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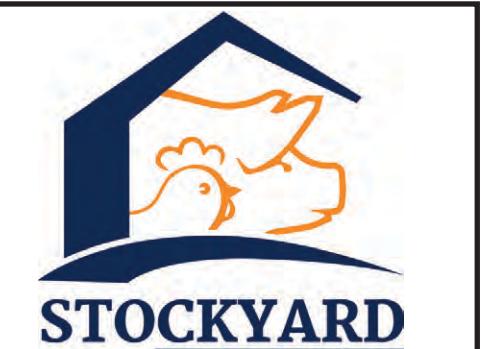
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# Australian Pork

## NEWSPAPER



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Feral pigs create suitable environments for mosquito breeding through their wallowing behaviour. Photo: DPI NSW

## JEV and feral pigs

### ■ What land managers need to know

The outbreak of Japanese encephalitis virus is attracting considerable interest from the general community – in the role that feral pigs play in the transmission of JEV, as well as maintenance of the virus in the environment.

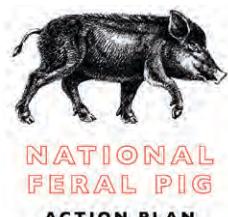
Both domestic and feral pigs are able to amplify the virus, as are waterbirds, which means mosquitoes can pick JEV up from biting infected pigs and transmit it to the next host.

To date in this outbreak, no confirmed cases of Japanese encephalitis have been found in feral pigs.

It is likely that in many regions, feral pigs will be living in close proximity to waterbirds and creating suitable environments for mosquito breeding through their wallowing behaviour.

This situation is not helped by the rainfall and flood events experienced in many areas of eastern Australia over the past month or so.

Land managers are being asked to control or eliminate breeding grounds for mosquitos, treat all remaining stagnant water sites to kill mosquito larvae and conduct mosquito-control programs



NATIONAL  
FERAL PIG  
ACTION PLAN

by HEATHER CHANNON  
National Feral Pig Management Co-ordinator



in areas of high mosquito populations to mitigate the spread of Japanese encephalitis.

A new factsheet is available via [feralpigs.com.au](http://feralpigs.com.au) to provide information to those involved in feral pig management activities about JEV including:

- Risks to human health
- How to minimise the risk of exposure to mosquitos to reduce possible infection with JEV
- Signs of disease to look for in pigs.

Links to the new guide 'Integrated mosquito management principles for piggeries' have been included in the feral pig-focussed fact sheet – to inform land managers on the most appropriate insecticides and larvicides to apply while minimising residue and environmental risks associated with their use.

A factsheet is also available to assist with recognising signs of feral pigs in the environment.

It is important that land managers continue with coordinated and collaborative feral pig management programs to reduce risks of JEV from feral pigs, and all the other economic, environmental and social impacts caused by feral pigs.

Outcomes from a recently completed economic study conducted by North West Local Land Services NSW will be discussed in upcoming articles.

Feel free to contact me on [heather.channon@feralpigs.com.au](mailto:heather.channon@feralpigs.com.au) or call 0423 056 045 to discuss your feral pig management issues or any information presented in this article.

## Resolve and resilience tested



### Point of View

by MARGO ANDRAE CEO



AS our industry continues to thrive and grow from a consumption perspective, our resolve and resiliency is being tested from all angles.

It's been an incredibly tough start to the year, and now with the threat of a new-to-Australia emergency animal disease, Japanese encephalitis virus.

As we have shared many times now, our response and planning strategy for EAD outbreaks remains a firm leading priority for Australian Pork Limited, which has been further strengthened over the past two years as African swine fever runs rampant across the globe.

Because of this dedicated focus, our response to JEV has been nimble and adaptable.

Though we are in the thick of the JEV outbreak and that remains our immediate issue, we are adamant our plans must also be driven by what's next.

We made a commitment that our industry would be progressive and thought-leading in everything we do, so my reassurance to you is that dealing with JEV is part of a bigger picture – to minimise impacts of future EADs.

In the case of JEV however, I'd like to acknowledge and thank those who have stepped up during this crisis to help pull us through.

Particularly those industry representatives and sector liaison officers who have worked tirelessly from the first phone call in late February.

I also acknowledge the state agricultural departments and welcome the Federal Government's commitment of \$69 million to help control the spread of the disease.

My thoughts and those of the wider APL team are

with those who have suffered loss of human life because of JEV.

To those producers who are battling with the virus on farm, we've compiled a number of resources to support you, and will continue to work with government on additional resources as you navigate this difficult situation.

I offer a gentle reminder during these challenging and turbulent situations to look after one another and to take advantage of the organisations and resources that can support you through hard times.

A full directory of mental health support services can be found at [farmhub.org.au/mental-health](http://farmhub.org.au/mental-health)

As the government repositions its priorities – such as the allocation of funding to JEV – APL continues its endeavour to reposition pork to ensure the sector is represented within these conversations.

Over the past two years, APL has worked closely with the Department of Agriculture, Water and Environment, Animal Health Australia and other industry partners on ASF preparedness.

This saw last year's government announcement of over \$400 million in new funding for biosecurity graciously welcomed.

Proactively, APL collaborated with many

courage additional steps in building Australians' awareness of CoOL and helping them interpret the CoOL labelling system.

This submission explored further opportunities to enhance the CoOL regime and ways in which government could build on investments made by Australian pork producers to demonstrate how CoOL can be clearly and simply communicated to everyone in Australia.

The departments' original evaluation stated that CoOL requirements needed to meet the needs of the consumer without creating a burden for business.

Therefore, in the interim APL has undertaken to:

- Explore options to activate CoOL within food-service
- Look at ways to ensure 'Made in' claims are well understood
- Work to increase consumer awareness and understanding around CoOL
- Ongoing monitoring of CoOL efficiency and effectiveness.

APL strongly advocated for these issues to be thought through and action taken where appropriate and was pleased to see positive outcomes on each occasion.

This to me shows the value of the progressive culture we aim to embody and is something APL will continue to prioritise.

As 2022 continues to throw up obstacles such as workforce, bushfires, flooding and now JEV, the resiliency of our sector to respond and continue to be a sustainable supplier of quality nutritious protein is to be commended.

Above all, what gives me strength and hope looking forward is the strong position we have created for our industry over the years and the opportunities ahead.



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## Pork Industry Calendar of Events

### 2022

**APR 18-20** – United Pork America's – Orlando, United States [www.unitedporkamericas.com](http://www.unitedporkamericas.com)

**APR 26-29** – Anuga FoodTec – Cologne, Germany [www.anugafoodtec.com](http://www.anugafoodtec.com)

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

**JUN 21-24** – International Pig Veterinary Society Congress – Rio de Janeiro, Brazil <https://ipvs2022.com/en>

**JUN 22** – Queensland Pig Consultancy Group (QPCG) Industry Day 'Building Resilience in a Changing World' – Toowoomba

**AUG 19-21** – Kingaroy Baconfest 2022 [www.kingaroybaconfest.com.au](http://www.kingaroybaconfest.com.au)

### 2023

**NOV 13-16** – Australasian Pig Science Association (APSA) Conference [www.apsa.asn.au](http://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](mailto:ben@collins.media)

**porknews.com.au**  
**07 3286 1833**

# War – the ultimate farming challenge

THIS month's article is quite a sombre one I'm afraid.

I can hardly believe that in 2022 we are experiencing a war on European soil.

Every day in Denmark we see terrible images of the situation in Ukraine following Russia's attacks, with millions of Ukrainian citizens fleeing their homeland and a growing number of Russians attempting to do the same.

In the past week to March 25, Ukrainian people have been blocked by Russian soldiers from leaving areas that are now under Russian control.

Over 6000 Ukrainians

are directly employed in Danish agriculture and they are the main additional labour source for the Danish pig industry.

These employees, together with their families, have helped to create rural communities in Denmark, and it is heartbreaking to



see men being recalled back to Ukraine to fight.

Aside from the humanitarian side of the war – with sympathy being felt for citizens of both sides who seemingly don't want to be in this situation – we can see already the effect on the industry here.

Prior to the sanctioning against Russia, DanBred met with PIC and Topigs Norsvin, where all three companies agreed that they would not trade with Russia while they were engaging in unprovoked warfare.

It is disappointing that not all genetics suppliers agreed to this.

DanBred has now shut down its newly established daughter company in Russia.

Personally, the hardest thing for me with this action was saying goodbye to some great colleagues in Russia, with the hope of 'see you on the other side' of this mess.

In addition to feed increases, energy of course will increase also.

Discussions have been held with parliament to prioritise energy delivery to primary producers.

At this stage, it is unknown how much of an effect there will be.

However, the cost of producing and processing will undoubtedly increase, which at some point will have to be passed on to the consumer.

It has already been labelled an upcoming food

crisis in Denmark and wider Europe.

In some more positive news, pig prices in Denmark have continued to increase – mostly due to the demand for slaughter pigs in Germany.

Since many sows have been culled from the German industry, frozen stocks used and the approach of the season with some of the highest demand in the restaurant trade – the price positive trend is expected to continue.

However, in connection to the increased cost of production due to the war, consumers in Germany have been warned that the cost of pork could increase by 20-50 percent, though it remains to be seen if it will be this severe.

The terrible situation in Ukraine affects everybody in Europe in one way or another, on a personal, humanitarian or economic level.

At the time of writing this article, it had been one month since the first Russian attack on Ukraine.

And while no one can predict when this crisis will be over, most people here appear to be preparing for the situation to remain for two years at least.

We can only hope it will be over much sooner than that. 🐷



The Ukrainian flag flying at Axelborg, home of the Danish Agriculture and Food Council.

## Commercialisation project application call



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for High Integrity Australian Pork projects and a current APRIL project – has been used to develop the AusScan Online near infrared spectroscopy calibrations to predict the nutritional value of grains for livestock, and various chemical and physical grain characteristics important to livestock production.

APRIL manages the license for the commercial use of the AusScan Online calibrations and is responsible for ongoing research and the maintenance and improvement of calibrations.

APRIL conducted research upgrading the poultry AME calibrations in 2018, and the University of Melbourne

was awarded a research project from APRIL in 2021 to upgrade the pig digestible energy calibrations.

APRIL is inviting commercialisation project applications from an experienced and qualified team – or teams – with access to suitable facilities to provide the required specialisations to undertake this project.

The research project will be for a three-year period from July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2025.

The APRIL commercialisation project scheme requires a minimum level of co-invest-

ment of 20 percent cash – of the total project cost.

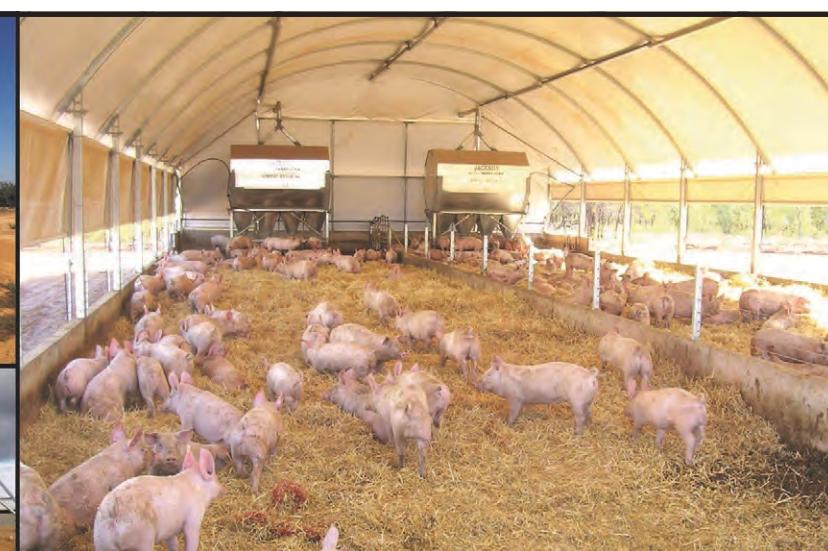
The project application form, accompanying information document and guidelines are available from the APRIL website at [april.com.au/research/funding-opportunities/](http://april.com.au/research/funding-opportunities/)

Project applications open on April 4, 2022 and close at 5pm on May 20, 2022.

For further information and inquiries, contact APRIL manager commercialisation and research impact Dr Charles Rikard-Bell on [c.rikardbell@april.org.au](mailto:c.rikardbell@april.org.au) or 0439 513 723. ☰

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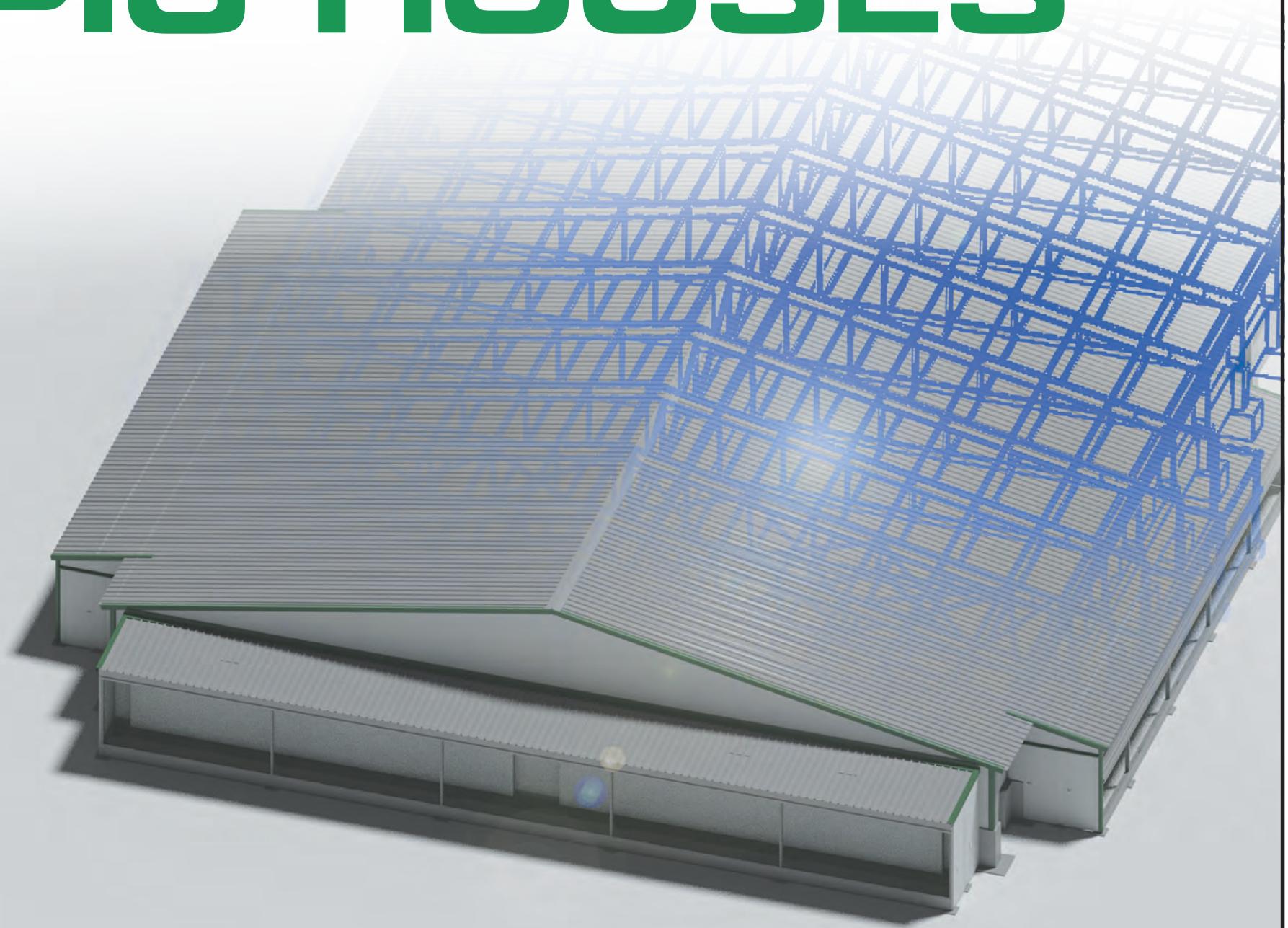
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## Sometimes size matters too much

WHILE I will never know and will never ask "which industry body" of Brian Ramsay – inaugural chief executive officer of Australian Pork Limited – I was fascinated to read his piece in the March 21, 2022 Innovation Reframed newsletter, where he referred to industry bodies, how they service individuals and how they may preferentially service vested interests.

Brian regularly shares such thoughts these days in his capacity as managing director of Inovact Consulting – a specialist management consultancy he formed in 2005.

So, here goes with this week's, word for word:

*Some years ago, I was interviewing farm owners as part of an industry strategy project.*

*I'll never forget one interview.*

*I was at the farm and*

### Cant Comment

by BRENDON CANT



I am acutely aware that while the 'backbone' of most industry organisations – at least in terms of numbers – is the 'little people', the 'big people' tend to get most of the attention, and most of the benefits and rewards.

This has become increasingly so over the years in farming and agribusiness, with the quantum shift to corporatisation.

Of course, Australia's porcine industry is no different – as is underlined by the undeniable rise of intensive pig production and with the great majority of that output in the hands of a handful of well-known corporates.

However, there is a welcome trend towards individually owned and operated small pork production units, typically free range and – even better – pasture raised.

These units are satisfying demand from consumers for a pork product with provenance from pigs that have enjoyed the opportunity to root, forage and display natural instincts, minus the distressing restrictions that come with confinement in sheds, pens and stalls.

Despite the great majority of Australia's pigs being confined and living their lives in what many label 'factory' farms, there exists a dedicated and committed group of pig farmers who work hard and at considerable cost to give their pigs better lives and more 'worthwhile' deaths.

Long may they live and hopefully prosper – both pigs and people.

*speaking with the owner in a paddock and the conversation was going well as we discussed business and markets and I took notes.*

*Then he shifted the topic to the industry body.*

*He started talking about how he had discovered that the industry body was serving the interests of a few, becoming so emotional he started shaking.*

*I stopped taking notes and listened intently to what he was saying.*

*He had joined the peak body and actively engaged in good faith with committees, believing the group served a higher purpose – the interests of the industry as a whole.*

*What he experienced was that the industry body was going through the motions of engaging members like him, while their decisions and actions were serving a few vested interests.*

*He was bitter and felt that he and other farmers were being conned.*

*The insights were outside my scope of work in that assignment, but I never forgot what he said.*

*There is something special about being part of a group that strives for*

*excellence with a common purpose.*

*Whether it's singing in a choir, playing in a sports team, marching in a band or military formation or simply going to a gym class.*

*There is a cadence and a sense of belonging that transcends working and acting independently.*

*It is a key reason why working remotely will never wholly replace working at the office.*

*The best industry organisations create value by nurturing collaboration in areas where individual firms can't easily succeed by working alone.*

*It is not enough to focus on growing markets, reducing costs or defending your industry's good reputation.*

*Businesses want to be part of the movement.*

*They want to feel they have been heard and are part of something larger.*

*It brings us back to the heart of high-performance industry service organisations – leadership and purpose.*

*Having myself worked for and consulted to farming and agribusiness industry organisations,*



Australian Pork Limited inaugural chief executive officer Brian Ramsay.

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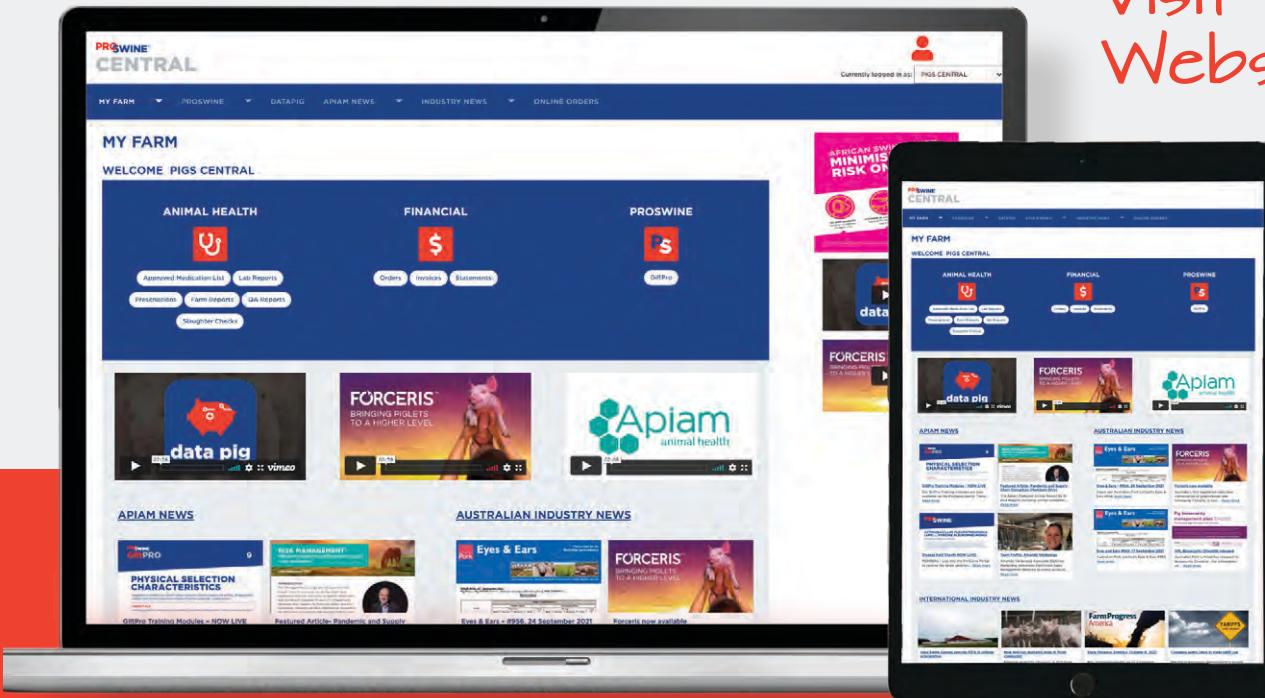
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Australian Pork Limited will continue to drive change from the inside out where possible and advocate for the many women who are and will be working within the pork industry.

## Celebrating women in pork

LAST year, Australian Pork Limited made a commitment to address the gender inequality that exists within the global meat sector and closer to home, in Australia.

With March 8 marking the United Nations-led International Women's Day, it was an appropriate time to reflect on the achievements made and cement further work in this space.

To facilitate this focus, APL has proudly joined the international networking group Meat Business Women as a country sponsor – as is Coles.

MBW was founded in the UK and over the past few years has expanded into Australia, New Zealand and Canada.

The fundamental objective of MBW is to assure sustainability of the meat sector by attracting and retaining the best possible talent.

By aligning with such a worthy organisation and providing financial and resource support, APL can further amplify and lev-

erage the great work of MBW in Australia to generate change.

MBW states, "The beating heart of Meat Business Women is the opportunity to share valuable diverse experience and expertise at engaging events and interactive mediums."

In support, APL ran a second Women in Pork event on International Women's Day, with the aim of profiling some of the challenges and opportunities facing women working within the sector.

APL extends its gratitude to Coles group category manager for pork, ham and value-added meat Rosie Coldwell, Tarree Pastoral co-owner and director Karen Henwood and Rivalea Australia research scientist Dr Jessica Craig for sharing their insights and to everyone who dialled in to participate in the session.

Late last year, APL ran a leaders workshop through the Livestock Collective – bringing together a group of 14 people who work throughout the supply

chain to equip them with the key skills needed to deliver their stories in a public platform.

This was essentially to share real sector stories with the wider community, so more informed opinions could be formulated and therefore decisions made about the role the Australian pork sector plays in Australia.

APL ensured the group was balanced in terms of gender and age with the intent of supporting the talent and skills of the women within this group, in order to raise awareness of career opportunities in the pork sector and highlight female role models.

APL also reflected on its own internal policies and has increased the number of weeks included in its maternity policies.

APL will continue to drive change from the inside out where possible and advocate for the many women who are and will be working within the pork industry.

# Australia's chief veterinary officer's JEV message

AUSTRALIA'S chief veterinary officer Dr Mark Schipp provided an update on Japanese encephalitis and how the government and industry are working together on a coordinated response to reduce the spread of the virus.

In February 2022, Japanese encephalitis virus was detected and confirmed in piggeries in Victoria, Queensland and NSW.

On March 4, cases were detected in South Australia.

Japanese encephalitis is a viral zoonotic disease that is spread by mosquitoes.

The virus can cause reproductive losses and encephalitis in pigs and horses.

In rare cases, Japanese encephalitis can cause disease in people.

People and horses are considered 'dead end' hosts.

Once infected, they do not play a role in transmitting the virus.

Pigs and some species of wild birds are amplifying hosts.

It is not known how the virus came to mainland Australia and it is the first time the virus has been detected in southern Australia.

The movement of infected mosquitoes or migratory waterbirds may have played a part in the spread of JEV.

In animals, signs of disease are most common in horses and pigs.

Other animals can be infected but typically do not show signs of illness – such as cattle, sheep, goats, dogs, cats, bats, rodents, reptiles, amphibians and birds.

**Disease response**  
The Australian, state

and territory governments are working with the pig and horse industries through the Consultative Committee on Emergency Animal Disease in response to this outbreak.

We are also working closely with human health authorities.

Australia is prepared to respond to animal disease incursions with national response arrangements in place.

The response strategy for this disease is outlined in the Japanese encephalitis AUSVET-PLAN.

### Food safety

Japanese encephalitis is not a food safety concern and commercially produced pork meat or products are safe to consume.

### Signs of the disease in pigs

Japanese encephalitis is primarily spread by mosquitoes.

It is not spread from pigs to people, or from pig to pig.

In pigs, the most common clinical signs are mummified and stillborn or weak piglets, some with neurological signs.

Piglets infected after birth can develop encephalitis, which presents as paddling or other neurological signs in the first six months of life.

In other cases, wasting, depression or hindlimb paralysis may be seen in suckling piglets and weaners.

Adult sows do not typically show overt signs of disease.

If boars are present on farm, they may experience infertility, oedema and congested testicles.

coma and more rarely, permanent neurological complications or death.

Encephalitis is the most serious clinical consequence of infection.

Illness usually begins with symptoms such as sudden onset of fever, headache and vomiting.

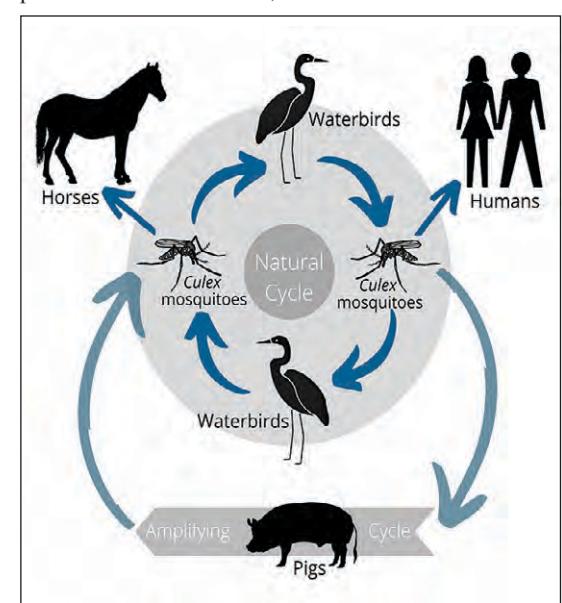
Anyone experiencing these symptoms should seek urgent medical attention.

People should try to prevent mosquito bites by using mosquito repellent containing picaridin, DEET or oil of lemon eucalyptus on all exposed skin and reapply every few hours.

Wear long, light coloured and loose-fitting clothing as well as covered footwear when outside.

Ensure accommodation, including tents, are properly fitted with mosquito nettings or screens.

For updates on human health impacts, visit [health.gov.au/health-topics/japanese-encephalitis](http://health.gov.au/health-topics/japanese-encephalitis)



The Japanese encephalitis disease spread pathway.

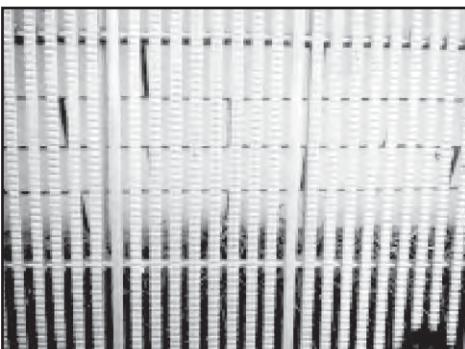
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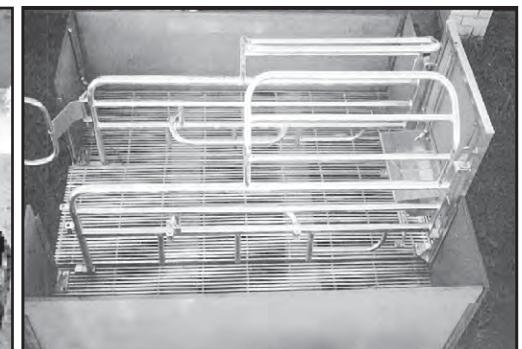
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# QFF welcomes new CEO

THE Queensland Farmers' Federation is pleased to announce the appointment of Jo Sheppard as the new chief executive officer.

Ms Sheppard joins QFF with a depth of experience across multiple industry sectors supported by strong advocacy, stakeholder, community engagement and government relations skills.

Most recently serving as director of stakeholder en-

gagement at the University of Southern Queensland, Ms Sheppard's previous roles also include the CEO of the Toowoomba Chamber of Commerce, director on the board of Sunwater, and an elected councillor and Mayor of Paroo Shire Council in southwest Queensland.

Her passion for agriculture and regional and remote communities, as well as experience across multiple sectors, will ensure

success in representing the interests of peak state and national agriculture industry organisations and more than 13,000 primary producers across Queensland.

"Advocating on behalf of Queensland's farmers is a significant responsibility and given the importance of the agriculture sector to the state's economy and regional communities, effective representation is critical," Ms Sheppard said.

"Despite facing ongoing challenges including the COVID-19 pandemic, rising input prices, bio-security incursions and climate change, Queensland farmers continue to produce world class food, fibre and foliage."

"I look forward to supporting and striving for a better deal for Queensland's farmers to

strengthen their productivity and profitability into the future."

QFF president Allan Dingle thanked outgoing CEO Dr Georgina Davis who has moved on to new challenges and welcomed Ms Sheppard to her new role.

"Jo has demonstrated clear leadership and advocacy skills throughout her career, and her organisational and stakeholder engagement experience will be crucial assets for QFF, our industry members and the state's farmers," Mr Dingle said.

"Under her direction, QFF will continue to progress a broad range of economic, social, environmental and regional issues of strategic importance to improve the operating environment for Queensland's farmers."



Queensland Farmers' Federation chief executive officer Jo Sheppard.

## QPCG Industry Day in June

AFTER the postponement of the event earlier in the year, the Queensland Pig Consultancy Group Industry Day 'Building Resilience in a Changing World'

Toowoomba has been rescheduled to Wednesday June 22.

For further information, contact Sara Willis at [sara.willis@daf.qld.gov.au](mailto:sara.willis@daf.qld.gov.au) or 0423 027 053.

## Small Batch make a mark

THE makers behind Small Batch by Tradition Smallgoods are passionate about using quality ingredients.

That's why, for their Sticky BBQ Pork sausages, they have chosen to source free range Australian pork.

Found on the shelf in most Coles supermarkets, Small Batch butchers have carefully selected quality small batches of 100 percent free range pork.

The pork meat is

coarsely ground and balanced with garlic, fresh chopped spring onion, ginger and a hint of chilli to create gluten-free flavour-packed sausages.

Small Batch are also doing packaging differently.

By using a recyclable cardboard box, they are using 70 percent less plastic packaging than the traditional tray and film packaging.

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"Over the past few years, we have seen massive increases in the costs of fuel, fertilisers and electricity to name a few, with no requisite rise in farm gate prices or retail," Jo Sheppard said.

## Surety and security

### ■ Farmers need input cost assurance

QUEENSLAND Farmers' Federation led a delegation of members to meet with federal Minister for Agriculture David Littleproud recently to discuss the sustainability of the agriculture sector in the face of spiralling input costs and concerns regarding input supply security.

With diesel prices hitting record levels and farm input costs across the board rising significantly, QFF and its member organisations were pleased to take the opportunity to meet with Mr Littleproud to not only voice their concerns but to also initiate discussion on how industry and government can work closely together to find solutions.

QFF chief executive officer Jo Sheppard said that member feedback clearly demonstrated the growing concern of farmers who cannot continue to bear the brunt of increasing input costs.

"Fuel, fertiliser, chemicals and many other inputs are sourced from overseas," Ms Sheppard said.

"Over the past two years, we have seen the costs of these increase by in some cases 150 percent."

"Most consumers have not yet seen the impact of this as farmers have absorbed many of these

price increases, however this is not sustainable.

"This latest increase in fuel prices will have an impact on every aspect of production and is compounding the problem of already rising input costs."

Farmers are concerned with not only the price hikes but with the future security of supply of many key farm inputs also.

"Over the past few years, we have seen massive increases in the costs of fuel, fertilisers and electricity to name a few, with no requisite rise in farm gate prices or retail," Ms Sheppard said.

"Our farmers have been absorbing the bulk of these costs.

"It's simply not sustainable.

"If you accept that Australia runs on trucks, it's easy to see how these fuel spikes are going to play out.

"Every delivery of fertiliser, seed, stock and such will increase.

"On farm, the costs of operating machinery increases.

"And, getting produce to retailers and consumer increases too.

"We are all being impacted by the increased cost of fuel."

QFF is calling on the Federal Government to work with industry to find and progress ways to provide farmers with surety and security of

supply of fuel and other volatile inputs.

"There are many variables in farming, but the sector has been innovating for many years to build its capacity to manage risk," Ms Sheppard said.

A reliable cost-effective supply chain is critical to the future of agriculture.

"We need the Federal Government to work closely with industry to help shore up the supply of fuel and other key inputs, so that farmers have a secure and stable environment to operate in, costs can be contained, and we can continue to do what our farming sector does best in producing high quality, food, fibre and foliage.

QFF and its members appreciated the opportunity to meet with Minister Littleproud to raise these concerns and discuss several ways forward.

"And while it was heartening to hear the Federal Government believes that fuel supply is secure and prices will stabilise, QFF will be continuing discussions with the Minister's office to progress initiatives that will support the development of input cost management issues and security of input supply security on other items such as fertiliser as a matter of urgency."

# Strong focus on sustainability



Extension Officer

by ROWENA DAVIS



THE Australian Pork Limited sustainability goals and the importance of strong commitments mentioned last month enable us to demonstrate to the community that the pork industry is listening to their concerns and is willing to act.

Some of our biggest aspirations and opportunities are in the environmental space.

As an intensive industry, pork is starting from a better position on issues such as carbon emissions and water use than other red meats, but there is more we can do.

To support our goals around reducing the footprint of pork and sharing our story, we have developed a suite of extension resources that have started to roll out over the past month.

These resources aim to help producers understand and make changes to better meet the needs of customers and retailers, who are asking for more action with regards to the environment.

The suite includes information on the sustainability framework, life-cycle assessments, understanding pigs and carbon, industry road maps, a funding and grants access catalogue, solar calculators and an energy audit checklist.

The pork industry 'Low Carbon Emissions Roadmap' and 'Closing the Loop on Waste Roadmap' seek to provide a stronger technical foundation for the actions of the industry as a whole, ultimately focussing on how to drive down carbon emissions and close the loop on waste.

They will provide a summary of the process

to producers – from understanding the terminology, determining baseline emissions, understanding potential reduction strategies, and finally measuring and marketing achievements.

APL has also created new tools for producers in the energy space, acknowledging that energy is a large part of emissions and also one of the most accessible.

A very simple option could be to switch energy provider to a company offering green energy such as hydro or renewables.

These tools include energy self-audit checklists to help interpret energy bills and requirements to weigh up alternative options.

APL has commissioned All Energy to create two solar calculators – solar voltaic and solar thermal – to help identify if solar is the right solution for you.

We have also been supporting the Meath and Livestock Australia Waste to Profit project, which has been focussed on optimising anaerobic digestion technology.

This project is currently beta-testing the new tool ADAvisor, which is a detailed feasibility assessment for anaerobic digestion technology,

including using mixed feedstocks, carbon credit potential, physical and capital requirements, and benefit cost assessment.

This new tool is still being finalised but will provide another way to assess whether biogas generation is a good fit for your business after you complete the energy self-assessment.

Biogas generation is a great way to reduce both power bills and carbon footprint.

To further enhance and support the area of sustainability, APL is pleased to welcome Timothy Morley-Sattler to the producer relations team.

Tim's role as the new sustainability project officer was created to specifically support producers in implementing sustainable practices and infrastructure on farm.

Tim holds a Bachelor of Animal Science from Charles Sturt University and comes to APL with a strong understanding of agricultural systems and knowledge of pig production.

His agriculture experience spans a variety of roles as dairy hand, feedlot animal health foreperson, feedlot receiver and shipping foreperson and most recently livestock production spe-

cialist for a rural ag-service provider.

Tim's roles to date mean he is well versed in the everyday challenges the agriculture industry can face, building relationships and providing on-farm advice, while liaising with livestock buyers, driving sales and managing the care and welfare of livestock.

His tertiary qualifications coupled with his experience communicating and working with a range of individuals will be an asset to our producers and the APL team.

As the sustainability project officer, Tim will be working with sustainability specialists, making technical information more accessible to producers and providing boots on the ground support across sustainability projects – by ensuring the uptake of initiatives such as covering effluent ponds, supporting design and installation of biogas systems, solar systems, energy storage devices, assisting with access to life-cycle assessments and project grants or funding.

Tim is genuinely excited by the opportunity to support producers in achieving their sustainability goals and will be commencing his role in early April.

Keep an eye on the APL Update for a further introduction to Tim and when the new tools and resources will become available.

In the meantime, let us know how we can further support you in the journey of emissions and energy reduction.

For more information, contact Rowena Davis at rowena.davis@australianpork.com.au

## Twenty-five years of pioneering pork

THIS month Australian Pork Limited celebrates a silver anniversary within the organisation.

Starting her journey in the late 1990s with what was then the Australian Pork Corporation, Kylie Roberts took a role in merchandising and butcher relations.

While initially a fill-in job on her way to future prospects, exposure to the colourful characters of the industry soon had her enamoured with all things pork.

Working through the retail and foodservice areas of the organisation, Kylie progressed to state then national managerial roles and eventually to the brand marketing team, where she leads bringing PorkStar to life.

Launched in early 2000, the PorkStar program is the connector between new industry innovators and pork knowledge – elevating pork beyond the plate.

Kylie has been responsible for recruiting some familiar household names to the versatility, taste and benefits of pork, including Manu Feildel, Adrian Rich-

ardson, Colin Fassnidge and 'Fast' Ed Halmagyi.

PorkStar has helped lift the desirability of pork to the most creative chefs and restaurateurs nationwide and has helped pork gain prominence in leading food and lifestyle publications.

Kylie's work has created a trickle-down effect that allows consumers to enjoy various pork innovations from restaurants and directly from their local supermarket.

Her work has been carried out with authenticity and a genuine passion for the product, alongside PorkStar ambassador Mitch Edwards.

"In all my years of dealing with APL, Kylie has always been there with a laugh and a smile, and a great sense of humour.

"Not only is she wonderful at promoting the pork industry to chefs – who are hard most of the time – but she's also able to deliver the goods.

"I have enjoyed working with her for these many years and

look forward to many years in future."

Celebrating her twenty-fifth year, Kylie shows no signs of slowing her enthusiasm for the Aussie protein.

Looking at the year ahead, Kylie is working to seek out the next generation of chefs and innovators in the industry, connecting pork with the education of highly skilled indigenous chefs through the National Indigenous Culinary Institute and re-engaging with the industry through the return of PorkStar events nationwide.

**Lylle Blackstock**  
APL Public Relations Manager



With authenticity and a genuine passion for pork, Kylie Roberts celebrates 25 years at APL.

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# Climate change driving food prices

A NEW report has found Australians are paying more for meat, bread, dairy and fruit because climate change is disrupting food supply chains.

Farmers for Climate Action, a national organisation of 7000 farmers and leaders in the agricultural sector, recently released Fork in the Road: the impacts of climate change on our food supply, by Stephen Bartos.

Mr Bartos is an internationally recognised expert who authored a report for the Federal Government in 2012 examining resilience

in the Australian food supply chain.

## Food supply chain disrupted

Farmers for Climate Action chief executive officer Fiona Davis said, "The report shows climate change is already disrupting every part of the food supply chain, from extreme heat and lack of water on farms to food packing facilities, transport links and the cost of farmers accessing insurance, finance and fertiliser."

"As Australia heats further, these impacts will grow and consumers will pay more for food."

"More lost food, less grass for farmers' livestock to eat, less water and less days to transport livestock – which cannot be transported in extreme heat – mean consumers pay more for food," Ms Davis said.

The risk of food shortages in Australia increases with climate change.

"Getting produce off farm and into supermarkets and ultimately Aussie homes becomes difficult or impossible to deliver when multiple events coincide," Ms Davis said.

"We saw this earlier this year in northern and central Australia when record floods cut off roads and rail links during the COVID pandemic.

"Now our thoughts are with people impacted by the Queensland and northern NSW floods, as they grapple with the flood response while also trying to secure essential food supplies."

## Rubust supply chains

"We need to act quickly to make our supply chains more robust, but ultimately to address the key driver of these difficulties – we need deep emissions cuts this decade to protect our farmers and our food supply chain," Ms Davis said.

The author of the report Stephen Bartos said, "Australians take it for granted that food will always be available."

"Climate change disrupts this."

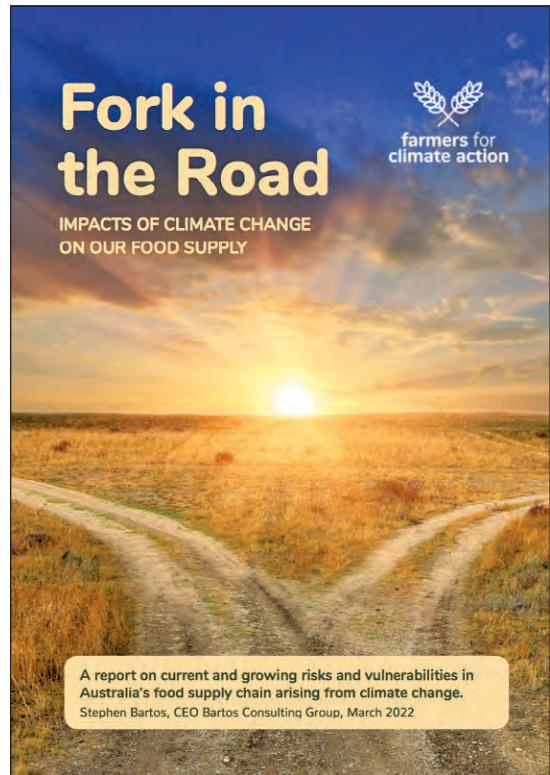
"It creates and amplifies risks all the way through the supply chain, from farm to warehouse to supermarket shelves."

"Some farmers have already had to sell and shift to areas with more reliable rainfall, which raises the issue of stranded assets – as packing houses and processors are set up in select regions where specific produce is currently grown, such as dairy processing factories."

# Australian Pork NEWSPAPER

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The Stephen Bartos report commissioned by Farmers for Climate Action, a national organisation of 7000 farmers and leaders in the agricultural sector.

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# Pig grunts reveal emotions

## ■ Researchers analysed more than 7000 audio recordings

ACCORDING to research from the University of Copenhagen in Denmark, it is now possible to decode pig emotions by translating pig grunts.

Using thousands of acoustic recordings gathered throughout the lives of pigs, from their births to deaths, an international team of researchers has learned to translate pig grunts into actual emotions across an extended number of conditions and life stages.

The research is led by the University of Copenhagen, the ETH Zurich and France's National Research Institute for Agriculture, Food and Environment, and can be used to improve animal welfare in future.

In a new study, an international team of researchers from Denmark, Switzerland, France, Germany, Norway and the Czech Republic have translated pig grunts into emotions.

The findings have been

published in *Scientific Reports*.

Using more than 7000 audio recordings of pigs, the researchers designed an algorithm that can decode whether an individual pig is experiencing a positive emotion such as 'happy' or 'excited', a negative one such as 'scared' or 'stressed', or somewhere in between.

The recordings were collected in a wide range of situations encountered by commercial pigs – both positive and negative –

from when they are born until their deaths.

University of Copenhagen Department of Biology Associate Professor Elodie Briefer said, "With this study, we demonstrate that animal sounds provide great insight into their emotions."

"We also prove that an algorithm can be used to decode and understand the emotions of pigs, which is an important step towards improved animal welfare for livestock."

The researchers recorded pig sounds in both commercial and experimental scenarios which, based on the behaviour of the pigs, are either associated with a positive and negative emotion.

Positive situations included for example those when piglets suckle from their mothers or when they are reunited with their family after being separated.

The emotionally negative situations included, among others, separation, fights between piglets, castration and slaughter.

In experimental stables, the researchers also created various mock scenarios for the pigs, designed to evoke more nuanced emotions in the middle of the spectrum.

These included an arena with toys or food and a corresponding arena without any stimuli.

The researchers also placed new and unfamiliar objects in the arena for the pigs to interact with.

Along the way, the pigs' calls, behaviour and heart rates were monitored and recorded when possible.

The researchers then analysed the more than 7000 audio recordings to see if there was a pattern in the sounds as a function of the emotions, and if they could discern the positive situations and emotions from the negative ones.

As already revealed in previous research, the researchers collected more high-frequency calls such as screams and squeals in negative situations.

At the same time, low-frequency calls such as barks and grunts occurred both in situations where the pigs experienced positive or negative emotions.

The situations between the extremes were particularly interesting.

With an even more thorough analysis of the sound files, the researchers found a new pattern that revealed what the pigs experienced in certain situations in even greater detail.

"There are clear differences in pig calls when we look at positive and negative situations," Assoc Prof Elodie Briefer said.

"In the positive situations, the calls are far shorter with minor fluctuations in amplitude.

"Grunts more specifically begin high and gradually go lower in frequency.

"By training an algorithm to recognise these sounds, we can classify 92 percent of the calls to the correct emotion."

The study of animal emotions is a relatively new field that has come about over the past 20 years.

Today, it is widely accepted that the mental health of livestock is important for their overall well-being.

Nevertheless, today's animal welfare focusses primarily on the physical health of livestock.

Indeed, several systems exist that can automatically monitor an animal's physical health for a farmer.

"We have trained the algorithm to decode pig grunts," Assoc Prof Elodie Briefer said.

"Now, we need someone who wants to develop the algorithm into an app that farmers can use to improve the welfare of their animals."

She added that with enough data to train the algorithm, the method could also be used to better understand the emotions of other mammals.



An algorithm can be used to decode and understand the emotions of pigs, which is an important step towards improved animal welfare for livestock.

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A Stockyard Industries turnkey project covers everything, leaving the producers to concentrate on their core business while construction takes place.



Matthew Greenslade was extremely happy with the fully concrete-slatted shed which stays extremely clean and the Big Dutchman automatically controlled natural ventilation with spray cooling.

# Greenslade's nursery and finisher sheds getting results

RIVERTON-based producer Matthew Greenslade understands the importance of investing in superior infrastructure for quality outcomes.

When asked of his decision in choosing Stockyard Industries for the recent upgrade at his farm, Matthew was happy to provide this feedback.

Stockyard Industries has been a well-respected name in the pig industry for a long time and the fact that the owner is a pig producer carries significant weight.

So, when we were looking to upgrade the piggery, Stockyard Industries were the obvious choice.

After helping to iron out a few problems with the ventilation in an existing



weaner shed, the decision was made to upgrade the finisher accommodation.

The construction of a new turnkey 40x12m 640-space finisher shed was undertaken in 2019 and is achieving fantastic results.

The fully concrete-slatted shed stays extremely clean and the Big Dutchman automatically controlled natural ventilation with spray cooling works a treat.

With a simple Big Dutchman automated-feed system, our aim of making the shed as user-

friendly as possible has succeeded.

After years of weaning into eco-shelters, we made the decision to move to controlled-environment nurseries.

Eco-shelters have their place but, with Riverton having a classic Mediterranean climate and the piggery being exposed to bitter gully winds, we were keen to maximise early growth in a more controlled manner.

Our aim of pigs keeping their 'bloom' after weaning is being fulfilled, along with our goal of never mixing pigs after weaning.

Early indications are that we are almost a week ahead on previous growth rates.

A Stockyard Industries

construction of a 36x9m 960-place controlled-climate nursery shed.

Once again, the clean and easy design works extremely well.

Using the Big Dutchman climate system – which consists of RainMaker evaporative cooling, CL 600 exhaust fans with actuated air inlets and LB White gas room heaters – we experience very little temperature variation and maintain optimal conditions for the pigs.

Our aim of pigs keeping their 'bloom' after weaning is being fulfilled, along with our goal of never mixing pigs after weaning.

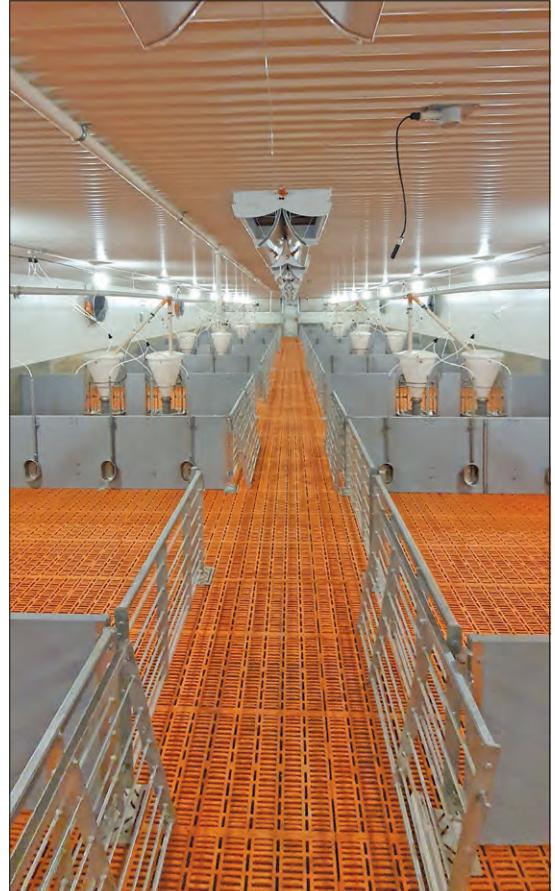
Early indications are that we are almost a week ahead on previous growth rates.

turnkey project covers everything – from approval and design all the way through to the finishing touches and after-sales technical support and service.

This was important to me as it allowed us to concentrate on our core business while the construction was taking place.

As with any major project, there were minor teething problems, however nothing was too much trouble for Stockyard Industries' sales manager pigs Cam and technical manager South Australia Shane, and you know that any phone call will be met with a positive response.

For more information on Stockyard Industries, visit [stockyardindustries.com](http://stockyardindustries.com).



After years of weaning into eco-shelters, the Greenslade farm made the decision to move to controlled-environment nurseries.

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# AusScan Monthly Early Harvest Report for February 2022 scans

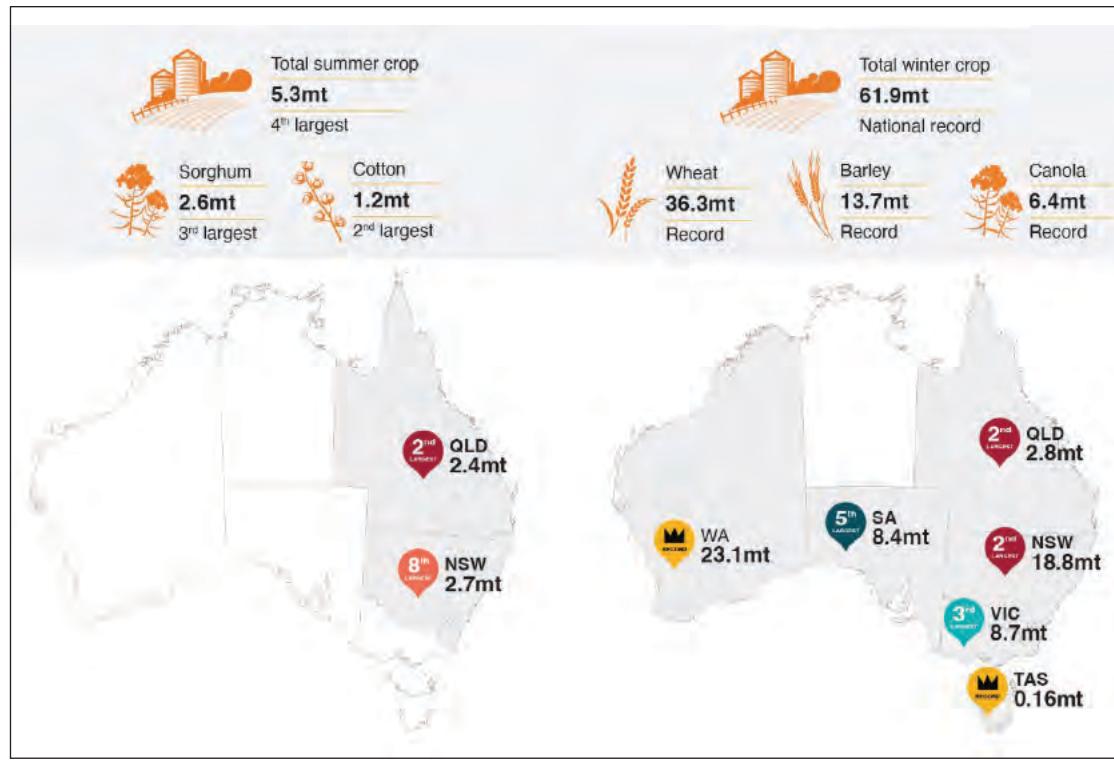


Fig 1: Summer and winter crop production, Australia, 2021-22.

THE data set in Table 1 summarises the number of NIR scans completed within February 2022 for each mill and includes new seasons grain.

This month, AusScan Online was also able to include a small number of scans for wheat from a feed mill in the Western Australia region.

The report is not able to identify the proportion of new seasons grain or separate out weather damaged grain.

The following is adapted from the Australian Crop Report, National Overview, March 1, 2022 – [www.gov.au/abares/research-topics/agricultural-outlook/australian-crop-report/overview](http://www.gov.au/abares/research-topics/agricultural-outlook/australian-crop-report/overview)

Harvesting of winter crops this season is now complete.

Total winter crop production is estimated to be 61.9

million tonnes in 2021-22. This represents an upward revision of 6 percent from the December 2021 edition of the Australian Crop Report.

Production of wheat, barley and canola are all estimated to have reached new national records.

These records are driven by wheat production in Western Australia, which had a favourable growing season – the only mainland Australian state to have no problems with falling numbers an indicator of sprouted grain, as the wheat harvest was efficient and dry.

A common trade-off of high yields can be the subsequent dilution of protein levels, and this was noticeable in Western Australia, where lower than average qualities of wheat were observed.

Conversely, NSW had a near-record production, as

crops were in good condition at the end of winter, which was followed by favourable conditions over spring, providing an excellent base for high yields nationally.

However, record November rainfall in most cropping regions in NSW and Queensland led to weather damage and delays in harvests.

Widespread quality downgrades to feed wheat in NSW due to low falling number was between 40-45 percent, representing 5-6 million tonnes from a total of 13 million tonnes.

Some of the feed wheat has a high-protein profile – about 13 percent – which may be appealing to feed formulators looking to reduce inclusion rates of the current high-priced soybean meals.

In other states, grain quality has been mostly average and as expected.

TABLE 1. AusScan Early Harvest Report February 2022

Protein Moisture and Energy Values for Cereal Grains

Barley		February 2022																Broiler AME MJ/Kg							
Region*		Protein %				Moisture %				Pig Faecal DE MJ/Kg				Pig Ileal DE MJ/Kg				Broiler AME MJ/Kg							
		Mean	SD	Min	Max	Mean	SD	Min	Max	Mean	SD	Min	Max	Mean	SD	Min	Max	Mean	SD	Min	Max				
NSW1		9.5	1.01	8.4	12.3	10.3	0.30	9.9	11.1	13.2	0.14	13.0	13.7	10.6	0.32	10.2	11.7	12.2	0.19	11.8	12.8	70.3	1.59	67.0	75.5
QLD		11.4	1.09	9.1	13.8	11.6	0.83	9.8	13.5	12.3	0.21	11.7	12.8	10.5	0.30	9.7	11.5	12.0	0.26	11.5	12.8				
QLD1		11.7	1.19	9.3	13.6	11.4	0.70	9.7	12.5	12.5	0.12	12.2	12.7	10.5	0.20	10.2	10.9	11.9	0.27	11.1	12.2				
SA		12.4	1.86	8.1	14.0	11.1	1.34	8.8	12.4	12.6	0.44	12.3	13.7	10.7	0.47	10.4	11.9	11.9	0.59	11.2	13.1				
SA3		9.9	1.30	8.3	11.2	9.8	0.46	9.5	10.5	13.4	0.20	13.1	13.5	11.5	0.15	11.3	11.6	13.5	0.29	13.2	13.9	69.7	1.12	68.9	71.3
VIC		11.0	1.52	9.3	13.0	9.9	0.72	8.8	10.9	12.3	0.08	12.2	12.5	10.2	0.10	10.0	10.3	11.2	0.19	10.9	11.4				
VIC 1		12.8	1.20	10.3	14.0	9.7	0.77	8.4	10.7	12.4	0.06	12.2	12.4	10.7	0.39	10.2	11.3	11.4	0.30	10.9	11.7				
VIC 2		11.8	1.74	9.4	15.7	10.4	1.09	9.3	14.7	12.5	0.24	12.1	13.6	10.3	0.41	9.9	11.9	11.6	0.39	11.1	13.0				
VIC 3		9.3	1.47	6.6	12.5	10.4	0.83	8.9	12.2	12.4	0.27	12.0	13.7	10.4	0.43	9.8	12.1	11.5	0.40	10.8	13.0				
Sorghum		February 2022																Broiler AME MJ/Kg							
Region*		Protein %				Moisture %				Pig Faecal DE MJ/Kg				Pig Ileal DE MJ/Kg				Broiler AME MJ/Kg							
		Mean	SD	Min	Max	Mean	SD	Min	Max	Mean	SD	Min	Max	Mean	SD	Min	Max	Mean	SD	Min	Max				
QLD		10.0	0.81	8.8	11.5	12.3	0.67	11.2	13.0	14.3	0.21	13.8	14.6	12.0	0.28	11.5	12.5	14.6	0.30	13.9	15.0				
Triticale		February 2022																Broiler AME MJ/Kg							
Region*		Protein %				Moisture %				Pig Faecal DE MJ/Kg				Pig Ileal DE MJ/Kg				Broiler AME MJ/Kg							
		Mean	SD	Min	Max	Mean	SD	Min	Max	Mean	SD	Min	Max	Mean	SD	Min	Max	Mean	SD	Min	Max				
SA1		12.1	1.27	10.8	14.1	11.3	0.68	10.3	12.8	13.7	0.13	13.6	13.9	11.9	0.13	11.8	12.2	13.2	0.10	13.0	13.3	76.6	0.62	75.7	77.3
Wheat		February 2022																Broiler AME MJ/Kg							
Region*		Protein %				Moisture %				Pig Faecal DE MJ/Kg				Pig Ileal DE MJ/Kg				Broiler AME MJ/Kg							
		Mean	SD	Min	Max	Mean	SD	Min	Max	Mean	SD	Min	Max	Mean	SD	Min	Max	Mean	SD	Min	Max				
NSW1		10.6	0.68	9.2	11.7	10.2	0.37	9.3	11.0	13.8	0.12	13.4	14.0	11.9	0.21	11.0	12.1	12.8	0.19	12.2	13.2	76.4	1.75	71.9	78.9
QLD		13.6	1.13	10.6	16.7	11.4	0.90	8.0	13.3	13.6	0.24	12.5	15.3	12.0	0.24	10.5	13.6	13.1	0.37	11.8	16.1				
QLD1		14.2	2.24	11.3	17.7	11.9	0.93	10.4	13.2	13.7	0.08	13.6	13.9	12.2	0.11	11.9	12.4	13.0	0.25	12.6	13.5				
SA		12.2	1.39	8.8	19.7	10.7	0.96	8.2	13.5	13.7	0.07	13.4	14.0	11.9	0.18	11.3	12.6	12.8	0.29	12.0	13.8				
SA1		11.6	1.72	8.8	17.4	10.1	1.40	6.6	11.6	14.0	0.12	13.8	14.2	12.2	0.12	11.9	12.4	13.4	0.27	12.9	13.9	75.2	2.19	70.1</td	

## Mycotoxin impacts on animal health

MYCOTOXINS are a common concern for feed quality and animal safety worldwide.

Mycotoxins can exert their effects on animals in many ways – change feeding behaviour, reduce growth and efficiency, alter intestinal structure or function, damage internal organs, affect endocrine system signalling and modify the immune system.

Mycotoxicosis can negatively impact all stages of animal production.

When pigs eat feed containing a harmful mycotoxin, the toxin can affect the pig's central nervous system, liver, kidney, immune system or reproductive process.

Exposure to mycotoxins can occur as either a large single dose – acute – or as a lesser quantity consumed over time – chronic.

To make matters more complicated, multiple mycotoxins can have greater negative effects, with synergistic roles on performance and health.

Symptoms of mycotoxicosis are then dependent on the type of mycotoxins involved, the concentration and the age or health status of the animal.

**Gastrointestinal tract**  
Consumption of mycotoxins at both lower and higher concentrations can significantly impact gastrointestinal health.

Damage throughout the small intestine can lead to decreased villus height or increased crypt depth, nutrient malabsorption, intestinal lesions and even haemorrhaging.

Several mycotoxins are also shown to increase the colonisation of pathogens such as salmonella and e. coli.

Despite having a rumen, ruminant animals are not resistant to mycotoxin effects.

Though rumen microorganisms can degrade some mycotoxins, other mycotoxins can have detrimental effects on these organisms or can pass through without breakdown.

As a result, even low doses of mycotoxins could play a role in rumen and gut health.

### Immune system

Mycotoxins can impact the immune system, with the ability to cause both immune stimulation and immune suppression depending on mycotoxin type and concentration.

Immune stimulation often results in the production of proinflammatory cytokines, which is an energetically costly process for the animal and may adversely impact performance.

Immune suppression is also of concern because it can lead to increased susceptibility to secondary diseases,

reoccurrence of chronic infections and even the failure of vaccine programs.

Poor vaccination efficiency can be of considerable importance in animal production when vaccination is essential for disease prevention and control.

### Growth performance

Whether it is simply a case of reduced feed intake or a combination of the various effects throughout the body, mycotoxins can have an impact on growth and performance output.

Research has shown that growth performance can be reduced at both lower and higher levels of mycotoxin consumption.

In dairy cows, reduced milk production and quality could be a sign of mycotoxin consumption.

### Reproductive performance

Mycotoxins can also impact breeding performance.

In some cases, the effects on reproductive performance may be caused directly by mycotoxins, such as in the case of zearalenone consumption.

However, reproductive changes may also be due to the indirect effects that other mycotoxins have on animal health.

Trichothecene mycotoxins – such as deoxynivalenol and T2/HT2 toxins – are shown to lower egg production and hatchability rates of poultry, increase the number of stillbirths in pigs and lower pregnancy rates in dairy cows.

### Provide support by managing mycotoxins

In many cases, the problems associated with mycotoxin-contaminated feed are not a result of acute contamination, but rather due to long-term consumption of low levels of mixtures of mycotoxins.

Animals can develop an array of metabolic disturbances that result in poor performance, low productivity, changes in carcass quality, reduced fertility and immune suppression.

Mycotoxins should thus always be of concern to animal producers, as these contaminants can significantly impact animal production and profitability.

To minimise the threat of mycotoxins, feed and animal producers can utilise a range of techniques, from testing feedstuffs and feed for mycotoxins to including a broad-spectrum adsorbent in the feed, such as Alltech's Mycosorb A+.

More information on mycotoxins is available online at [knowmyco.toxins.com](http://knowmyco.toxins.com).

**Dr Alexandra Weaver**  
Alltech Mycotoxin Management

# Efficient hygienic cleaning

PRESSURE cleaners and steam cleaners are widely used in piggeries around Australia.

Producers understand that high pressure cleaning must be fast, efficient and use less water.

Aussie Pumps has developed a range of high-pressure steam cleaners, with performance way above that produced by European machines.

Aussie Pumps – Australia's major manufacturer of high-pressure water blasters – has been working with producers for the past 20 years.

This has led to the development of products that are particularly suitable for stall washdown. Many machines sold decades ago are still working in farms and sheds around Australia and do a great job every day.

Some farmers like the idea of being able to use hot water or even steam.

They enjoy the concept of combined cleaning and sterilising capability.

Killing potential virus germs in any intense animal husbandry applications is considered essential.

Aussie's new Admiral 4000 cleaner is a 4000psi steam cleaner with increased capability that can produce 130C.

The Admiral can save time, water and electricity in the cleaning process.

The 4000psi capability means it can move waste and debris fast, creating huge time savings for producers.

That combination of high pressure and 15LPM flow gets the job done faster.

Aussie's hot water machines only come with slow-speed pump and

motor combinations running at 1450rpm – they provide for a longer and trouble-free operating life.

The machines have four-pole 415V or 240V motors, depending on the size.

Pistons are solid ceramic and pumps are all top-quality ISO 9001 – not knock-offs.

They all come with stainless-steel covers, replacing the traditional European plastic cover.

A steel chassis with bumper is stronger and longer lasting than polypropylene and is suitable for tough conditions.

Four wheels, not castors, are included for ease of movement on uneven surfaces.

The new Admiral steamer is way ahead of some imports.

It features a wide range of protection devices that

are aimed at providing the maximum convenience for the operator.

The whole idea is to learn from the industry and ask growers what they need.

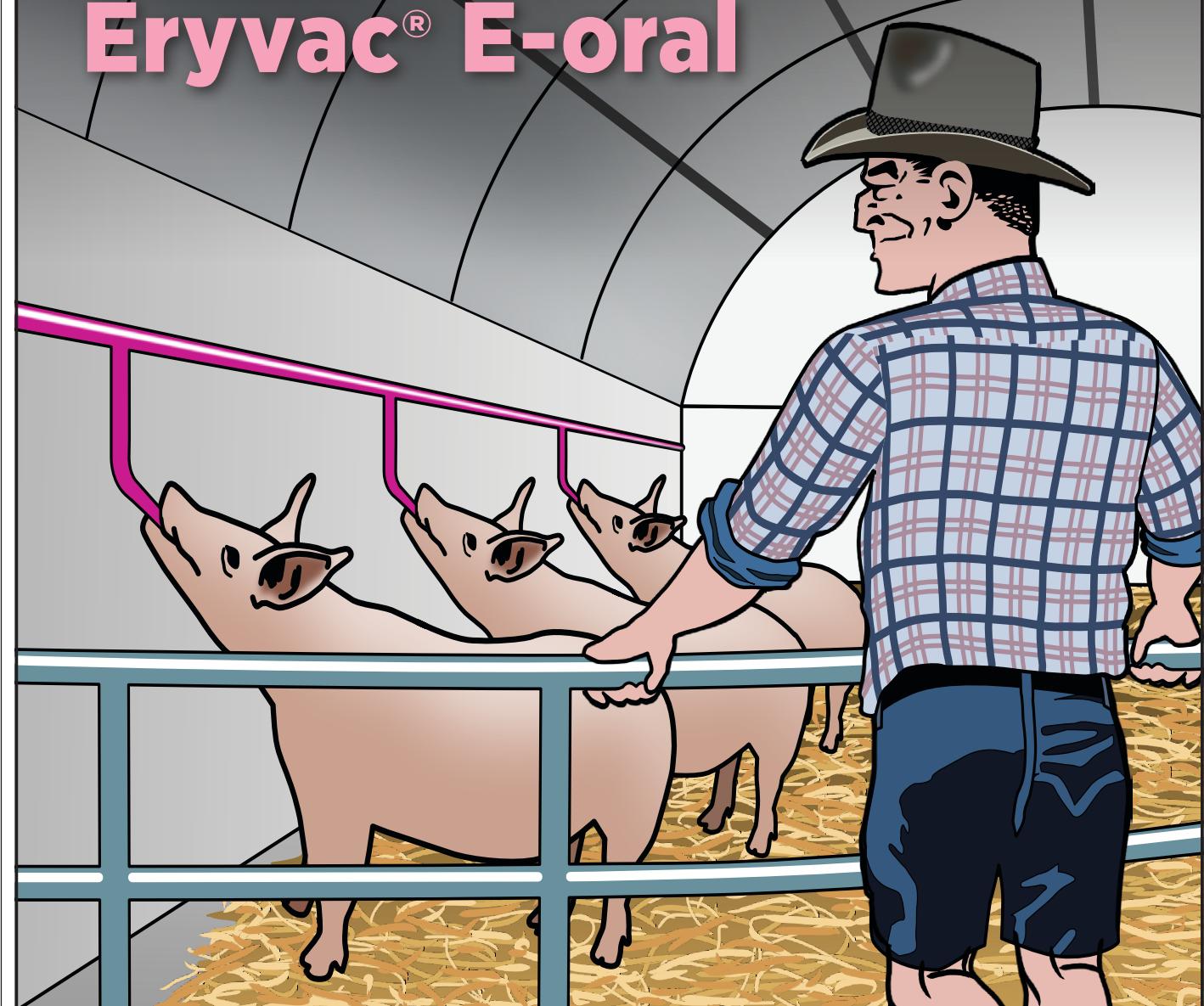
The ultimate desire is to give them something better than they could imagine.

For further information, including information on Aussie's free safety training program, visit [ausiepumps.com.au](http://ausiepumps.com.au).



Aussie's Admiral steamers sanitise and clean at the same time!

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# Roadmap to put Australian protein on global menu

A NEW roadmap by CSIRO, Australia's national science agency, shows how Australia can serve up a wider range of high-quality protein products to feed the world's growing population and help capture a \$13 billion market opportunity for all types of protein.

Released recently, the report 'Protein: A roadmap for unlocking technology-led growth opportunities for Australia' also outlines how Australia could create up to 10,000 jobs and become a global leader.

With an expected two billion extra people on the planet to feed by 2050, coupled with changing

tastes and dietary preferences, the world is going to need to produce more protein, more sustainably and from more sources.

Growth opportunities include new plant-based products, turning lesser cuts of red meat into value-added protein powders and nutraceuticals, developing higher-protein and better tasting legume crops, creating a new sustainable industry in Australian white-flesh fish, and exploring non-traditional forms of protein such as cultivated meat and edible insects.

CSIRO chief executive Dr Larry Marshall said Australia's strong history and global reputation in agriculture and food pre-

sent a big opportunity for future growth.

"As protein demand grows and new consumer trends emerge, solutions from science can help create new markets and complement our existing globally competitive traditional markets."

"This will help shift Australia's reputation from being the world's food bowl of commodities to becoming a global delicatessen of unique higher value exports," Dr Marshall said.

"CSIRO's Future Protein Mission recognises the scale of this challenge and brings together a wide network of partners with the latest innovative technology to seize this opportunity for a resilient and sustainable food system.

"We can supercharge growth in our traditional protein industries by harnessing technologies such as digital traceability and integrity systems that enhance the premium status of Australian red meat, and grow new complementary protein markets through techniques similar to precision fermentation to generate a suite of new Australian products."

The roadmap highlights how protein demand can only be met by bringing together animal, plant and non-traditional protein production systems.

Food and agribusiness

growth centre Food Innovation Australia Limited managing director Dr Mirjana Prica said the global demand for protein represents a significant export opportunity for all of Australia's protein players.

"Consumer demand is increasing for all protein sources," Dr Prica said.

"Australia has a real opportunity to have a thriving local food manufacturing sector, while becoming a leading exporter in value-added traditional, plant and novel protein products.

"Building domestic capacity and infrastructure to not only tap but to build scale for the plethora of protein opportunities is critical if we are to switch from importing ingredients to producing our own domestically."

CSIRO developed the roadmap drawing on its deep and broad connections in the sector to drive a conversation about how to grow this protein opportunity for national benefit, underpinned by the right infrastructure and technology.

The roadmap was developed in consultation with key stakeholders in government, industry and the research sector across Australia's agriculture, food and innovation system.

Access the full report at [csiro.au/protein-roadmap](http://csiro.au/protein-roadmap)



For more information, contact your specialist :

Wayne Bradshaw : [wbradshaw@jefo.com](mailto:wbradshaw@jefo.com)

Johnny Barwary : [jbarwary@jefo.com](mailto:jbarwary@jefo.com)



As protein demand grows and new consumer trends emerge, solutions from science can help create new markets.



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Science Agency

## Protein

A Roadmap for unlocking technology-led growth opportunities for Australia

2022



CSIRO's protein roadmap shows how Australia can serve up a wider range of high-quality protein products.

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Eat-out rates were as low as 15 percent during the first lockdowns.

## Big year in foodservice

DESPITE another turbulent year from a foodservice perspective at Australian Pork Limited, the overall eat-out rate – the proportion of the population eating out for lunch or dinner on any given day – recovered to 28 percent, after the low of 2020 at 25 percent.

The overall improvement was driven by increases across all meal occasions.

Looking at state by state results, the largest recovery was seen in Tasmania – shifting from 17 to 26 percent – and Victoria, moving from 24 to 31 percent.

Remaining strong, NSW was at 33 percent – however this was largely supported by increases at regional locations, presumably due to hyper-local travel with neighbouring state borders closed for a period.

Notably South Australia had a slight decrease by 1 percent.

Pork remains on the menu in 69 percent of cases where foodservice meals are purchased and continues to be on the permanent main menu of establishments, with the proportion of pork being on the special's menu holding steady in 2021.



Volume Foodservice  
Channel Manager

by ESTHER VOLPE



Chicken and beef have remained the base proteins in foodservice, despite chicken experiencing a slight dip and beef holding steady.

Pork has slowly gained share since a dip in 2019, and the combination of fresh and processed pig products make it the third most-eaten meat in foodservice overall.

Our research also allowed us to deep dive into venue types and meal types.

For all pork meals eaten in clubs, pubs, bars and Returned and Services League venues there was a notable decrease by 11 percent for roasts, as well as a decrease of 7 percent for grilled meats in clubs and RSLs.

This presents an opportunity for new cost-effec-

tive on-trend recipes that APL is developing through the foodservice program – these will be published through trade media and shared with foodservice vendors.

APL is also developing new value-added lines that are quick to create and build increased margins, which will assist in the face of current labour shortages.

While eat-out rates were as low as 15 percent during the first lockdowns, the data coming through for the first three months of 2022 has seen a recovery to approximately 33 percent, which is encouraging.

For further information, contact APL volume foodservice channel manager Esther Volpe at [esther.volpe@australianpork.com.au](mailto:esther.volpe@australianpork.com.au).

## ASF help welcomed in Germany

ROMANIA was the only country in Europe to register new cases of African swine fever in domestic pigs in the 10 days to March 21.

Cases continue to rise among the wild boar populations of Germany and seven other European countries.

In the eastern German state of Brandenburg, the struggle to control African swine fever began 18 months ago in September 2020.

Since then, the infection has spread to more than 2400 wild boar in seven districts of the state, according to its government.

A range of controls on the wild population and restrictions on domestic pigs have been largely successful in keeping the German pig sector free of ASF.

Across the three affected states, only four swine herds have tested positive for the ASF virus.

Affected were two commercial farms and two backyards.

Despite the successful disease controls, restrictions on farms in these states have brought prolonged hardship to producers in these areas.

Visiting one of the affected districts in Brandenburg last week, federal agriculture minister Cem Özdemir assured the region's pig producers of his support for their situation.

For the past year and a half, pig farmers have been experiencing heavy financial losses.

These fiscal challenges have arisen from a simultaneous increase in costs of control measures and the loss of some markets for their pork.

Currently, the minister's team is negotiating for more financial support from the European Union.

Eight areas have been infected with ASF over an area of 4800sq km in Germany.

Effective control measures – including wildlife fences, and the removal of fallen animals and wild boar from restricted areas – have resulted in a period of several weeks with no new cases in some parts.

As a result, some restrictions can now be lifted, according to the Brandenburg minister for consumer protection.

Affected pig farmers have welcomed the evidence that federal and state governments are addressing their difficulties, and are working together on solutions to keep pig production financially viable.

### ASF cases in German wild boar pass 3600

Across three states of Germany, the number of confirmed ASF cases in wild boar has reached 3614.

This is the total since the first infection in

Brandenburg in September 2020.

Since then, cases have also been detected in the wild boar populations of neighbouring Saxony and Mecklenburg-West Pomerania.

The total comprises 2475 in Brandenburg as of March 18, 1122 in Saxony as of March 16, and 17 in Mecklenburg-West Pomerania.

### ASF situation in wild boar elsewhere in Europe

So far this year, 2318 outbreaks among wild boar have occurred in Europe.

This is according to the Animal Disease Information Notification System operated by the European Commission in its latest update dated March 11.

This represents an increase of 141 from the

previous edition on March 6.

So far this year, one or more outbreaks have now been registered through this system by 13 countries.

Recording the most outbreaks has been Poland 785, followed by Germany 452, Bulgaria 225, Romania 220 and Slovakia 174.

Also registering new cases through this system were Hungary, Italy, Latvia and Lithuania.

In Poland, total outbreaks in wild boar this year stand at 707 as of March 18, according to the nation's chief veterinary officer.

Latest reports confirm 113 outbreaks in wild boar suspected in the period February 13 to March 3.

These involved a total of 151 animals.



Eight areas have been infected with ASF over an area of 4800sq km in Germany. Photo: Assunta Piu

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PorkStar returns after a pandemic-induced hiatus and has kicked off activities by sponsoring the Chef of the Year award at the Gourmet Traveller 2022 Restaurant Awards.

## PorkStar returns

PORKSTAR, the chef influencer marketing program at Australian Pork Limited, returns to in-person events and activations this month after a hiatus due to COVID-19 lockdowns and pandemic restrictions on hospitality and events.

PorkStar is the connector between new industry innovators and pork knowledge, armed with the task of elevating pork in peoples' minds.

Having an ongoing partnership with magazine publication *Gourmet Traveller*, activity kicked off in support of the resilience, creativity and excellence of Australia's best restaurants.

PorkStar sponsored the coveted Chef of the Year award at the 2022 Restaurant Awards, hosted at Gimlet at Cavendish House in Melbourne.

Things are happening again – filming more content in the field and supporting pork on the menu at some of Australia's

finest restaurants and establishments.

PorkStar also took fast-rising star chef Nicholas Hill of NSW restaurant Porcine and P&V Wine + Liquor Merchants founder Mike Bennie to Dewsbury Pork and Pig Stud to see the mighty Duroc and Hampshire breeds.

Taking these hospitality innovators directly to the source of the product provided new inspiration for their venues.

A resulting dish ideated from this trip – a cold roast pork using Duroc pork with complementary beverage.

Supporting the launch of the Melbourne Food and Wine Festival – tasked with encouraging patrons back to dining out in Melbourne, particularly the usually bustling central business district – PorkStar celebrated with pork on the menu for the opening night festivities.

Local Adrian Richardson returned his suckling pig feast to sold-out sessions, a successful result after the events of the past two years prevented special dinner experiences in Melbourne.

The national series of PorkStar events will return in May, with events confirmed for Adelaide and Perth.

Soi38 executive chef Terry Intarakhamhaeng will share a menu of seasonal recipes that have been gathered from regional and remote areas of Thailand, ethnic minority groups and hill tribes.

This follows Terry's recent guest spot on *The Crackling* – a food podcast hosted by Anthony Huckstep in conversation with Australia's best chefs, artisan producers, butchers and pork producers.

The podcast has had over 100,000 listens and continues to spread the word of pork and the endless opportunities it can offer.

**Lylle Blackstock**  
APL Public Relations  
Manager

# Zinc oxide in piglet diets

WELCOME to the first issue of the Animine series of articles to review scientific literature on the effects of pharmacological dosage of zinc oxide in weaned piglets' diets.

In the European Union, medicated zinc oxide will be totally banned from June 2022.

It is interesting to note that also abroad there is a growing number of countries following this tendency, such as China, where the supplementation of pharmacological levels of zinc oxide is already restricted.

Pharmacological dosage of zinc oxide is well known for its effect on diarrhea reduction and improved weight gain of weaned piglets.

However even after decades of use, there is still no consensus on its modes of action.

This series of articles will review existing scientific literature, with a particular focus on its key effects and mechanisms.

It will also be inspired from the latest outcomes from the ZinCo-Supp research network, supervised by Animine.

This ambitious scientific program involving several renowned universities addresses the suppression of pharmacological zinc oxide while studying the

proper supplementation of the potentiated zinc source – HiZox.

### Effect of dietary zinc oxide concentration on blood zinc levels

An exhaustive literature review was performed from the AniLib database.

Out of 151 publications on pharmacological use of zinc oxide in weaned piglets, 38 containing data on blood zinc concentration at the end of the study were selected for the purpose of this review.

As shown on Figure 1, a zinc supplementation below requirements – estimated to be at 100mg/kg – lead to low blood zinc levels.

Though the majority of the observations indicated a low level of zinc in the blood in this range, some trials ob-

served a high concentration of zinc in the blood of piglets.

This could be due to a high zinc status at weaning from the intake of zinc-rich creep feed before weaning.

An increase on blood zinc levels – from 0 to 1.3mg/L with higher zinc oxide supplementation dosages from 200-500mg/kg – was also observed in a dose-response behaviour.

The supplementation of zinc oxide from 500 up to 1500-2000mg/kg zinc in the complete feed seems to reach a plateau on blood levels, maintaining homeostatic regulation and buffering excess dietary zinc.

When the zinc supplementation exceeds 2000mg/kg zinc, the homeostatic regulation

capacity of piglets is bypassed, increasing the blood zinc concentration.

At such high levels, also observed was a higher variability of blood zinc concentrations.

This might be related to weaning age and individual feed intakes.

The higher the zinc oxide supplementation is, the higher the feed consumption will be – resulting in a greater risk of piglet toxicity due to bypassed homeostatic regulation.

If you have any queries, contact either Stuart Wilkinson on [stuart.wilkinson@feedworks.com.au](mailto:stuart.wilkinson@feedworks.com.au) or 0414 487 882 or David Cadogan on [david.cadogan@feedworks.com.au](mailto:david.cadogan@feedworks.com.au) or 0409 049 793.

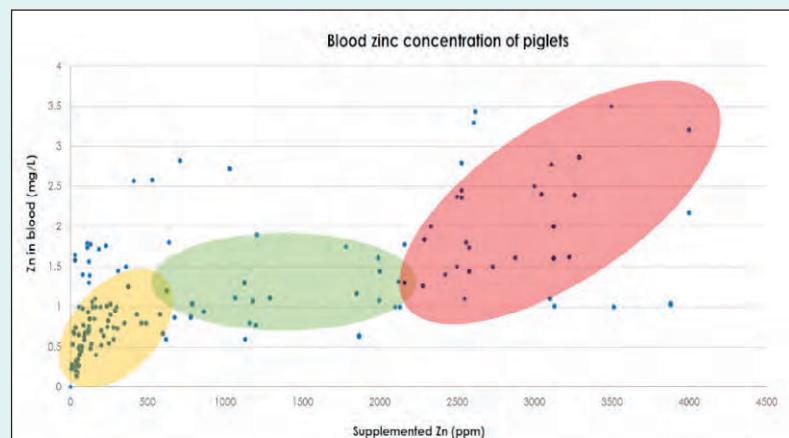


Figure 1: Blood zinc concentration in piglets feed, different dietary zinc content for two weeks post weaning.

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Pork production in Australia – What will the next 5, 10 and 20 years look like? Dr Robert van Barneveld, SunPork Group  
The new NZ Model Code for Pigs – What's changed? NZ Pork  
Are farrowing crates defendable? Producer Panel discussion.

### Session 2: Are We Ready for ASF?

Biosecurity preparedness – Did we learn anything from COVID-19? Dr Kirsty Richards, SunPork Group  
ASF in feral pigs - Spread modelling suggests it may be manageable? Dr Richard Bradhurst, CEBRA, University of Melbourne

### Pork Production Conference Dinner

Tuesday 17 May 2022

### Session 3: Understanding our Markets

Global pork markets and trade outlook. Brett Stuart, Global AgriTrends

### Session 4: Practical Science and Pig Production

Global R&D round-up. Dr Roger Campbell, RG Campbell Advisory  
What's more important, extra pigs per litter or heavier carcasses? Kenton Shaw, SunPork Group  
Building a pig shed – here's what it will need to look like. Marcus Jones, Stockyard Industries

### Session 5: Consumer Trends

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



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