit for exclusion testing.

African swine fever training

Targeted at anyone within industry, this course was developed by the national Meat Industry Training Advisory Council and APL to provide an understanding of ASF and preparation for a potential disease outbreak,

and was originally developed for meat inspectors but is also very relevant to pig producers and other industry stakeholders.

Each of the courses housed on the platform provides the learner with a certificate once they have completed the course, and these can be used to evidence staff training.

APL has also developed handy guides for both learners and admins to

make the LMS platform as user-friendly as possible.

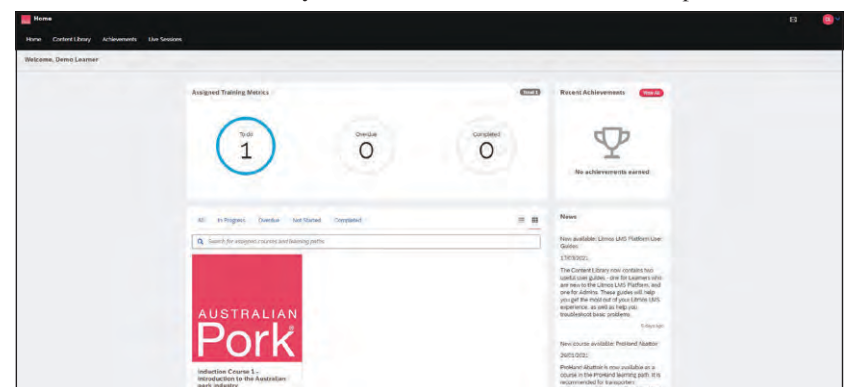
The current ProHand site will remain available and accessible to existing users for the time being, so if you already have an account, you will still be able to complete the training on there.

If you or your staff have previously completed the training on the old platform, APL recommends you download the certi-

ficate of completion, so you have a copy of it moving forward.

Finally, over time APL is intending to expand the courses offered on this LMS platform, beginning with ProHand Review.

If you have training needs in your business that you think could be met through a course on this platform, contact Rachael Bryant at rachael.bryant@australianpork.com.au



Australian Pork Limited have set up an online learning management system to support industry access to training.

QFF calls on State Government to co-fund safety improvements

THE Queensland Farmers' Federation is calling on the State Government to implement co-funding opportunities for farmers and other businesses to undertake a range of safety improvements after new statistics showed Queensland had one of the highest numbers of on-farm deaths in the country.

The Non-intentional Farm Related Incidents in Australia 2020 report compiled by AgriFutures Australia and AgHealth showed a total of 58 on-farm deaths were reported by the media during the period January 1 to December 31, 2020 – 16 of which were in Queensland.

QFF chief executive officer Dr Georgina Davis said agriculture

was one of the most dangerous sectors to work in due to the combination of hazards, including heavy plant and machinery, chemicals, noise, dust, sun and heat exposure, working with animals, alone or in remote locations.

"Safety is a serious consideration on Queensland farms to ensure farmers, workers and other people on farm are not exposed to risks to their health and safety, and QFF remains committed to promoting and advancing safe workplaces to turn these statistics around," Dr Davis said.

"We believe significant improvements could be made by implementing a government co-funded grants program in Queensland, supporting safety

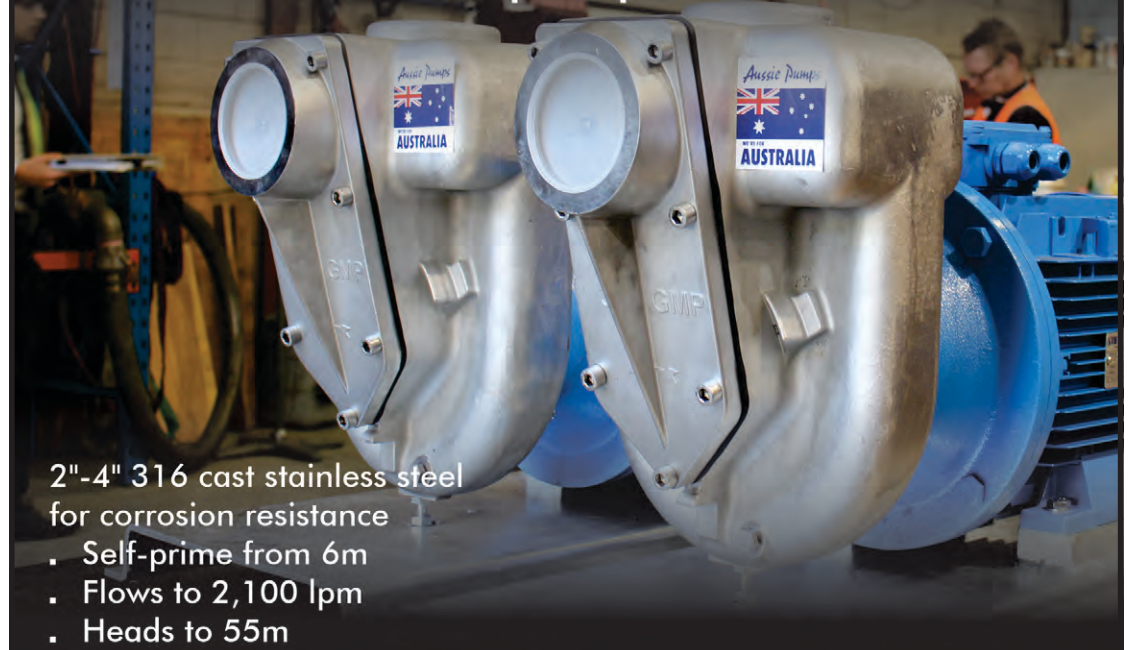
improvements such as installing crush protection devices on quad bikes, upgrading switchboards, fitting powerline markers, raising the height of distribution lines, devices to boost mobile phone coverage for remote workers and training."

"A similar scheme is already operating successfully in NSW and we appeal to the Queensland Government to take a common-sense approach to addressing risk and ensuring the safety of our farmers at work."

"Reducing farm fatalities requires significant investment of energy, capital and human resources, but we have many opportunities and we must make the most of them."

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Sustainability not only saving the environment

SUSTAINABILITY is gaining more momentum in the public eye, with more Australians questioning where their food comes from, how it is produced and even how it is presented and packaged.

The pork industry has already done leading work in the sustainability space, and Australian Pork Limited is proud to champion these stories.

Gemma Wyburn is APL's program leader of climate-friendly farming and its overall sustainability framework.

Making sustainable choices in production is not only about saving the environment but rather addressing the full scope of sustainability

– meeting the needs of people, pigs, planet and prosperity, which form the four P's in APL's draft industry sustainability framework.

Being an intensive industry, we are fortunate that we are already well ahead of others such as the cattle and sheep industries in terms of environmental impacts, as we occupy much smaller amounts of land and can take advantage of the pig's highly efficient digestive system requiring less feed to produce high-quality meat.

APL is working on sharing leading practices and progress through its Australian pork sustainability framework, as well as identifying new goals

which will position pork as Australia's preferred protein.

This vision, as outlined in APL's five-year strategic plan, sets in motion production growth, market expansion and adoption of sustainable practices to add \$1 billion to the farm gate value.

As part of its environmentally sustainable goals, APL is continuing its research investment to create new opportunities in methane capture, organic carbon for soil amelioration, wastewater recycling, waste reduction and waste reuse.

A good example of this is biogas.

Currently, about 16 percent of industry utilise this technology to capture methane from effluent ponds to either burn off in a flare or to generate electricity and heat.

Both methods are currently eligible for generating Australian carbon credit units, which can be sold to generate a new income stream.

These systems have been shown to reduce power bills to \$0 and have relatively quick paybacks, particularly for those with over 1000 sows.

Importantly, you don't have to be a large producer to consider its benefit.

APL published a recent case study on the adoption of biogas for a 535-sow producer, and it's well worth a read.

The payback time was estimated to be 6.3 years, and that is without accessing income from carbon credits, seeking grants or additional fi-

nance to support the venture.

The technology is changing to suit different needs, with more options for tank-based systems becoming available.

As the technology continues to develop, it will continue to fall in price.

For those still wary of the initial outlay or technical requirements for biogas, solar has also proven to be a great fit for piggeries, with the peak loads for production matching well with the peak availability of sunlight.

Between biogas – which supplies energy 24 hours a day, seven days a week – and renewables such as solar, pig production can truly become off-grid.

In March, Utilitas Group – a Queensland-based bioenergy company – announced its plans to build 100 bio-hubs across regional Australia using waste from all sorts of industries that can be co-digested to create electricity, gas or transport fuel.

Projects such as this offer smaller enterprises, including piggeries, the opportunity to collaborate with their local community to manage their waste in a way that reduces emissions, supports local industry and celebrates the contributions of the industry to a sustainable future.

It's always horses for courses, but it is certainly worth a look and discussing with APL for technical advice.

For further information, contact Gemma Wyburn at gemma.wyburn@australianpork.com.au

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Biogas supplies energy 24 hours a day, seven days a week and is a viable perfect option for pig production to go off-grid.



Consumers are almost entirely unaware of the fact that the majority of Australia's ham and bacon is made with imported pork.

Made from imported meat

EACH week imported pork arrives on Australia's shores, directly impacting the profitability of pork producers and driving the need to differentiate local pork products from imported.

Australian Pork Limited's key learning from research conducted by its insights team in 2018 is that consumers are almost entirely unaware of the fact that the majority of Australia's ham and bacon is made with imported pork.

This means directives to look for Australian pork in ham and bacon currently lacks meaning to consumers, as they believe they are already buying Australian pork products.

In response to this, on March 14 APL launched a campaign in Adelaide to run until the end of June, to educate and raise awareness around the prevalence of imported pork and how to find ham and bacon made with Australian pork.

This campaign was initially launched early last year, however was cut short due to COVID-19, as the unusual market conditions prevented APL from

obtaining clear campaign results.

The campaign is underpinned by two TV commercials which, while entertaining to hopefully captivate consumers, are focussed on educational messaging.

The first is centred on raising awareness of the percentage of imported pork in Australia, followed by a prompt for shoppers to look for a nearly full bar chart on the country of origin label, to ensure the ham they purchase has been made with Australian pork.

The second commercial focusses on why shoppers should choose ham using Australian pork, as well as further reinforcement to look for a full bar on the country of origin label.

The campaign will also be supported by public relations, through a local Adelaide agency, social media through our Aussie Bacon and Ham Facebook page, and in-store point of sale materials in butcher shops and independent Adelaide retailers.

The results of the campaign will be received from July onwards and will be carefully analysed

by the APL insights and marketing team, as well as an external research agency.

These results will help understand whether awareness of imported pork motivates consumers to find and purchase ham and bacon made with Australian pork.

It will also pave the way for future communications and campaigns around imported pork messaging, creating opportunities for producers and the supply chain by differentiating ham and bacon made with Australian pork.

Mice on the march throughout NSW

AS mice numbers have increased in parts of the western region and soared in pockets throughout NSW, it is important landholders conduct thorough checks of paddocks, as well as sheds and machinery, for signs of mice activity.

Until recently, explosions in mouse populations in grain-growing areas were often followed by population crashes and consecutive years of little activity and damage.

However, mice now appear to have become a more persistent problem, with base populations carrying over from one year to the next, particularly in parts of the southern and northern cropping regions.

It is believed current farming systems – no-till, stubble retention – could be contributing to mice becoming an annual rather than cyclical problem.

The Grains Research

and Development Corporation recognises the enormity of the mouse problem and the severe impact it has on businesses, families, communities and the broader industry.

In response to the increasing prevalence of mice in many key grain-growing regions of Australia, the GRDC has injected a further \$4.1 million into mouse control research, development and extension initiatives.

The three key investments to be led by CSIRO will focus on understanding mouse ecology, biology and management, increasing surveillance and mouse feeding preferences.

The GRDC is committed to exploring all options in an effort to provide growers with better mouse control solutions.

In addition to the new investments, the GRDC will continue to support a wide range of other

ongoing mouse-related research, development and extension initiatives.

If mice are becoming an increasing problem in your area, the GRDC and CSIRO have the latest advice and information to help manage the issue.

Five quick tips for mouse control

- Apply broad scale zinc phosphide bait – according to the label, at the prescribed rate of 1kg/ha

- Apply bait at seeding or within 24 hours – while seed is still covered by soil increasing the likelihood of mice taking the bait prior to finding the seed, and rebait through the season as needed

- Timing is critical – delays of 4-5 days in baiting after seeding can give mice time to find crop seed and high populations can cause up to 5 percent damage each night

- Monitor and check paddocks regularly, and

update local data using the MouseAlert website – feralscan.org.au/mousealert/

- After harvest and prior to sowing, minimise sources of food and shelter, and control weeds and volunteer crops along fence lines, clean up residual grain by grazing or rolling stubbles.

While currently no permit allows Local Land Services to produce a baited product for mice control, a wide range of baits are registered for use on mice.

These rodent control products are not restricted and can be purchased from rural supply stores.

The store's agronomist should be able to help you and provide advice on the products they sell.

A complete list of currently registered products is available at apvma.gov.au

For further information, visit grdc.com.au



Look for a nearly full bar chart on the country of origin label to ensure the ham purchased was made with Australian pork.

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CID LINES

Aussie solutions for wastewater

CHOOSING the best pump for pumping wastewater from piggeries or processing plants means taking the time and trouble to analyse performance and the types of pumps required.

The choices are submersibles, long-column sump pumps and more recently, the introduction of Aussie's GMP big, robust self-priming centrifugal pumps.

Aussie Pumps believes that the big self-priming pump concept works better, not only because of its ease of maintenance but also for its ability to withstand the issues that pumps in applications such as these experience.

Corrosion is one consistent problem, particularly for cast iron submersible

pumps, where a two-year life cycle is often normal.

The pumps also need to be robust enough to handle the job and have that indispensable 'self-priming' feature.

Self-priming means that the pump is mounted outside the pit or tank and draws its water through a suction line connected into the front of the pump.

In a normal installation, the discharge is through an elbow mounted on the top of the pump, but the key feature is the design of the pump body itself.

For a self-priming pump, the body will include the capacity for it to hold enough water to prime the pump.

The priming process is simple and virtually fool-proof.

Aussie Pumps' chief en-

gineer John Hales said, "To prime, there are three simple steps."

"Step one, fill the pump bowl with water through the priming plug mounted in the top of the pump body.

"Step two, make sure the suction hose or fittings going into the pump body are completely airtight, so there's no danger of air leaks in the suction line.

"Step three is to start the motor or engine, depending on the drive system involved.

"What happens next is basic physics."

The water in the pump body is expelled to the discharge.

That in turn creates a vacuum inside the pump that allows the check valve mounted in the pump suction port to open, allowing water to be sucked into the pump body through the suction hose or pipe assembly.

"It's easy and provides real advantages of convenience," Mr Hales said.

Aussie's 2" through to 6" pumps are all designed around a trash or semi-trash configuration concept.

The smaller pumps of 2-4" are regarded as semi-trash, though they have big open non-clog style impellers and feature silicon carbide seals and a stainless-steel wear plate.

For extreme applications, 316 stainless-steel cast impellers can be provided as an option.

Best of all, semi-trash and trash pumps from the Aussie GMP product range all include a front opening port that enables the pump

to be cleared out in the event of blockages.

"Imagine, being able to clean out the pump without having to disconnect pipe-work, as you do in the case of an end suction pump," Mr Hales said.

"Bones, feathers and particles of meat or flesh will pass straight through the pump without effort."

Aussie's semi-trash pump range now includes a 3" pump that not only has the capacity to move over 1000L per minute but can also deliver heads up to 70m.

"That's a breakthrough product for us," Mr Hales said.

"It means that the liquid can be pumped further, or higher, depending on the application."

Experience has shown Aussie Pump engineers that using submersibles in applications such as this, and long-column sump pumps, can create real difficulty.

"We hear about the inconvenience of lifting pumps out of the pit for service, where with a self-priming pump mounted outside the tank or pond, service can be carried out with a minimum of mess and inconvenience," Mr Hales said.

"It's the new way and every day we find more customers moving to our self-priming centrifugal pumps for these wastewater applications."

Further information, including a new catalogue on Aussie GMP pumps, is readily available from Australian Pump Industries or distributors around Australia. 📞



Aussie GMP self-priming pumps are quick to set up and simple to maintain.

Cyber threat in rural industries

DIGITAL technologies are everywhere – helping farmers regulate water use and track soil moisture, control irrigation pumps remotely, help collect and manage genetic information in livestock, and drive autonomous and GPS guided machinery, to name a few.

With these technologies comes risk.

As reliance on technology, data and information sharing grows in the rural industries sector, so does the probability of potentially devastating cyber attacks.

Even a short outage can result in significant business and animal welfare consequences.

With the potential for data manipulation, misreporting and reputational damage, the picture is bleak.

To shed light on this possibly damaging issue and provide industry with interventions to address an increasingly sophisticated threat, AgriFutures Australia has embarked on a new project with globally connected cyber security experts BDO Australia.

Working in consultation with other rural research and development corporations, the project aims to explore potential cyber threats to producers' business data, production systems and intellectual property.

Whether you're an established \$100 million corporate farm or a new fishing business, greater awareness of potential threats is key to implementing best practice mitigation strategies and staying ahead of malicious cyber activity.

Phase one of the project is to explore the readiness levels across rural industries when it comes to securely managing data, IP and platforms.

To achieve this, BDO Australia is conducting a survey and producers are needed to help inform the current state of play.

AgriFutures Australia senior manager rural futures Jennifer Medway said a cyber attack can happen in the blink of an eye, as the Australian wool industry found out last year.

"More than 75 percent of wool sold across Australia and New Zealand relied on a single platform which fell victim to a malicious ransomware attack," Ms Medway said.

"While targeted at one industry in this case, a reliance on IT systems is a vulnerability all industries face."

Ms Medway hopes that 12 months on we are better positioned to ask ourselves the tough questions about how prepared and resilient to cyber attacks we really

are as a sector.

The survey is an important step in helping answer those questions and benchmark our progress.

"Producers are key to collectively getting our heads around cyber risks and we strongly encourage anyone linked to agriculture, fisheries and forestry to take part in the survey," Ms Medway said.

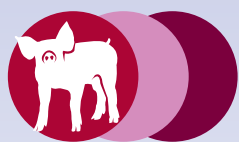
"Rural industries need to understand and take ownership of their cyber fragility."

"Knowing where you stand and what you need to do to protect your IP, systems and data, is just good business."

Visit bdoaustralia.checkboxonline.com/agrifutures-cyber-security-survey to access and complete the short survey.

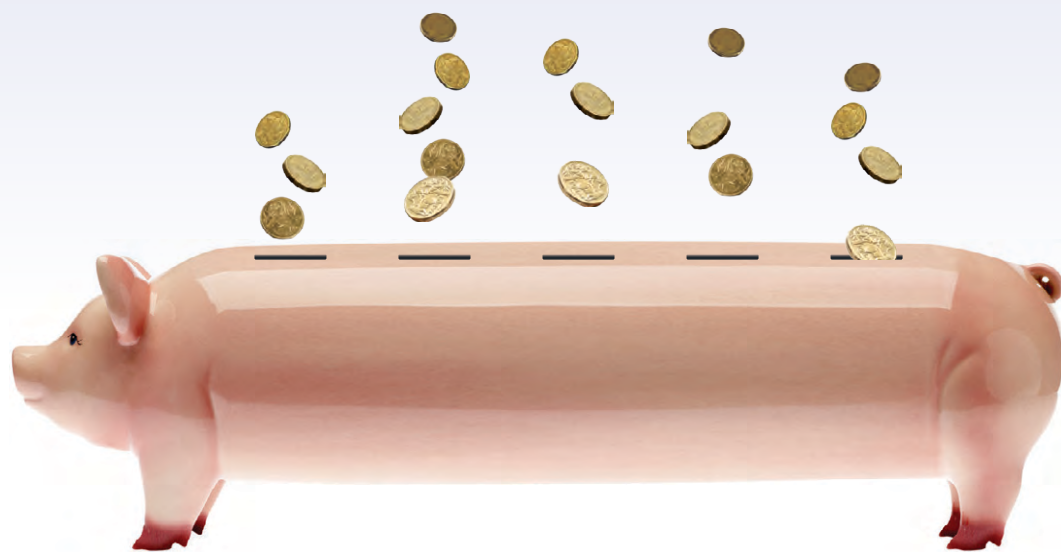
While responses to the survey are anonymous, participants have the option to elect to receive a free personalised report reviewing their cyber resilience and be benchmarked against peers.

The research is being undertaken by BDO Australia and funded through the AgriFutures Australia National Rural Issues program, which aims to facilitate agricultural growth by addressing current national and cross sectoral issues facing the agriculture, fisheries and forestry sector. 🐷



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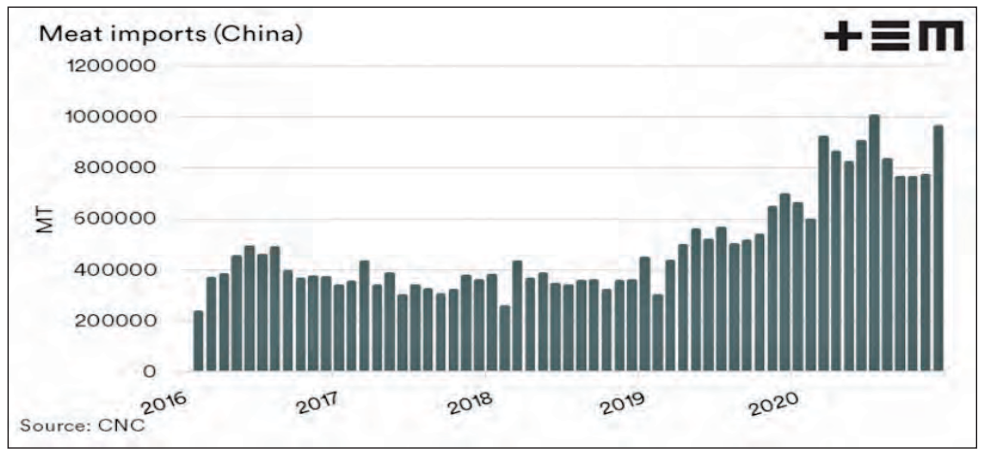
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China has been building multi-level 'pig hotels' facilities in an effort to protect against disease. Photo: Reuters



China has been importing large volumes of meat, suggesting its pig herd is not recovering as quickly as claimed. Source: Thomas Elder Markets

New African swine fever variants kill millions of pigs in China

A SECOND outbreak of African swine fever – estimated to have killed as many as 8 million pigs in China since the start of the year – has derailed the country's plans to rebuild its national herd.

Within a year of the first reported outbreak of the disease in August 2018, it had spread to multiple countries and killed an estimated 25 percent quarter of the world's pig population.

Independent meat analyst Simon Quilty said the

ASF variants that swept through China in the past two months had significant implications for the global protein market.

"China has just come out in recent days claiming that by the middle of this year they will be back to 100 percent recovery, which is simply impossible," Mr Quilty said.

"Because in the last six to eight weeks, this second wave – due to several new strains of the virus – has killed between seven and eight million sows."

Mr Quilty said there were a number of indicators that suggested China was "nowhere near the herd rebuild" its ministry of agriculture claimed.

"Piglet prices in China are today four times the value of what they were pre-African swine fever in 2017-18," he said.

"Hog prices are two to three times higher and sow prices are more than double."

"So, if the herd was back to the level they claim, we would not be seeing

these significant numbers, they'd be back at pre-ASF levels and then add to that this second wave of swine fever."

Mr Quilty is not alone in his scepticism about China's claims.

Analyst Andrew Whitelaw highlights in his article 'Why I Don't Trust Chinese Data on the Pig Herd Rebuild', that elevated pork prices were not the only issue – China's imports of meat were also on the rise.

"When imports start

declining rapidly, then that will point towards an effective rebuild," Mr Whitelaw said.

One of the biggest drivers of meat pricing in the past couple of years was the impact of African swine fever, and Mr Whitelaw estimated that pig deaths in China last year created a protein gap of approximately 25 million tonnes.

Mr Quilty said there were three known strains of African swine fever, two of which were un-

derstood to have emerged from illegal vaccines, and that there were no signs of countries being able to slow the spread.

He said China's push towards building super complexes – or so-called pig hotels – was also understood to have been impacted.

"The ramifications for global meat prices would be significant," Mr Quilty said.

"There's no doubt that meat prices will go higher, be it pork, beef or chicken."

"This second wave will put China's rebuild many years behind and so ongoing high prices, I think, are here to stay for at least two to three years."

"Also, I think we've seen this enormous jump in global corn and cereal prices – but with this recent collapse in the herd, the net effect is there will be an easing on demand."

"You just can't take 7-8 million sows out of the system and not have an impact on cereal demand."



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livery of feed and water.

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Metrowest provided SABOR with a turnkey solution that allowed them to collaborate on the design and meet their exact requirements.

The climate control systems are designed with consideration for

conditions and stock densities.

This project features a perfectly controlled environment via a combi-tunnel system.

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everyday use as easy as possible.

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Vietnam successfully clones pot-bellied pigs

VIETNAM has cloned the endangered Vietnamese pot-bellied pig by using an innovative somatic cell cloning method.

Vietnam's Institute of Animal Sciences and Ministry of Agriculture cloned four baby Vietnamese pot-bellied pigs by using somatic cells derived from ear tissues.

Head of the animal sciences institute Pham Cong Thieu said the "birth" of

the baby pigs was a technological leap for Vietnam in animal cloning.

"The achievement has opened up new research paths for applying animal cloning technologies in choosing and preserving animal breeds that are very rare or have big economic value," he said.

The Vietnamese pot-bellied pig is a traditional domestic breed that is native to northern Vietnam and is

reared for meat.

With their characteristic black and wrinkled skin, they are native to northern Vietnam.

Though it is not considered to bring in high economic value, the breed's meat is regarded to be of high quality.

The Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations has classified the pig as an endangered breed.



The endangered Vietnamese pot-bellied pig has been cloned using an innovative somatic cell cloning method.



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Australia explores rules for insect meal

DESPITE the hype around insect ability to upcycle human food waste into animal feed, actually feeding insects raised on trash is prohibited.

A group of insect meal researchers in Australia aims to change that.

Academics, government and industry partners participating in a newly launched cooperative research centre will spend the next two years studying how Australia's existing FeedSafe quality assurance program could be applied to insect meal.

The project will involve a series of tests designed to evaluate safety considerations for the entire insect meal supply chain, beginning with the substrate on which the insects are raised, in hope of finding criteria that would permit

the safe recycling of several of the world's most difficult waste streams – food waste, animal effluent and human biosolids.

Stock Feed Manufacturers' Council of Australia executive officer Duncan Rowland advised livestock producers in Australia can feed insect meal to fish and poultry in several jurisdictions, but not to pigs or ruminants.

Even in species permitted to consume insect meal, the type of substrate permitted is limited to plant-based materials.

Insect Protein Association of Australia chair and Goterra waste management startup chief executive officer Olympia Yarger believes restrictions have prevented insect production from realising its true potential.

"Insects offer a unique opportunity because they can be reared on a variety of substrates – including waste streams inedible to other species," Ms Yarger said.

"But limiting commercial substrates to plant-based wastes means existing insect operations are competing with livestock producers for agricultural waste streams such as grain detritus, which relegates insects to the role of unnecessary 'middleman' in the agricultural supply chain.

"Completing the research necessary to open up unique substrate options would allow insects to take their rightful place in the supply chain, recycling previously useless waste streams and creating a new source of protein for animal producers.

"We have to do it now, while the industry is still young, so we can accelerate and scale using waste streams that are not currently dedicated to livestock production."

To determine the safety of using substrates such as post-consumer waste or biosolids, researchers will test each substrate for potential contaminants and then evaluate whether insects raised on that substrate still contain those contaminants after being processed into meal.

As an example, household waste streams could contain rat poisons, bleach and cleaning agents, pathogens or even heavy metals.

Will the resulting meal pose a threat to livestock?

"The feeling around these kinds of substrates is they are bad, and they should not be used in our supply chain," Ms Yarger said.

"That's not based in science.

"We need to determine if that is true or not.

"Even if those contaminants do transfer from the substrate to the insect meal, there may still be potential uses for these contaminated insects in bioplastics or biofuels.

"Our job in this research is to qualify the understanding of what 'substrates' mean in the supply chain, and then from there it will be Goterra's mission to determine what we can do with that insect.

"We have to stop pretending that insects are a one-trick pony, and we have to be far more imaginative in how we solve these problems."



Insects for feed

THE Insect Protein Association of Australia provides support, referral and advocacy for individuals and companies who are engaged or interested in working with insects as a product, or farming insects for sale as a protein for livestock feed.

The insect for feed steering committee is a sub-committee within the IPAA.

It is currently investigating relevant issues and policy needs of the sector, and continues to provide insight and support to members in this area.

The insect for feed industry in Australia comprises of five fly farms scaling to commercial capacity and a variety of smaller operations either developing their processes or commencing their research and development.

In total, currently

there are 45 individuals or companies who are actively pursuing farming fly larvae for livestock feed in Australia.

The committee has determined the following:

Substrate

The IPAA recommends that all insect for livestock feed farmers consider both the waste management and handling regulations relative to their state or territory, in addition to the relevant livestock feed regulations relating to restricted animal material and other labelling standards and regulations.

It is important to note that insects are considered animals as per the Livestock Feed Act of Australia – guidance relative to what can be fed to insects in each state can therefore be determined, based on the relevant information for feeding live-

stock in each state.

Livestock feed

All insects destined to commercial livestock feed or pet food must meet the regulation requirements for these products as outlined by feed regulation, labelling and processing laws outlined by each state.

The IPAA encourages all members to establish connection with relevant governing bodies on these issues in addition to consulting with the Stock Feed Manufacturers Council of Australia.

Steering committee

The IPAA will continue to work on building best practice and a portfolio of referral for members who are stakeholders in the insects for livestock feed industry, and will update member information accordingly.

For more information, visit insectproteinassoc.com



Research project looks to adapt existing feed safety standards in Australia to insect meal.

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Category C disaster assistance available

THE Queensland Farmers' Federation has welcomed the activation of Category C assistance for farmers beginning the recovery process following damage caused by Tropical Cyclone Niran.

Farmers in the Cairns, Cassowary Coast, Hinchinbrook, Mareeba and Tablelands local areas may be eligible for grants of up to \$25,000, jointly funded by the Federal and State governments' Disaster Recovery Funding arrangements.

QFF chief executive officer Dr Georgina Davis acknowledged the Queensland and Australian governments for their timely response, as farmers commence the process of assessing the impact of the destructive weather event.

"As more information comes to hand, QFF will continue working closely with government to ensure the appropriate levels of support are available to farmers," Dr Davis said.

"QFF is in the process of creating an industry support network of people with knowledge of farm practices and business processes – to take on a supporter role to galvanise



Dr Georgina Davis

those who have experienced loss or disruption as a result of a disaster like Tropical Cyclone Niran, and who need a helping hand as they recover."

"In the meantime, we encourage impacted farmers to contact their relevant industry body or the Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries to complete an impact assessment."

The Category C recovery grants are available from QRIDA.

For more information, visit qrda.qld.gov.au or call 1800 623 946.

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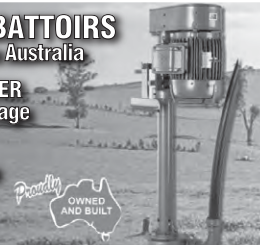
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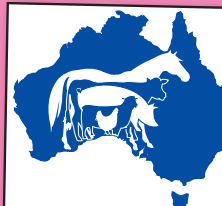
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Letters to the Editor

It is the responsibility of those making submissions to ensure the correctness of their claims and statements. The views expressed in this publication are not necessarily those of the publisher.

THE Australian pork industry has the highest cost of production in the world, and we assume and rely on the belief that fresh pork will not be allowed into Australia.

The ninth largest importer of pork in the world, Australia is the seventh most important customer for European and US exporters.

These countries are wanting to export fresh pork to this country.

Most Australian industries that have not been competitive on the world market no longer exist.

The motor car industry being the last to exit, steel, oil refining, ship building, clothing, footwear have also largely ceased existence in Australia.

There are many smaller industries which have also ceased to exist.

Should fresh pork be allowed into this country, 70 percent of our sow herd will be lost to imported product according to Australian Pork Limited figures.

About 70 percent of processed pork is imported and importers do not pay a levy on this, though benefit from the advertising we pay for and the market we develop.

There are a number of scenarios that could lead

to fresh pork being allowed into Australia.

If vaccines are developed for the current diseases.

If New Zealand does not break with these diseases in the next 10 years, then it can be argued that fresh pork has been successfully imported into New Zealand for 15 years, greatly weakening our argument against imports.

If Australia was to break with these diseases, there would be no reason for imports to be restricted.

An unsympathetic government wanting cheaper food for the consumer along with pressure from animal liberation activists wanting to stop the production of pork in Australia could also be a factor.

Other countries are continually trying to export to this country, and we should be aware of this.

Head of ACCC Mick Keough wrote an article for APL on the future of the Australian pig industry and over half of what he wrote was on fresh pork coming to Australia.

This was also the topic of discussion at at least one of the producer meetings held in 2019.

Mr Hayden recently said, "My personal view on fresh pork imports is that it is less likely to occur in the immediate future given

the uncertainty that the African swine fever and COVID pandemics create," – so it is on their minds.

When fresh pork is allowed in, it will create the biggest disaster the industry has seen – hopefully the government does provide assistance for the industry to adjust.

Producers will suffer, not the chief executive officer or the Board chair, as they will have moved on.

Knowledgeable people in this field have expressed their opinion that they do not see it happening within 10 years, but beyond that no one can be certain what might happen.

To have a business that may be unviable in possibly 15 years is not encouraging to say the least, and it needs to have a high rate of return to compensate for this.

Bigger producers who have contracts with retail chains such as Woolworths, Coles, Aldi and Cosco will be in a much better position and most probably will be the ones to remain in business.

Reducing our cost of production is the best thing we can do to help lessen the impact of imports while also to help us cope with overproduction when it occurs, as currently we are unable to export any excess

without dumping it on markets at very low prices.

During the last price slump, our marketing team resorted to selling pork to zoos.

This was a disgrace, yet our chief executive officer was proud of this and publicised the fact.

I believe this was an insult to our product and gave our industry a poor image in the minds of consumers.

I believe if ever there was a time that the pig industry should be investigating an application to the government for a one-off application to import fresh genetics, it is now.

The application needs to be made on the basis that it does not weaken our case against fresh pork imports.

All experts in the field who I have spoken to advise me that genetics can safely be imported without the risk of bringing disease into the country.

New genetics would have a significant impact on reducing our cost of production and could be achieved with little cost.

I have suggested this to our CEO but have not even received a reply from her.

Our CEO has recently stated that to achieve the ambitious goals set out in the strategic plan more funds may be needed.

The CEO continues

to say that the round of producer meetings held in 2019 were "a great success" and information from them formed the Strategic Plan.

I believe this to be a deliberate lie.

Everyone I have spoken to has been critical of the meetings and felt they were a waste of time and nothing discussed at these meetings resembled anything in the Strategic Plan.

The meeting held in Brisbane for the corporate sector was also described as a waste of time and money.

The meetings were poorly attended, though the CEO refuses to tell me how many producers attended each meeting and the cost of running these meetings.

I believe the cost of running these meetings was significant.

I also believe that a group of nine met and formed the Strategic Plan.

I believe the Board is negligent of not acting in the best interest of producers resulting in:

- Lack of producer involvement in the Strategic Plan
- Lack of producer involvement in research projects
- Poorly selected research projects
- Little or no benefit to

producers and costing \$5-6 million each year.

APL recently published a list of the most beneficial research done over the past 10 years – \$50-60 million worth – and contained little if anything most producers would use.

It may be the researchers do benefit from it.

Most senior staff have left APL, many going to private enterprise within the pig industry and the Board appointed a CEO who had no experience with the pig industry.

This needs to be explained.

The Board of nine highly qualified people should have been able to come up with a better marketing plan than selling pork to zoos.

I suggest if half the research money had been set aside, or equivalent savings from other areas of APL expenditure of \$25-30 million dollars, and this money had been used to subsidise the home delivery of pork, particularly the cuts of meat most effected by restaurant closures, this may have greatly increased pork sales and producers would have gained a far greater benefit from their levies.

Most producers try to reduce their costs of running their business as well as minimise taxes, yet we

pay on average around 10 percent of our net profit to APL in levies.

We pay the salaries and all of the expenses of APL, including for Mr Hayden who flew business class to his home country, with all expenses paid during the last slump in pig prices, on a trip which I believe was irrelevant to our pig industry.

He should have been here trying to help producers, and the cost of his trip should have gone towards the industry.

I believe there is a significant waste of money by the Board and that they rely on secrecy to prevent exposure.

I believe APL staff numbers have increased significantly under Ms Andrea's management, and now the CEO is talking of the need for more funding.

My criticism is of the Board and senior management and not of the staff who work under this management, and unless the Board can produce more tangible benefits to producers then levies should be reduced.

If the Board chair or CEO disagree with what I have written in this letter, then I challenge them to respond via this newspaper.

Andrew Reilly
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