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Some of the many West Australian pork producers who attended WAPPA Pig Day Out 2016.

WAPPA Pig Day Out proved vibrant

AN insightful reflection by animal nutritionist Tony Edwards of ACE Livestock Consulting on how the past 30 years of research has benefited pork producers set the scene for a vibrant 2016 Pig Day Out, attended by about 100 people and hosted by West Australian Pork Producers' Association and the De-

partment of Agriculture and Food, WA on Friday, April 8 at Technology Park, Bentley.

Quoting fascinating statistics, such as the rise in average daily weight gain from 450g in the 1970s to 700g today; the increase in number of pigs produced per sow, per year from 16 to 24; and kilograms of meat produced

per sow per year from 960kg to 1800kg, Mr Edwards noted that pork production technology had advanced rapidly.

"However, we need to constantly improve to remain competitive and the main driver of improvements will be scientific research," Mr Edwards said.

"There is still much

more to uncover and we are currently well short of the biological potential of the pig."

Addressing the issue of where Australia sits in the global pig and pork productivity and profitability stakes, Pork CRC CEO Roger Campbell said the Australian industry was currently one of the most profitable and vibrant in the world.

"I expect growth based on longer-term contracts, which will reflect demand for high-integrity Australian pork and I also think there's still plenty of money on the table for Australian pork producers if they can work on improving reproduction, carcass weights, feed efficiency and product differentiation," Dr Campbell said.

Global trends were the use of post-cervical artificial insemination and set time AI, fatty acids in lactation, tryptophan levels in lactation diets and large pellets in creep and weaner feeds.

Other R&D speakers

continued P7



Speakers at WAPPA Pig Day Out 2016 included Karen Moore (DAFWA), Tony Edwards (ACE Livestock Consulting), Hugh Payne (DAFWA), Roger Campbell (Pork CRC), Jae Kim (DAFWA), Megan Trezona (DAFWA) and Diana Turpin (Murdoch University).

Producers, pigs and pork at PPPE

PAN Pacific Pork Expo is fast approaching, planned for May 25 and 26.

We are looking forward to a valuable and energetic event for all participants.

Registrations are moving nicely and we are expecting a big crowd.

Support packages available through Australian Pork Limited for members to attend are moving a bit more slowly, but these are expected to fill up in the next couple of weeks.

There have been some difficulties with bookings for accommodation and travel and we apologise for that, but I understand that this is being sorted out and everything should be fine by the time the event takes place.

Our technical team has done a great job of putting together an interesting program including international and local speakers as well as a few novel presentation ideas well removed from things we're exposed to day to day.

Importantly, PPPE gives all our producers the opportunity to catch up with each other, discuss issues of common interest and make contact with APL staff.

Plenty of time has been built into the itinerary to enable this to happen.

APL will be spending in the vicinity of \$15 million of levy payer money in the next financial year.

You have every right to ask us how we are going to spend that and what it will mean for your business, and I encourage you to find APL staff at PPPE, including myself, and ask exactly those questions.

The Delegates' Forum is to take place the day before PPPE.



Point of View

by ANDREW SPENCER CEO

We are planning to discuss some big issues there, including how to finalise our sow stall phase-out and what that might mean for a review of our Model Code.

APL has been conducting some webinars exactly on this topic for producers, and if you get the chance to attend any of these I would encourage you to do so.

At the Delegates' Forum we'll also discuss what is going on with demand and supply for pork in the Australian market.

High prices are motivating some increasing pork production investments, which we are trying to keep track of and generally report back to industry.

We'll also be reporting to delegates how the three-yearly membership renewal and delegate voting processes are going to work.

Recently, APL's general manager Policy Deb Kerr and I attended the trade delegation Australia Week in China 2016.

Taking part in this mission were 1300 Australian delegates, which made it the largest trade delegation to ever go to China from Australia.

Austrade organised an excellent program of site visits, meetings and presentations to give delegates a feel for business opportunities on

how to conduct business in China.

From an Australian pork point of view, we are generating greater knowledge of the Chinese market and keeping our face appearing regularly in China as a demonstration of our commitment to negotiate trade protocols.

We received some unfortunate news recently that Dr Darryl D'Souza, our general manager Research and Innovation, is leaving APL to join the SunPork Farms Group.

We'll miss Darryl, not only for his technical expertise, deep understanding of the pork industry and ability to interact and communicate effectively with the staff and industry more generally, but importantly also because he's been a very positive influence at APL for many years.

We wish him all the best, and we celebrate that Darryl is remaining within Australia's pork industry because it's great for us and we hope it's great for him.

Just a final reminder that as of July 1, levies will be increasing by \$0.30 for the marketing component.

The marketing component of the levy will be increasing from \$1.95 to \$2.25 per pig.

Looking forward to seeing you all at PPPE.



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Pig Industry Calendar of Events

2016

MAY 10 - 11 – British Pig & Poultry Fair, Stoneleigh Park, Warwickshire, UK www.pigandpoultry.org.uk

MAY 25 - 26 – Pan Pacific Pork Expo, Gold Coast Convention and Exhibition Centre, QLD P: APL 02 6285 2200

MAY 29 - 31 – Poultry Information Exchange and Australasian Milling Conference (PIX/AMC), Gold Coast Convention and Exhibition Centre, QLD www.pixamc.com.au

JUN 7-10 – International Pig Veterinary Society/European Symposium of Porcine Health Management, Dublin, Ireland www.ipvs2016.com

JUN 8-10 – World Pork Expo, Des Moines, Iowa, US www.worldpork.org

JUN 19-25 – Australian Bacon Week, P: APL 02 6285 2200

JUL 4-7 – Animal Production 2016, Adelaide, SA www.asap.asn.au/conference

JUL 5-10 – Australian Intercollegiate Meat Judging Contest, Wagga Wagga, NSW www.icmj.com.au

AUG 2 deadline – Steak Your Claim, Australian pork steak competition, P: APL 02 6285 2200

SEP 6 - 8 – VIV China, Beijing, China www.vivchina.nl/en

NOV 3-5 – IX International Symposium on Mediterranean Pig, Portalegre, Portugal www.9sympmedpig.com

NOV 15 - 18 – EuroTier, Hanover, Germany www.eurotier.com

2017

FEB 25 - 28 – AASV Annual Meeting, Denver, Colorado, US www.aasv.org

MAR 15 - 17 – VIV Asia, Bangkok, Thailand www.vivasia.nl

How to supply event details: Send all details to Australian Pork Newspaper, PO Box 387, Cleveland, Qld 4163, fax: 07 3821 2637, email: ben@porknews.com.au

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Thanks for making me look good

OVER the past eight-plus years I have used my *Australian Pork Newspaper* articles to communicate with industry over a range of topics including Australian Pork Limited's research and development outcomes and updates on topical issues such as environment, animal welfare and biosecurity. I have even used my articles to have a crack at misguided animal activists.

For the first time however, I would like to use this article (my last) to say: "Thank you!"

Why? Because I am leaving APL.

I have accepted a position with SunPork Farms (as CEO of SunPork Solutions).

Apologies if you thought you had seen the back of me.

A bit of preamble regarding the title of this article: "Make R&I look good" is a phrase I coined when I first joined APL back in 2007, and has since been adopted as a bit of a motto by the R&I team as we set about re-vamping the whole way we went about our R&D business.

Being a bit driven (and a little egocentric), this gradually morphed into "Make Darryl look good".

We all however know that this tongue in cheek motto actually means that we as an APL division needed to be the best to ensure we delivered to the pork industry what we said we would, while always striving to achieve more for industry.

Hence it is only fitting that in my last APN article, 'Thanks for making me look good' reflects the outcomes and achievements delivered by the R&I team to industry over the past eight-plus years.

Looking back over those years, the R&I team has worked bloody hard to implement a research, development and extension plan that is now the envy of many a Rural R&D Corporation.

With the foresight and guidance of then APL Board director Prof Robert van Barneveld, the R&I team set about re-vamping APL's annual R&D process.

Looking at the business plans the Specialist Groups (including producers, supply chain partners, researchers and regulators) develop shows that the plans are not just a R&D wish list but rather substantive APL documents that articulate and justify producer and public funding (government matching funding for R&D) to address the key industry issues going forward.

A very significant part of this process was APL's project management system OmniPig.

Donna Schmid (R&I business manager) took this bull by the horns, and today we have a system that can literally account for every investment greater than \$10,000 made over the past eight years.



by **DARRYL D'SOUZA PhD**
Research and Innovation
General Manager



This system contains all the proposal reviews and decisions made and a R&D corporate history since 2009 that is devoid of any investment information 'holes'.

No doubt the APL Board sleeps well knowing that we operate with this high level of transparency!

Happy to also report that the Pork CRC is now part of this system, following a successful transition.

In terms of R&D business, we took this one step forward with the National Pork RD&E Strategy with significant input and assistance from industry, the Pork CRC, government agencies and research providers that now sees base funding of key R&D facilities a normal way of doing business.

And yes, once again we are seen by other sectors as the gold standard.

Pausing here for a moment, it occurred to me that this 'Thanks for making me look good' article could quite possibly look like Leo Tolstoy's *War and Peace*.

For those who have not wasted a significant proportion of their lives reading this book, it's about 560,000 words or 1456 pages long and pretty boring (I had to read it for a high school English project).

So I will spare you the detail and just stick to a few 'success' highlights.

When it comes to environment, you can't go past the Biogas Program started by Janine Price (R&I manager, Environment) after a visit to New Zealand.

Janine had the foresight to develop the first Carbon Farming Initiative methodology for the destruction of methane, along with a number of researchers and industry.

Since then things have gone a long way, with significant input from the Pork CRC.

Industry adoption of biogas systems now accounts for almost a third of applicable production (excludes outdoor and deep litter systems), with about 18 systems built resulting in over \$2 million in carbon credits and more than \$7 million through the Emission Reduction Fund.

Another notable mention is the National Environmental Guidelines for Piggeries (conventional and outdoor).

These guidelines have become 'the reference manual' for piggery environmental management, recognised universally by industry, regulators and retailers.

In terms of awareness

and adoption, a recent survey indicated that 82 percent of producers (about 70 percent of production) were aware of the NEGP; 65 percent of production has an environmental management plan; 54 percent of production is covered by a nutrient management plan; and 40 percent of production has conducted a risk assessment.

The Physi-Trace technology is now being used to verify country of origin of raw pork and to verify product claims for fresh pork, ham and bacon.

It was a real game changer for the pork industry to have developed this capability – a capability that sees us with a world-first system!

Much of the drive for this program initiated by Bill Salter is now ably managed by Heather Channon (R&I manager, Product Integrity).

The revised sampling plans in place based on \$0.05/pig industry cost have now been adopted by five export and three domestic processor establishments.

I am staggered to think of our investment to get to this position compared to what other industries have spent for what I think have a much narrower capability.

Exotic diseases are the stuff of nightmares for our industry.

So there's nothing better than a farmer and ex-pig producer to manage the biosecurity program.

Dr Pat Mitchell (R&I manager, Production

Stewardship) has managed this program to ensure industry exotic animal disease preparedness and a science-based defence supporting a 'no need' for import risk assessment review to make certain 'no fresh pork imports' is maintained at all costs.

I guess managed is an understatement here – maintaining our biosecurity is a personal life goal for Pat!

Pat has also driven PEDv becoming a notifiable disease with Category 4 classification (allows for producer compensation should we get this EAD).

Much of the focus in the area of growth and development and reproductive performance has been to effectively transition this program from the Pork CRC to APL and then 'fill in the gaps'.

As a consequence, many of the outcomes have been very much on the 'incremental' impact side of things.

Going forward, the productivity research focus will be concentrated on two key areas: (i) optimising gilt progeny; and (ii) producing more female pigs per litter while improving litter size.

A large collaborative project is now under way to optimise the performance of gilt progeny, and this area of R&D will be our main reproductive performance R&D focus over the next three years.

The 'more females' transformational project seeks to develop novel approaches to effectively and economically generate all-female litters.

If the researchers can pull this off it will be a world first.

While much water has to pass under this bridge to deem these technologies a success in terms of industry impact, it is worth pointing out that this program is managed by Dr Robyn Terry (ink still drying on the PhD thesis), who is one of the younger

R&I program managers with one of the largest programs to manage (on a dollar basis).

Robyn has proven herself to be quite capable as a program manager through this transition.

APL undertook an independent third party evaluation of APIQ✓ in 2014/15 and the findings of this review project following industry consultation can be summarised as: "APIQ✓ is a robust and respected quality assurance program delivering real benefits to the Australian pork industry. With more than 90 percent sow herd coverage, the program is highly regarded by producers and others in the supply chain. APIQ✓ is demonstrable proof of the commitment by APL and the industry to food safety, animal welfare, environment and biosecurity."

Yes, there is a minority of producers that have issues with APIQ✓'s current standards but as QA systems go, the pork industry can be proud of APIQ✓ and its track record.

APIQ✓ is now adopted by the major retailers including Coles, Woolworths and ALDI.

APIQ✓ continues to provide the framework and standards by which Australian pig producers can demonstrate they are responsible farmers who care for their animals, the environment and their customers by following safe and sustainable practices.

Tony Abel (APIQ business manager) and Steve Miller (APIQ systems manager) have worked tirelessly to get APIQ✓ to a stage where it is now seen as a leader among industry QA systems.

Telling our 'industry story' to schoolkids is something that needs to happen for a whole bunch of reasons, foremost being that most are unaware of our industry.

• continued P3

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Pork CRC progressing on all fronts

IT'S been a busy first few months of 2016, as we establish Australasian Pork Research Institute Ltd, refine and finalise new projects supported in Pork CRC's 2016-2017 investment round and ensure our R&D and training programs continue to meet industry and participant expectations.

This has made us reflect on the research program and what's likely to be delivered to producers and participants in the medium and longer term.

I have covered some of these this month.

Pleasing program

I'm extremely pleased with our current R&D program and expect our researchers to deliver some exciting commercial and industry outcomes in 2016.

These include vaccines against some common but serious pathogens; new work on establishing and improving the welfare and contentment of sows in farrowing crates; new work on improving eating quality; the first life cycle assessment of Australia's pork industry; an on-farm herd health/immunity kit; an update on indicators of the welfare of group housed sows; and major projects on better understanding the control of feed intake in grower-finisher pigs and how that information can be used to markedly improve feed efficiency.

Enrichment products

Our development of enrichment blocks for group housed sows and a performance enhancer for newly weaned pigs are also on schedule and both products will be introduced at this year's Pan Pacific Pork Expo on the



Gold Coast from May 25-26.

These projects are managed by our Commercialisation and Research Impact manager Dr Charles Rikard-Bell, who is working with Ridley and SunPork researchers on the enrichment blocks and with Dr Eugeni Roura (University of Queensland) and BEC on the performance enhancer.

Make a point of catching up on both products at PPPE.

If you can't track down Charles, who we affectionately call 'the albatross' because he spends so much time in the air and rarely lands, his mobile number is 0439 513 723.

The Pork CRC/Australasian Pork Limited farrowing system index publication for producers will also likely be launched at PPPE.

It covers research outcomes and expert and producer experiences and opinions on reduced confinement type farrowing and lactation systems.

The index compares (scores) the relative merits of some alternative systems for sows, piglets and producers against conventional farrowing crates.

In summary, some of the alternative systems may

have behavioural advantages for the sow, but are outweighed by adverse effects on the piglet, generally reflected in increased mortality, or adverse effects on the producer, reflected in considerably higher costs (investment and labour) and occupational health and safety issues.

NZ conclusions

Our findings are very much in line with the recent review of farrowing crates by the New Zealand National Animal Welfare Advisory Committee, which was asked to review the use of farrowing crates by the NZ Minister for Primary Industries in 2014.

The recently released review concluded that using farrowing crates in pig farming is the best system available.

The review included an assessment of NZ and international research and practice and international standards and NZ's Animal Welfare Code.

The review stated: "NAWAC does not consider there is any practical alternative system that provides comparable levels of piglet welfare while better meeting the welfare needs of sows."

Pork CRC has several innovative projects on establishing and enhancing

the welfare and contentment of sows in farrowing crates.

The outcomes will be delivered over the balance of 2016 and in early 2017.

Details of the review can be accessed on NZ Pork's website (www.nzpork.co.nz).

Big thanks

I think you can judge the effectiveness of a research organisation from its research portfolio and I couldn't be happier with ours.

I thank all our participants, researchers, students and other collaborators for their contributions to our programs.

Let's ensure we maintain the enthusiasm and innovativeness through to the end of the Pork CRC in 2018-2019 and into APRIL, which will likely commence this year and take over from Pork CRC in 2019-2020.

New investments

The R&D Committee and Board have made their decisions on round seven research investments for 2016-2017.

It was a competitive round, with 14 projects approved from 38 applications.

While some proposals are still being finalised, most new agreements have

been circulated for signing.

The outcomes across the four programs are summarised here.

You will see we went with health (Program 2) in the latest round.

There are new projects on potential new APP serotypes in the industry; development of an immune test for selecting sires for the survival of their progeny; development of a vaccine against swine dysentery; peptide-based antimicro-

continued P4



Dr Eugeni Roura, University of Queensland, is working on a Pork CRC project to develop a performance enhancer for newly weaned pigs.



Pork CRC Commercialisation and Research Impact manager Dr Charles Rikard-Bell has been working closely with Ridley and SunPork on an enrichment block and with University of Queensland and BEC on a performance enhancer. Charles (centre) caught up with David Isaac, BEC Feed Solutions and Tracy Muller, SunPork Farms, at last year's Pork CRC stakeholders' meeting in Melbourne.

Thanks for making me look good

from P2

Our Pigs in School program has gone some way to bridging this gap.

Ashley Norval (R&I manager, Technology Adoption and Industry Capability) needs to take the credit here.

When we first set out on this program with a couple of primary school units, we were pleasantly surprised by the adoption in a range of regional and urban schools.

We set a target of 200 schools in the first three years.

In our fourth year, our units are now used by 500-plus primary and secondary schools across Australia.

We realise that this is still very much a drop in the ocean in terms of total number of schools in Australia, but if you think of the number of teachers, students and their parents who are now much more informed about the pork industry, you have to label this program a success.

In terms of return on investment, I rate this program pretty highly given

it costs industry less than \$30,000 a year to continue the development and extension of new and existing school units.

Finally, I would like to recognise the efforts of the R&I team to better leverage APL's R&D investment.

Over the past eight-plus years, the R&I team has brought in over \$12 million of external funding.

This additional funding has enabled the industry to fast track R&D needed by industry that has since led to significant industry impact.

Notable mentions include PorkScan, PhysiTrace, NLIS-Pork, manure management, PigGas Calculator and antimicrobial resistance.

At APL, I live (and die) by my key performance indicators.

The R&I team's current KPIs for 2015/16 are listed in Table 1.

As a demonstration of a high-achieving team, R&I has already met its KPIs and in some cases absolutely blitzed them (and in case you are wondering, sorry but no soft KPIs here!).

Okay I lie, we missed one KPI by a long way – getting contracts initiated with universities has just about been impossible.

As can be expected since my decision to leave APL, I have allowed myself the luxury to reflect on the team's efforts and achievements over the past eight-plus years.

I can with absolute certainty say: "Yes, the R&I team has really performed beyond my expectations and achieved a lot".

I also think I have played a very small part in this R&I team's success and achievements, and for this I say to my team: "Thanks for making me look good!"

Obviously a large part of this success goes to the many researchers for their ideas and tremendous R&D work in the first place, and for this I also say to you: "Thanks for making me look good!"

For further information on any of the topics discussed in this article, please do not hesitate to contact me on 02 6270 8804 or darryl.dsouza@australianpork.com.au

Contracts initiated <1 week of approval	Budget expenditure	External funding leveraged	APIQ✓ uptake	Technology adoption
<1% slippage	<0.5% slippage	>\$1M	>90%	>40%

Table 1

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R&D proposals submitted and supported across Pork CRC's four programs for 2016-2017					
Program	1	2	3	4	TOTAL
Proposals received	9	17	7	5	38
Cash requested (\$)	883,991	3,280,716	1,107,337	907,315	6,179,359
Proposals supported	2	7	3	2	14
Cash approved (\$)	75,700	455,000	210,000	330,000	1,070,700

Table 1

Effects of treatments on live weight and feed conversion ratio over four weeks post weaning						
Treatment	Negative control	ZnO 3000 ppm	Encapsulated ZnO (1kg/t)	Encapsulated EO (1kg/t)	Encapsulated ZnO and EO	P
Week 1						
Weight (kg)	6.3	6.5	6.4	6.5	6.5	NS
FCR	2.32	2.01	2.05	2.27	2.40	NS
Week 2						
Weight (kg)	7.7c	8.3a	8.0bc	7.9bc	8.1ab	0.002
FCR	1.35	1.25	1.36	1.25	1.30	NS
Week 3						
Weight (kg)	9.9c	10.9a	10.3bc	10.3bc	10.5b	<0.001
FCR	1.39b	1.33ab	1.34b	1.29a	1.39b	0.043
Week 4						
Weight (kg)	13.2c	14.3a	13.6bc	13.6bc	13.9ab	0.008
FCR	1.37bc	1.40c	1.36b	1.28a	1.31ab	0.002

Table 2. Note: values within rows with different letters are statistically different.

Pork CRC progressing on all fronts

from P3

bial gels; alternatives to antibiotics and their effects on antimicrobial resistance and the gut microbe population; a project on a new additive with antibacterial and feed efficiency improvement potential; and a project on a product with potential to reduce respiratory pathogen loads in pig sheds and maybe to reduce enteric pathogens if supplied via water.

An exciting outcome I think and we will provide more detail on the various projects in Table 1 as they are signed off.

All the supported proposals are novel and offer the industry improvement across most aspects of production and the supply chain in general.

Outcomes of these projects will be delivered in 2017-2018.

I thank everyone who submitted applications.

We all continue to rely on researchers' ideas and innovativeness.

I also thank all who took part in the review process and a special thanks to Donna Schmid and others from APL and F1 Solutions for smoothing the transition from our previous project management system to PigNet.

The new projects will be added to Pork CRC's

website once agreements are signed.

Two innovation proposals, one on packaging and eating quality of Australian pork and the other on the feeding behaviour and the performance and welfare of group housed sows, were also supported in the same period.

Both projects are with the University of Melbourne.

Meanwhile, we have recently received several final reports, a couple of which I've summarised here.

Reducing ZnO – Project 2C-118: 'Using microencapsulated ingredients to enhance efficacy and improve production efficiency within an integrated health strategy'

The project investigated the effects of an encapsulated zinc oxide and protected essential oils on weaner performance and health and was conducted by Robert Hewitt at SunPork's Westbrook weaner facility.

The pigs were weaned at 21 days (5.8kg) and allocated across five treatments: a negative control diet without ZnO; a positive control diet containing 3000ppm ZnO; the same diet containing 1kg/tonne of encapsulated ZnO; the same diet containing 1kg/tonne of encapsulated essential oils; and the same diet containing both encapsulated materials.

The study ran for 28 days and the results can be seen in Table 2.

Both sources of ZnO supported similar performance and numerically better feed efficiency than all other treatments in the first week after weaning, with the conventional ZnO supporting higher feed intake and growth rates than all other treatments in weeks two and three, after which (week four) pigs on all treatments exhibited similar growth rates.

In week three the encapsulated oils tended to support better feed efficiency than all other treatments, except the high-level ZnO.

In week four, pigs offered the diet containing the encapsulated oils were 7 percent more feed efficient than those on the negative control diet and 9 percent more feed efficient than pigs offered the diet containing 3000ppm ZnO.

The results support the use of two diets in the first four weeks after weaning and suggest that the protected ZnO could replace conventional ZnO in the first two weeks after weaning with minimal effect on performance, but reduce zinc excretion by

66 percent.

The protected oils seem to have potential as a performance enhancer in second stage weaner diets.

The report and one-page summary are available on our website www.porkcrc.com.au under Program 2 Projects and Final Reports.

Both have been sent to all nutritionists.

Eating quality

Two University of Melbourne student projects have illustrated what might be causing some of the problems we've continually experienced with eating quality of Australian pork.

They investigated the effects of modified atmospheric packaging and vacuum packaging on the tenderness of the loin steak, measured using shear force (a machine) and consumer preference tests.

The results, some of which are summarised in Figure 1, showed that tenderness measured using a Warner-Bratzler machine improved considerably with time (ageing) in vacuum, but not modified, atmosphere packaging.

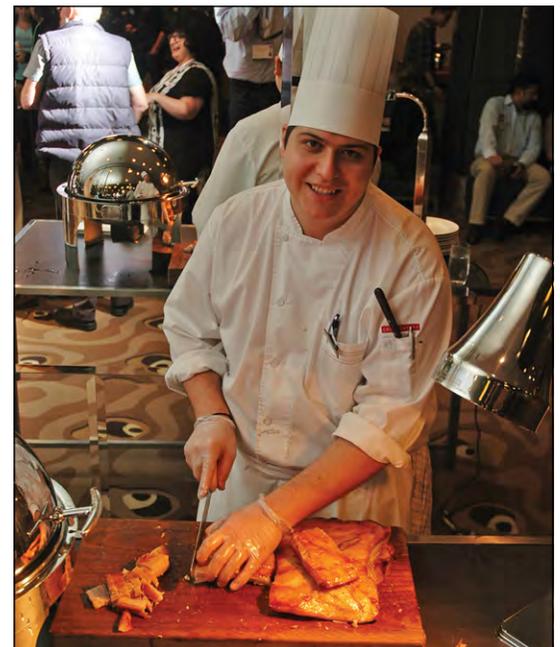
In the consumer tests, loin steaks vacuum packed and aged for seven days were perceived and scored by consumers to have significantly higher eating quality and to have a higher repurchase intention than those aged in modified atmosphere packing.

A new Pork CRC project to investigate packing will soon commence, but the results may help explain why we have previously seen little effect of ageing on pork eating quality.

www.porkcrc.com.au



A new Pork CRC project will investigate packing and packaging. Here is a new range of attractively packaged, innovative and very consumer-friendly pork products from WA's Linley Valley.



Pork CRC supported University of Melbourne students are doing some excellent work on improving pork eating quality.

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Results are based on typical progeny growth performance achieved using Primegro Genetics grown under a high health environment and fed using the Rivalea Nutritional Program.

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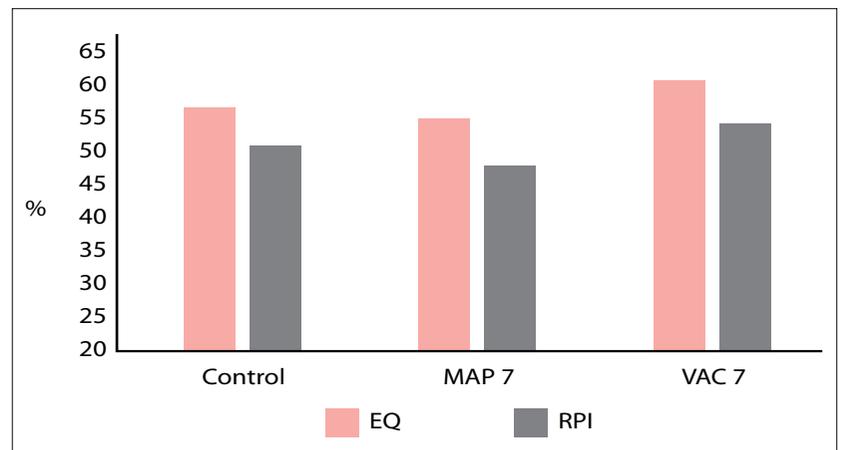


Figure 1: Effects of ageing for seven days in modified atmosphere packaging and vacuum packaging on consumer perceptions (%) of eating quality and repurchase intention for loin steaks.

Transformational outcomes from Pork CRC Programs 1 and 4

PORK CRC will transition to new program leaders from July 1 this year.

Hence the time is right to look back, through the eyes of those people who have led the programs, on what were some of the transformational outcomes from those programs.

We begin with some words from Dr Ray King, leader of Program 1, who will be succeeded by Dr Will van Wettere and also from Dr Rob Wilson, leader of Program 4, who will be succeeded by Dr Stephan Tait.

The June issue of *Australian Pork Newspaper* will feature Program 2 leader Dr Brian Luxford and Program 3 leader Dr Darryl D'Souza.

Program 1: 'Reduced confinement of sows and piglets', Dr Ray King – Stimulation of oestrus during lactation

One of the major objectives of Program 1 has been to develop strategies to enable effective mating of sows during lactation that uncouples mating from the weaning process to allow more flexible management and lower confinement housing systems.

Acceptable rates of oestrus stimulation in lactation (85 percent of sows responding within seven days to stimulation) have been achieved experimentally through the use of direct and intense boar stimulation, litter separation and group housing of lactating sows.

Some of these strategies have been combined in a commercial field study that is being conducted over a 12-month period.

Initial results are encouraging, with at least 40 percent of sows being successfully mated during lactation after minimal litter separation and boar exposure during late lactation.

Successful group housing of sows during gestation

The results from research conducted in Program 1 by Pork CRC, as well as that conducted previously by Australian Pork

Limited, provided the basis of developing effective group housing systems for sows during gestation.

This R&D established the effects of space, time, experience and other crucial factors on sow welfare and performance during gestation and culminated in several Sow Housing Workshops in 2013 and 2014, as well as numerous associated industry publications, which provided valuable information to Australian pork producers on mixing strategies and group housing of sows.

The Australian pork industry now has the necessary information to assist producers to decide on the type of group housing system to implement on their farms.

Many Australian pork producers have made the transition to lower confinement systems immediately after weaning and/or five days after mating and those who are now a couple of years down the track are reporting very satisfactory production levels and improved welfare outcomes for sows.

Program 4: 'Carbon conscious nutrient inputs and outputs', Dr Rob Wilson

Pork CRC's Bioenergy Support Program and its associated research projects have been a significant and game changing contributor to the viability and sustainability of Australia's pork producers.

With a reasonable-sized farrow-to-finish piggery producing double the volume of biogas needed for on-farm use, a considerable excess of biogas energy needs a home.

Knowing up to 80 percent of a piggery's energy demand goes to warming young piglets, it's comforting to learn that biogas from effluent ponds can supply more than double this energy demand.

Industry sums show that a 1000-sow piggery can produce about 100kW of electricity plus about that same amount again in energy as useful heat.

It costs about \$250,000 for the average-sized piggery to install a covered anaerobic lagoon and the

required infrastructure and equipment, with cost roughly scaling up with size, so most projects so far have cost about \$1 million or more.

Return on investment depends on piggery size, with some projects having paid back within two and a half years.

More typically, however, this would be five to seven years, but Pork CRC is investigating ways to lower the capital costs to improve economic viability.

Other areas of research Pork CRC is undertaking in the biogas/bioenergy space to benefit the Australian pork industry include:

1. Maintaining high microbial activity in piggery effluent ponds;

2. Converting spent litter into biogas;

3. Co-digesting other wastes with pig manure to produce more biogas at piggeries where biogas energy is insufficient to meet on-site demand (breeder piggeries); and

4. Low-cost technology options for cleaning of biogas at piggeries.

Manager of the Bioenergy Support Program, Dr Stephan Tait, has provided information and advice on generating biogas from effluent streams and his contribution to the industry has been invaluable.

Stephan has recently moved more into research and the advisory role has been taken over by Alan Skerman.

www.porkcrc.com.au



Pork CRC Program 1 leader Dr Ray King.



Pork CRC Program 4 leader Dr Rob Wilson.

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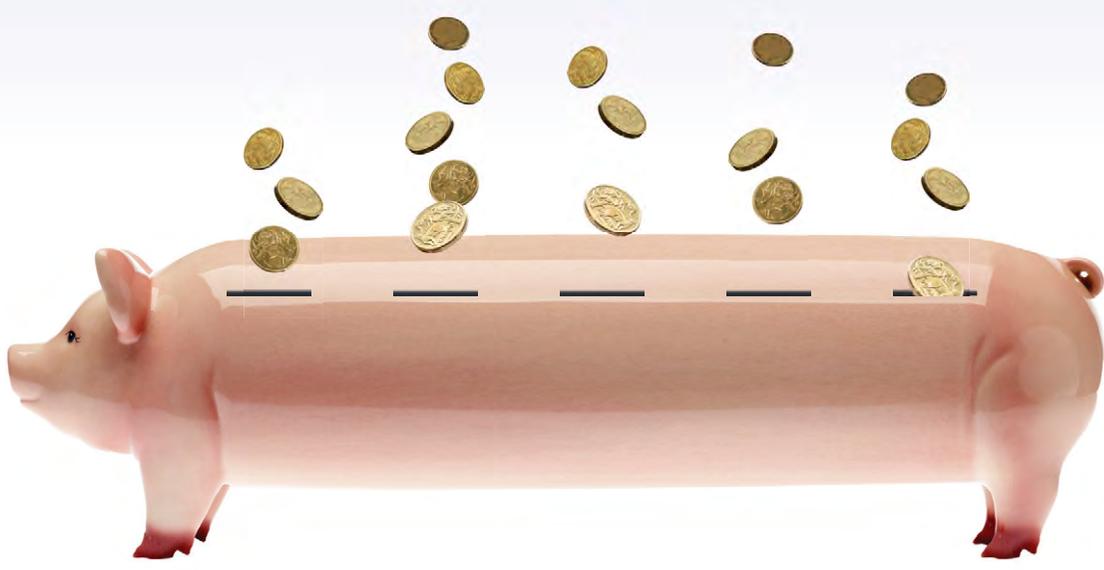


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Wouldn't it be great if...

WOULDN'T it be great if we could maintain producer profitability for the next five years?

That's what our 2016-17 APL marketing plan is about.

It is undeniable that while pig prices were growing at an increasing rate in the 2010-2015 period, high beef prices have had a significant and positive effect on pig prices in the past year.

These prices are highly attractive and it is possible that they could last for some time because it will take at least three years to rebuild the cattle herd according to Meat & Livestock Australia, so 2018 at the earliest.

Wouldn't it be great if we could maintain the current pig prices even



Marketing Matters

by PETER HAYDON
General Manager Marketing



after the cattle herd is rebuilt?

It is clear that some expansion in slaughters is likely in the next couple of years (the latest estimate for the year to October 2016 is an additional 200,000 pigs slaughtered versus the January 2016 level).

So how do pig prices get maintained when supply is growing?

The answer obviously is to grow demand ahead of supply.

And that is what the 2016-17 plan is all about.

As an industry, we have consistently grown demand at between 4-7 percent a year (depending on how you measure it).

We are currently investing a significant portion of producers' levies in a '6-2-2 - How to cook' campaign that is running in addition to the activities that have grown demand for the past five years.

Next year, while continuing both these marketing activities, we are going to trial five new ways of creating additional consumer demand.

These trials encompass:

1. In-home tests (advertising);

2. Casual dining (at a café, RSL or hotels for example);

3. Increasing purchase frequency among people who buy pork every three weeks and attempting to get them to buy every two weeks;

4. Working with retailers and additional sales data to help them sell more meat and particularly pork; and

5. Understanding how to engage the next generation of meat buyers.

We know that as tests, some of these may not work.

We are deliberately trying five ideas so that even if some don't work, we will still have more options for future demand growth than we currently have.

These we can then use at the most opportune time.

That way, we have some contingency plans that target increasing demand for Australian pork even when beef prices start decreasing, which they are bound to do at some point.

This might keep producers profitable for the next five years, and that's the goal. 🐷



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New ROTO weaner and grower feeders

MUNDIGO has just released its new ROTO feeders for sale after 18 months of product development.

The new feeders come in two sizes and have been designed to eliminate feed wastage at a low purchase price.

The hopper and lid are moulded in Australia from the same material used to make poly tanks while the feed bowl is made from the same tough plastic as SmartBar bull bars.

This results in a feeder that is seriously tough and completely UV stable, making it suitable for outdoor use as well as in shelters.

The weaner feeder handles pigs from weaning through to 45kg, while the grower feeder takes 30kg to 130kg pigs.

Yes, the ROTO feeder can be used for gilt development and it's

tough enough for the job.

Round feeders make a lot more sense than square ones, and both ROTO feeder sizes cater for up to a 60-pig capacity.

The hopper capacity is 110kg and its dimensions allow for up to 20 hoppers and lids to be stacked on a standard pallet for economical shipping anywhere in Australia.

Feed wastage is one of the factors adding to the cost of production for Australian pig producers.

The ROTO feeder has been designed to directly reduce feed conversion ratio and improve profitability.

Farm trials to date have shown that feed wastage is absolutely negligible.

To find out more, contact Richard Boshoff at Mundigo on 0427 230 380 and see the Mundigo team at the Pan Pacific Pork Expo. 🐷

WAPPA Pig Day Out proved vibrant

from P1

in the morning session at WAPPA Pig Day Out 2016 included:

- Dr Jae Kim, DAFWA: dietary use of tryptophan and methionine;
- Dr Megan Trezona, DAFWA: outdoor pig production; and
- Karen Moore, DAFWA: feeds to control fat deposition after second dose of Improvac.

The afternoon session began with an entertaining biosecurity training session for producers and transporters by veterinarian Kim Nairn of Portec Veterinary Services.

Dr Nairn said pig manure posed the greatest disease risk and transporters, producers and processors needed to be vigilant in ensuring faecal matter wasn't transferred.

His take-home message for producers was: "Go home after today and take a good look at all biosecurity measures on your farms."

Darryl D'Souza of Australian Pork Limited sparked spirited debate when he updated the meeting on the Australian Pork Industry Quality Program and APL's 'Shaping our Future' program in relation to gestation stall free.

Dr D'Souza said APL's aim was to keep regulators on its side and to defend its stance on farrowing crates and fresh pork imports.

In the final session, Murdoch University pres-

entations included:

- Prof John Pluske: suppressing voluntary feed intake of finisher pigs;
- Jeremy Ayre: microalgae to treat piggery anaerobic digestion effluent;
- Samantha Sterndale: reducing stress through nutrition to improve pig growth; and
- Ingunn Stensland: supplements to improve intestinal health in *E.coli*-infected weaners.

The last speaker was Dr Kim Nairn, this time wearing his 'producer hat' as he reflected on how his Peel Pork Pigery survived the devastating January Yarloop bushfire.

Pig Day Out sponsors were Pork CRC, APL, MSD Animal health and Elanco.

Addressing a brief WAPPA general meeting at the start of Pig Day Out, WAPPA president Dawson Bradford commended WA producers and researchers on how they collaborated for the benefit of the industry and how this needed to continue as DAFWA transitioned and the onus of R&D in WA increasingly moved onto industry.

Rob Wilson updated developments relating to Pork Innovation WA, an incorporated association expected to attract initial transition funding from DAFWA.

PIWA has been awarded a grower group R&D grant of \$375,000, which will be administered by DAFWA and cover all as-

pects of free range pork production in WA.

Dr Wilson also announced that the Pork CRC had awarded an honours project, through Murdoch University, to be associated with that free range work.

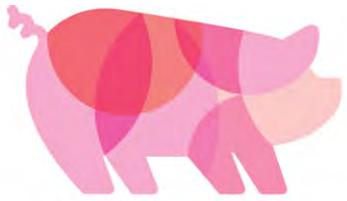
PIWA executive management committee members are Dr Rob Wilson (chair), Ron Penn (Craig Mostyn Group), David Plant (Milne Agrigroup), John Pluske (Murdoch University), Neil Ferguson (Westpork) and Jan Cooper (WAPPA).

WA's pork industry employs about 1700 full and part-time workers and more than \$50 million has been invested in housing and production systems during the past five years to meet new guidelines for sow housing and production efficiency.

WAPPA executive officer Jan Cooper encouraged members at the general meeting to further engage with her in shaping WAPPA's direction by attending WAPPA's annual general meeting and dinner to be held on Friday, August 12.

WAPPA's executive committee comprises Dawson Bradford (president) of Popanyinning, Graeme Dent (vice president) of Cuballing, Torben Soerensen (treasurer) of GD Pork, Dean Romaniello of Craig Mostyn Group and Emalyn Loudon, consultant to the pork industry.

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The \$30,000 Western Meat Packers Group hay bale just after delivery to Paul O'Meehan's beef feedlot at Borden, WA.

Sending the right smoke signals

WHILE some see the art, or science, of public relations as, well, the art or science of spin, it really is much more than tweaking one thing to make it look or sound like another.

PR is often about turning a negative into a positive and influencing, for the better, the publics which an organisation, individual or company, for example, must interact with.

On the positive front, PR can also help turn a catastrophic event into one with positive outcomes for affected stakeholders.

Such was the case when bushfires in January destroyed the southwest town of Yarloop and laid siege to nearby Waroona and Harvey, all in the very heart of prime West Australian beef cattle country.

Myalup farmers Graham and Mia Rose were caught in the middle of hay cutting, managing to roll one last round bale before retreating from the fire that had begun to engulf their farm.

That bale was recently bought by Western Meat Packers Group, which paid a probable world record \$30,000 (for a round bale of hay) when WMPG chief executive officer Andrew Fuda made the winning bid at a charity auction at Harvey.

Harvey born and raised, Mr Fuda personally knew many of the affected farmers, so he, along with WMPG, which sources plenty of cattle from the fire-affected region, felt they had to help.

Proceeds from that bale, along with other money raised on the night, have gone to local Lions and Rotary clubs, which are now distributing the funds to fire-affected farmers on a needs basis.

The unique bale, smoke infused from ancient WA jarrah, red gum and peppermint trees, has now been fed out to select steers at Paul O'Meehan's Borden beef feedlot in WA's Great Southern region, where he finishes steers, under contract to WMPG, at 120 days for the Japanese market.

To round out the story, beef from steers fed the 'smoky bale' will end up in Japan, a country whose



Cant Comment
by
BRENDON CANT

people are passionate about high-quality, grain-fed Australian beef.

Japan, I understand, takes about half of the grain-fed beef produced in Australia.

WMPG was not only happy to financially support the fire-affected southwest farmers, but also delighted to be able to highlight what some might refer to as 'flavour enhanced' WA export beef.

WMPG itself is no stranger to the ravages of fire.

In 2009, WMPG's then headquarters and boning room in the WA industrial suburb of O'Connor were burnt to the ground following an electrical fault.

Although owner Rod Russell could have walked

away from the business, he chose not to, continuing to employ his equally committed workforce, despite dropping to 100 head of cattle a week and having to access temporary boning facilities, before later gearing up to full capacity at the company's current Osborne Park premises.

An integrated operation, WMPG today has an abattoir and farm at Margaret River, farm at Brunswick, state-of-the-art boning and packing facility at Osborne Park, specialist high-tech packing facility at Bibra Lake, Perth Skin and Hides at Coogee and offices in China, Thailand and South Korea.

WMPG has invested millions of dollars into upgrading machinery and technology at its Osborne Park beef and lamb facility in the past few years, where about 150 people are now employed.

About 320 people are employed across the group's operations.

As I wrote at the start, the art or science of PR can help turn a catastrophic event into one with positive outcomes for affected stakeholders.

Such was the case in this scenario, where someone (WMPG) recognised how they could positively help (fire victims), while ultimately raising the profile of WA's beef cattle producing and processing sectors in one of its most important overseas markets.

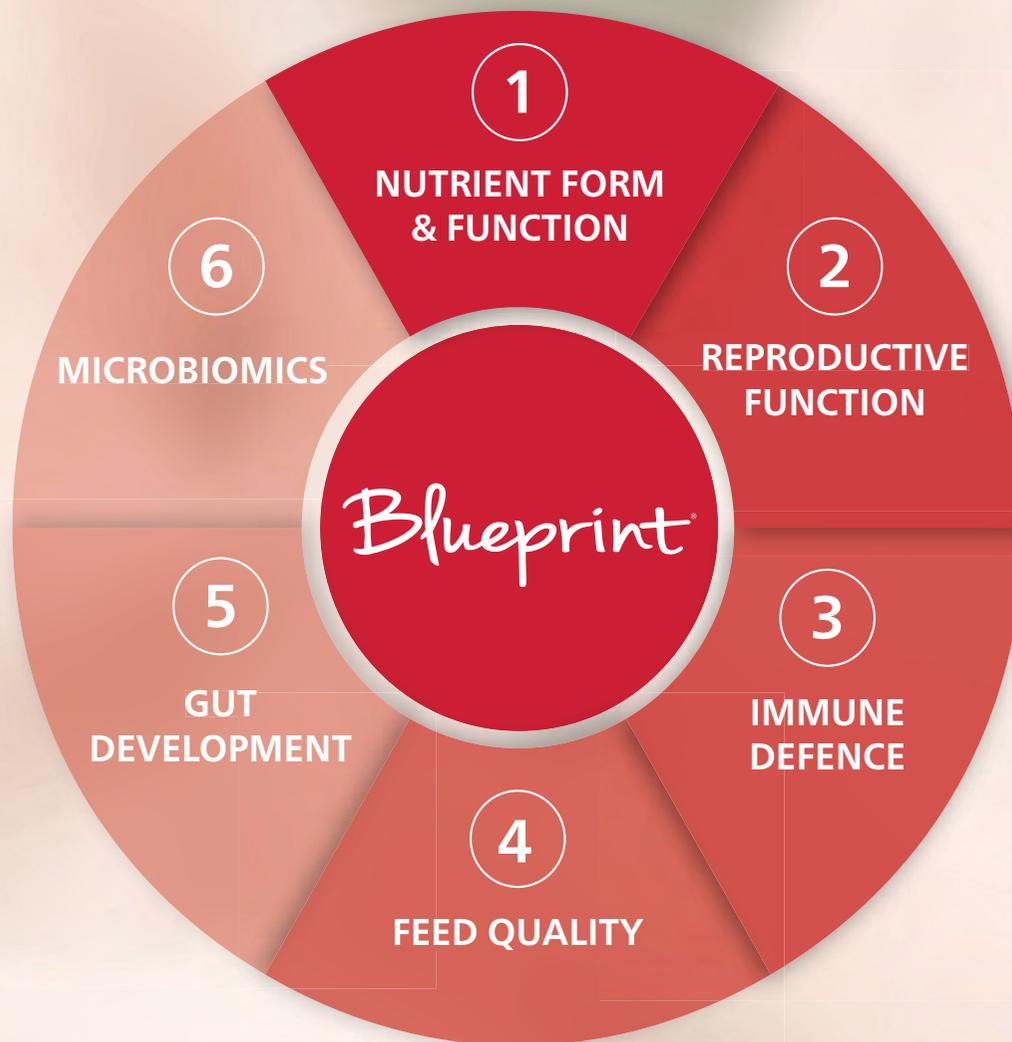
Sounds like good PR to me, with a win-win for all parties. 🐷



Western Meat Packers Group CEO Andrew Fuda and his PA Eila Spittal proudly sat astride the \$30,000 hay bale before it was fed out at the Borden feedlot.

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Inspiring transformation – PPPE 2016

■ May 25-26, Gold Coast

THE biennial Pan Pacific Pork Expo is the Australian pork industry's premier event and will next be held on May 25 and 26, 2016 at the Gold Coast Convention and Exhibition Centre, Queensland.

For 2016, the event's theme is 'Inspiring Transformation'.

PPPE is a combination of a trade show exhibition and conference program where delegates – pork producers and a range of stakeholders across the value chain – source the latest industry information and network amongst colleagues.

Session topics include: technology inspired transformation, consumer attitudes towards agriculture, refocusing on herd productivity, transforming science into practice and developing premium markets, with the workshop to be focused on tools to objectively assess health and production.

The trade exhibition opens at 8am on May 25, with the PPPE plenary session commencing from 12.55pm, followed by a cocktail party in the trade exhibition from 5-8pm.

The concurrent sessions take place on May 26 between 9.15am and 3.30pm, and PPPE will conclude with a Happy Two Hours from 3.30-5.30pm.

For information on attending the 2016 PPPE, please visit www.pppe.com.au to see:

- Registration information;
- Program details;
- Travel and accommodation information; and

• Exhibitor and sponsorship opportunities (please note there are limited opportunities remaining).

Australian Pork Limited members registering for PPPE 2016 should note that the PPPE Committee has allocated a budget to support APL levy-paying members by

paying the cost of travel and accommodation for those members who are registered to attend PPPE 2016.

That is, free travel and accommodation for APL levy-paying members to attend PPPE 2016.

Members may also be entitled to bring a num-

ber of staff as part of APL support.

APL support will be offered on a 'first in, first served' basis up to the limit of the total budgeted funding for the event.

For further information on entitlements, email pppe@australianpork.com.au



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Registration fills up quickly for the two pre-World Pork Expo tours. A one-day tour on June 7 will highlight Midwest agricultural businesses, including stops at the DuPont Pioneer Research & Development Center and a commercial wean-to-finish facility. Participants also get a look at retail pork marketing in a modern Hy-Vee grocery store.

Tours provide a unique insight into US agriculture

IN the lead-up to the 2016 World Pork Expo in Des Moines, Iowa, US, the National Pork Producers Council is offering two different tours prior to the expo that provide unique insights into US agriculture.

Set for June 6-7, the two-day tour will travel to locations in Illinois, Indiana and Iowa, showcasing commercial hog systems, farm equipment production and agricultural shipping channels.

The one-day tour on June 7 will highlight agricultural businesses in central Iowa, with a look at modern swine production and food marketing, feed grain research and product development.

The tours include transportation and meals on tour days as well as free admission to World Pork Expo from June 8-10, featuring the world's largest pork-specific trade show.

NPPC tour organiser Greg Thornton said this year's pre-World Pork Expo tours follow the long tradition of providing visitors with a snapshot of US agriculture's diversity from on-farm hog production to product research and development to equipment manufacturing and shipping.

"While the tours are open to anyone, they are particularly informative for international visitors and can make their time at World Pork Expo even more meaningful," he said.

The two-day tour
 The two-day tour, underwritten by the Illinois Soybean Association, travels through Iowa and into Illinois and Indiana.

Participants can board the bus in Des Moines on Sunday, June 5, or meet the group at Holiday Inn Express in Chicago on Monday, June 6.

The tour will venture into Indiana to visit Fair Oaks Farms, home of The Pig Adventure, for a view of modern pork production.

Participants will dine on site at the Farmhouse Restaurant.

The overnight stop will take place at Jumer's Hotel and Casino.

On day two, the tour heads to the John Deere Harvester Works in East Moline, Illinois, a new, state-of-the art JBS feedmill and a modern wean-to-finish barn managed by JBS.

Participants will also get an up-close look at grain export activities during a barge trip down the Mississippi River.

The tour bus will return to Des Moines for dinner on the evening of June 7.

Cost for the two-day tour is \$US450 per person, which includes bus transportation, lodging on June 6, meals on tour days and World Pork Expo admission.

The one-day tour

The one-day tour takes place on Tuesday, June 7 and will focus on agricultural businesses in central Iowa.

The tour will begin and end the day in Des Moines.

This action-packed trip will include a look at crop and feed segments related to pork production with a stop at the DuPont Pioneer Research & Development Center.

A visit to a modern wean-to-finish barn and a new, state-of-the art feedmill owned by JBS, followed by a stop at a Hy-Vee grocery store for perspective on the US retail food sector and dinner at the iconic Machine Shed Restaurant completes the day's events.

The cost for this one-day tour is \$US150 per person, which includes bus transportation, meals on the tour and free admission to World Pork Expo.

NPPC president and Iowa pork producer John Weber said these pre-Expo tours are a great way to get a sense of what US, and more specifically Iowa, agriculture is like.

"It provides participants with an up close and personal look, with opportunities to ask questions," he said.

"Then tour participants can spend the following days at World Pork Expo for a look at the latest pork production technologies, products and services, as well as hearing leading experts discuss research

and production tips during the numerous seminars offered."

Space is limited

Both tours have limited space, so interested individuals should go to worldpork.org and register as soon as possible.

Once there, select 'Attendees' on the blue registration button.

Then, scroll down to 'Industry Tours'.

The website will provide updated details about the tours as well as a schedule of Expo activities and general registration information.

The site also offers information about room availability at official World Pork Expo hotels, answers to frequently asked questions and other helpful tips about traveling to World Pork Expo.

To get the most up-to-date information, connect with World Pork Expo on Facebook and follow the Expo on Twitter (@NPPCWPX, #WPX16)

The 2016 World Pork Expo takes place on June 8-10 at the Iowa State Fairgrounds in Des Moines.

Highlights include more than 310,000 square feet of commercial exhibits from hundreds of companies throughout the world.

Trade show hours are from 8am to 5pm on Wednesday, June 8 and Thursday, June 9, and from 8am to 1pm on Friday, June 10.

Swine breeding stock sales will take place on Saturday, June 11 from 8am until they are completed (at about noon).

World Pork Expo, the world's largest pork-specific trade show, is brought to you by NPPC.

On behalf of its members, NPPC develops and defends export markets, fights for reasonable legislation and regulation, and informs and educates legislators.

For more information, visit nppc.org



The National Pork Producers Council offers two tour options for guests coming to World Pork Expo. A two-day tour on June 6-7 features a visit to the Fair Oaks Pig Adventure and a barge trip down the Mississippi River to view agricultural shipping facilities.

www.porknews.com.au

Australasian Milling Conference set for success in 2016

THE 2016 Australasian Milling Conference is shaping up to set a new record in terms of its success.

There is already a record level of sponsorship funding and number of trade exhibitors committed.

With the conference being held from May 29-31, the final trade exhibitors are registering.

Already, 200 trade stand spaces have been booked and this is expected to increase to over 220 by the time AMC is held.

AMC 2016 provides the opportunity for anyone manufacturing feed to hear and see the latest.

For pig producers operating their own feed mills, the trade exhibition provides the ideal oppor-

tunity to see the latest in milling equipment, silos and feeding systems.

Both Australian and overseas supply companies are booked to exhibit.

The AMC program provides a high calibre of speakers.

Under the conference theme 'Sustainability - Key concepts for our future', there is ample opportunity for all delegates to explore how their businesses can remain viable into the future.

The program features a panel presentation and discussion on sustainability as it relates to food and feed.

The panel participants are:

• Tim Hart, Ridley AgriProducts CEO, speaking about sustainability from

a feed perspective.

• Angus Gidley Baird, Rabobank, presenting on world animal protein requirements and challenges for sustainable milling.

• Elizabeth Kassel, RED Group, looking at sustainability through recycling opportunities and challenges.

• Ray Johnson, Agricultural Appointments, addressing the issue of accessing employees in a sustainable manner and the generational change in the Australian agribusiness sector.

• Andrew Giles, Garvan Research Foundation, looking at the human side of sustainable health for rural communities.

The keynote feed industry speaker is Alex Doring from the European Feed Manufacturers' Federation based in Belgium.

Alex has experience in dealing with major food safety incidents such as BSE in Europe and the dioxin contamination incident in Belgium.

He will elaborate on the risks the global feed industry faces and what is being done globally in the area of sustainable feed manufacture.

Other speakers will be addressing issues of antimicrobial resistance and use of feed additives as alternative options.

On the raw material side, speakers will look at where Australia is head-

ing in the supply versus demand balance as our livestock industries growth outpaces grain production efficiency.

AMC has a strong feed manufacturing and technical milling influence and sessions are dedicated to looking at milling innovations and what new technology will deliver for the future.

The history of AMC revolves around a strong networking and social program.

The AMC Welcome Dinner features the Stock Feed Manufacturers' Council of Australia Development Award presentation.

Five state winners will be recognised during this ceremony.

In addition, the Australian Technical Millers Association will be presenting its Young Achiever Award.

The Conference Dinner is typically a highlight, with music and dancing through the night.

Registrations are open and based on the last conference at least 1400 people will be taking part.

To find out more, register and check out the list of trade exhibitors, visit www.pixamc.com.au or contact the conference secretariat at info@pixamc.com.au or on 02 9368 1200.

Pig Farm Perspective

by Bruce the brainy pig



EVERY so often I stumble across new research that really inspires me about the direction in which the international pig industry is heading.

In the past few years, many researchers have been developing online monitoring systems for pigs that provide real-time feedback on body temperature and motion to assist with the early detection of infectious diseases.

Recently, a pilot study was published by researchers at the University of Madrid assessing the potential for early detection of infection in pigs via online monitoring systems.

This system measured changes in body temperature and movement patterns through devices embedded in radio-frequency identification ear tags of individual pigs and through video monitoring of pigs.

Accelerometers (devices which measure the acceleration of pigs around pens) were set to assess pig movement every 15 minutes up to 24 times a day and the internal temperature sensor gathered samples at least four times a day.

The remaining sensors gathered data continuously on a herd level.

The study used African swine fever as a trial disease to evaluate the efficacy of the monitoring system.

ASF presents with vague and non-specific clinical signs, often only seen as a sudden-onset fever.

This study found that the online monitoring system detected ASF on farm one to three days faster than the routine diagnostic measures used (measurement of rectal temperature, observation of clinical signs, decreased water consumption and positive quantitative polymerase chain reaction detection of the virus).

Why am I so excited by this study?

Well, the potential for using similar systems for monitoring other infectious diseases within piggeries is huge.

Imagine a world where pigs could be individually identified and isolated based on decreased movement and increased temperature, days before they would traditionally be picked up.

This has the oppor-

tunity to significantly decrease the transmission of many infectious diseases within herds.

This study is the first assessing the potential for using biosensors and video analysis for surveillance of common infectious diseases in pigs.

The results also suggest there is potential for similar systems to be used in place of or in conjunction with sentinel herds as a method of monitoring for emergency infectious diseases.

This would allow for enhanced monitoring of exotic pathogens at a lower cost, without compromising overall sensitivity.

The cost of these systems is high at this stage, however there is certainly potential for future use of real-time temperature and movement monitoring for early detection of infectious diseases.

While at this stage all I've discussed must sound like science fiction, implementation of commercial real-time tracking of pigs is definitely something to watch out for and could be on our farms sooner than expected.



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Day One: Plenary Sessions

Plenary Session 1: Technology inspired transformation

Sponsor: Zoetis

Speakers: Craig Rispin, The Future Trends Group

Official launch of APL Tech Toolbox App

Plenary Session 2: Consumer attitudes towards agriculture

Sponsor: Boehringer Ingelheim Animal Health Australia

Dr Jude Capper, Livestock Sustainability Consultancy

The value of information to the consumer

Dr Heather Bray, University of Adelaide

Understanding community attitudes

Rob Cumine, Coles

The retailers' perspective



Jude L. Capper

Jude L. Capper, Ph.D. is an independent Livestock Sustainability Consultant based in Oxfordshire, UK, who undertook her BSc and PhD in the UK before undertaking postdoctoral research at Cornell University and a faculty position at Washington State University in the USA.

Jude currently focuses on modelling the environmental impact of livestock production systems, specifically dairy and beef, including the effect of specific management practices and technology use. Her professional goal is to communicate the importance of factors affecting livestock industry sustainability to enhance the knowledge and understanding of food production stakeholders from the rancher and farmer through to the retailer, policy-maker and consumer. She has an active social media presence and spends a considerable amount of time de-bunking some of the more commonly-heard myths relating to resource use and the environmental impact of livestock production.

Jude can be contacted via email at jude@livestocksustainability.com.



Rob Cumine

Rob Cumine is the Coles Responsible Sourcing & Agricultural Manager, looking after the supermarket's ethical, sustainability and agricultural programs. He is the newly appointed Supply Chain representative on the APIQ[✓] panel.

He has a degree in Agricultural Economics and a Masters in Agricultural Marketing. Prior to Coles he worked in agriculture, food manufacturing and retailing in the UK. He also has hands on practical farming experience and through his UK business supplies Wholefoods Market with a range of grass-fed wagyu beef.



Craig Rispin

Craig Rispin is a business futurist and innovation expert. His expertise is in emerging businesses, people and technology trends – and how companies can profit from them.

Craig has over 20 years' experience working where the future has been created – with some of the most innovative companies in the world in the IT, consumer electronics, internet and broadcasting industries. In fact, Craig got his start much earlier than that – teaching adults about technology and trends from the age of 10 (really)!

He has addressed audiences of up to 3,000 people on 5 continents and has consulted with CEOs of leading companies worldwide. Some of his clients include: BHP Billiton, Canon, Colonial First State, IBM, Malleons, NRMA, Sensis, Sportscraft, Symantec, Toyota, the Young Presidents' Organization (YPO) and countless professional industry associations.

Now a Keynote speaker, author and innovation consultant, Craig shows his clients how to 'Know First, Be First and Profit First'.



Dr Heather Bray

Dr Heather Bray is a researcher at the University of Adelaide investigating community attitudes to the use of science and technology in food production.

She holds a Bachelor of Science in Agriculture (Hons) and a PhD in Animal Science both from the University of Sydney. Before moving into science communication, Heather worked on pig science projects at the Institute for Animal Science and Animal Health in the Netherlands and at the South Australian Research and Development Institute's Pig and Poultry Production Institute.

Dr Bray has extensive experience in communicating complex and contentious science to the general public. She developed and delivered schools and community education programs on genetic modification for the Molecular Plant Breeding CRC between 2003 and 2010.

Day Two: Concurrent Sessions

Session 1:

Refocusing on herd productivity

Sponsor:
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Dr Mark Wilson, Zinpro USA

Recent advances in seasonal infertility

Professor Rob van Barneveld, SunPork Farms
Variation and its hidden costs
Caleb Smith, Kia-Ora Piggery

Increasing born alive: where should we focus?

Session 2:

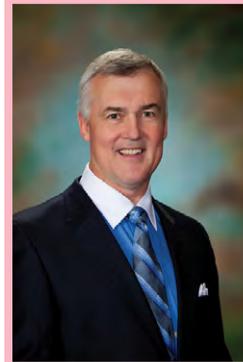
Transforming science into practice

Sponsor:
Elanco Animal Health

Dr Peter Davies, University of Minnesota
Anti Microbial Resistance (AMR) - what's the world doing about it?

Dr Pat Mitchell, APL
AMR in Australia – where are we at and what do we need to do?

Prof Darren Trott, University of Adelaide
AMR: new technologies to assist risk mitigation



Mark Wilson

Mark Wilson received his PhD at the University of Kentucky in reproductive physiology. He was Professor at the University of Minnesota, Waseca for 11 years where he won several National awards for undergraduate education and coordinated the swine research at the Southern Experiment Station. He spent nine years as director of technical service at United Feeds while overseeing the boar and sow research. He served as vice president of research and technology transfer at Minitube of America.

Currently he is one of the swine scientists of the Research and Nutritional Services Team for Zinpro Corporation. Mark is an adjunct professor for the University of Wisconsin and the University of Minnesota. Mark is a frequent speaker at National and International Swine events and has spoken in 38 different countries.

Robert van Barneveld



Robert van Barneveld is Group CEO and Managing Director of the SunPork Group of Companies which includes SunPork Farms (farming approximately 40,000 sows across Australia), PIC Australia, Swickers Kingaroy Bacon Factory and SunPork Fresh Foods.

In addition to his work with SunPork, Prof van Barneveld is also a Director of the Pork CRC Ltd, Roseworthy Piggery Pty Ltd, Deputy Chair of the Autism CRC Ltd, Chairman of Porkscan Pty Ltd (a company commercialising technologies for more accurate measurement of pig carcasses), Chairman of Social Skills Training Pty Ltd (a wholly-owned company of the Autism CRC Ltd which delivers the Secret Agent Society Program to families living with ASD), and is a Non-Executive Director of the ASX-listed Ridley Corporation (Australia's largest stockfeed manufacturer).

In addition to his corporate roles, Robert has extensive experience as a scientist and nutritionist for pigs and poultry in Australia and overseas and specialises in the characterisation and understanding of feed ingredients. He has worked widely with feedmills and livestock producers in Asia over the past 15 years and has a PhD in amino acid nutrition of monogastrics.

Robert is a Fellow of the Australian Institute of Company Directors, is a Registered Animal Nutritionist and is an Adjunct Professor within the School of Environmental and Rural Science at the University of New England.

Session 3:

Developing premium markets

Sponsor:
Australian Pork Limited

Hollis Ashman, Mondelez International

Premium food into China: lessons for the pork industry

Matt Rutter, Geraldton Fisherman's Cooperative
Lessons for the pork industry from the world's largest exporter of rock lobster

Jayne Gallagher, Director, Honey & Fox
Australian wild abalone in China: ideas for the pork industry

Workshop

Sponsor:
Chris Richards and Associates

Fact or Fiction - tools to obtain objective evidence to assess the potential benefits of commonly applied health and production practices in pigs.



Darren Trott

Professor Darren Trott is Director of the Australian Centre for Antimicrobial Resistance Ecology.

His research focuses on a One Health approach to solving antimicrobial resistance issues relevant to both human and animal health.



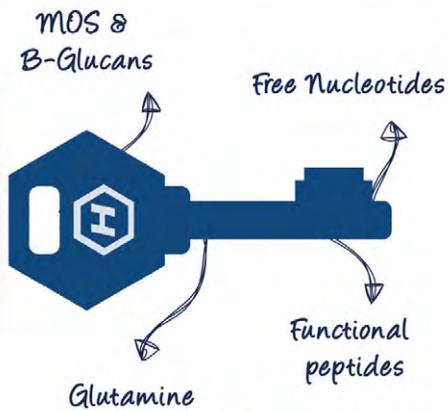
Caleb Smith

Caleb Smith was raised on the family farm and was put to work shortly after learning to walk. After finishing an Advanced Diploma in Farm Business Management, Caleb went back to Kia-Ora Piggery and has now been the manager of the breeder unit for eight years. The farm has good breeding performance and has been able to produce 26 pigs weaned per sow per year for the last 12 months. Kia-Ora Piggery has always been an innovative and progressive business claiming awards such

as the 2002 Best Victorian Small Business Employer of the year award, the 2010 Shire of Loddon Best Agricultural Business, Best Large Business and Best overall Business Award, and was a finalist in the 2014 Victorian Premier's Sustainability Awards. Caleb will bring practical ways to improve breeding herd performance and identify what gives the best bang for your buck.

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Swickers continues to improve

SWICKERS continues to evolve and improve so it can support a strong and growing Queensland pork industry.

Despite being the only export accredited pork abattoir and processing facility in Queensland, the company recognises the need to maintain a strong focus on the needs of all producers and processors who utilise the facility.

Further to discussions with senior management, a number of new developments are under way at Swickers including:

- The employment of a new farm liaison officer David Williamson. Swickers will have a stand at Pan Pacific Pork Expo and David will be available to meet with producers.

- The company has commenced the development of new entrances and associated roadworks to improve traffic movements on site and enhance safety.

- As detailed in the *Burnett Times* in July last year, Swickers has also commenced a process of evaluation for a new kill floor. It is envisaged the new facility will be developed to accommodate slaughtering of 30,000 pigs per week on a single shift,

pork
QUEENSLAND INC.

President's Perspective

by JOHN COWARD



increasing the current capacity by more than 50 percent and making it the largest pork abattoir in Australia. Management has engaged with a range of world-leading pig abattoir specialists to ensure the facility is truly state of the art. The upgrade will focus on meat quality and slaughtering efficiencies adopting best practice in pig welfare prior to slaughter. The use of side-loading CO2 stunning, which provides lower stress levels on pigs prior to slaughter, as well as a range of world-leading pieces of processing equipment to ensure lowest cost of production, will enhance the company's domestic and export competitiveness. A new cold storage facility has been constructed on site.

- A key focus of the business is to maintain and improve an already impressive meat shelf life standard, which is recognised by Swickers' customers.

Swickers CEO Mr Ross Ingram said: "With the increased demand and consumption of pork in Australia and growing export opportunities, the investment into upgrading slaughtering, chilling and distribution will take Swickers to a new level; supporting the viability of our longstanding and loyal customers and improving competitiveness into current and expanding markets."

The focus of the business and facility upgrade to reduce the risks of a major breakdown have been welcomed by industry and customers, and together with a positive outlook for pig farming viability, Swickers' project will see Queensland at the forefront of pig processing in Australia.

PPPE reminder

Pork Queensland Inc looks forward to seeing Queensland members and producers at PPPE from May 25 to 26, 2016.

Help police to help you

CRIME prevention in local communities works best as a collaborative effort between the people who live there and the police officers who serve them.

To combat crime effectively, police need to hear about it.

This allows us not only to investigate these offences, but also to detect local crime trends and deploy our resources accordingly.

So I was concerned to read the findings of a 2015 study on rural crime by the University of New England.

The study was based on a survey of 1251 farmers in NSW and Queensland working across a range of agricultural industries, including pig farming.

Of the farmers surveyed, 74 percent had experienced some type of rural crime over the past 12 years.

This includes theft of fuel and stock, illegal hunting and – of particular concern to pig farmers – trespass by activists.

Yet the same research also found that only half of all rural crimes are reported to police.

The top reason for not telling police about rural crime, as cited by the survey respondents, was "I had no proof".

Other main reasons included: "It was not serious enough"; "Police can't (or won't) do anything"; and "Too much time has passed".

I can assure you police take rural crime very seriously.

In 2002, NSW Police added to its ranks a dedicated team of rural crime investigators after a national study conservatively estimated the annual cost of farm crime to be \$70 million.

Thirty-three of these specialist detectives are now stationed at 26 non-metropolitan local area commands across rural and regional NSW.

Their mandate is to work with local landholders and other police to investigate offences that impact on the function of the pastoral, agricultural and aquaculture industries.

No crime is too old or too small for us to investigate.

Even if it doesn't result in an arrest or a conviction, the information you

provide can help police to understand and address the crime trends in your area.

Police can also offer valuable support and advice to farmers.

For example, did you know that something as simple as adding 'private property' signs to perimeter fences and gates could assist in the prosecution of trespassers?

My message to landholders is simple: help us to help you.

If a crime is committed on your property, tell us about it.

Call your local police or report it via Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000.

Geoff McKechnie
NSW Police Western Region Commander, Assistant Commissioner



Geoff McKechnie, NSW Police Western Region Commander, Assistant Commissioner.

www.porknews.com.au

Alltech agrees to acquire Keenan, Ireland's leading farming solutions manufacturer

ALLTECH has agreed to acquire Keenan, a leading farming solutions company in Ireland.

Keenan, now part of the Alltech family of companies, is the 14th acquisition for Alltech globally since 2011.

Alltech founder and president Dr Pearse Lyons said the Keenan group has long been a friend of Alltech.

"This is a story about two great Irish, globally minded companies coming together," he said.

"As an Irishman, I am delighted to welcome Keenan to our family, because together we can deliver greater value to our global farming customers with a wider variety of technological solutions.

"Between Alltech's primacy in science and Keenan's manufacturing

strength and technological know-how, we have a winning combination for delivering greater farm efficiency and profitability direct to our farming customers."

Alltech and Keenan have identified possible growth opportunities together, which may include nutritional technologies and feeding programs focused on feed efficiency and herd health as well as advanced ration formulation.

Alltech CEO Alric Blake said, "This is an exciting time for Keenan to join us here at Alltech."

"Alltech is looking for avenues to better deliver the Alltech brand to farmers and provide nutritional solutions to those who directly benefit from their use, whether in animal or crop production.

"Science and technology are at the forefront of everything we do.

"This new journey with Keenan further strengthens our ability to deliver on-farm nutrition solutions."

Keenan will continue to be headquartered in Borris, County Carlow, Ireland.

Together, Alltech and Keenan employ nearly 300 people in Ireland and close to 5000 globally.

About Keenan

Established in 1978, Keenan is a respected leader in ethical and profitable farming solutions focused on maximising feed efficiency.

Over the course of nearly four decades in business, Keenan has earned a particularly strong reputation for manufacturing quality mixer wagons.

Keenan interprets data for more than one million cows from close to 10,000 farms in 25 countries around the world, representing one of the world's largest field databases on dairy feed efficiency.

Keenan prides itself on continuous investment into new technology for the benefit of its customers globally.

The company has evolved throughout the years, combining cutting-

edge technological developments with breakthrough nutritional expertise.

A keen advocate for environmental sustainability, Keenan has developed a range of solutions to en-

able farmers to overcome agricultural production challenges and improve rumen health and feed efficiency.

For further information, visit www.keenansystem.com



The Keenan farm mixer wagon, also known as the 'green machine', has earned a reputation for its reliability and service. Keenan mixer wagons, together with InTouch technology are designed to deliver the optimal farm feed mix consistently.

NFF angered by Budget inaction on backpacker tax

THE National Farmers' Federation has welcomed key measures that will benefit agriculture announced in the Federal Budget 2016-2017, but is angered by the lack of any plan to address the controversial backpacker tax.

Speaking from Canberra, NFF president Brent Finlay said new initiatives that build on last year's \$4 billion Agricultural Competitiveness White Paper were excellent news for the sector but enthusiasm for the Budget was tempered by the damage that would be incurred at the hands of the controversial backpacker tax.

"There is no doubt we are delighted to see the tax burden on small business eased – with a 2.5 percent tax cut for small companies, an increase to the tax discount for unincorporated entities and more generous deduction rules," Mr Finlay said.

"Another cash injection of \$594 million for inland rail is also warmly welcomed, but falls short of the funding needed to break ground on the project."

Despite these positive elements, Mr Finlay said the Government must urgently act on the destructive backpacker tax to restore certainty and confidence to thousands of farm businesses and rural communities as well as industries such as tourism that rely on the backpacker workforce.

"Literally thousands of

farming families, agricultural businesses and tourism operators were desperately hoping the backpacker tax in its current form would be abandoned in the Budget," he said.

"We have received more than 31,000 signatures on a petition opposing this measure.

"We have banded together, both as an industry and across sectors, to show that the negative impacts will be wide-reaching and felt by thousands of Australian families.

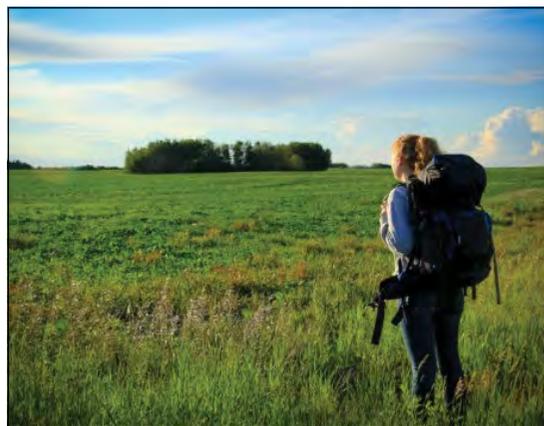
"We have given clear examples of what this pain will involve.

"It is now time for the Government to respond to the risk imposed on the sector by a measure that will chase working holiday-makers away from Australia and, in the process, decimate the agricultural workforce."

Mr Finlay said the Budget was a precursor to strong advocacy from the NFF, in the lead-up to the imminent federal election, that would focus on policy to underwrite a strong and prosperous rural sector.

"Never before has agriculture been so strongly positioned to grow the Australian economy and contribute to the prosperity of the entire nation," he said.

"We look forward to hearing policies from both the Government and Opposition that will help us take hold of these opportunities and deliver economic and social returns for the nation."



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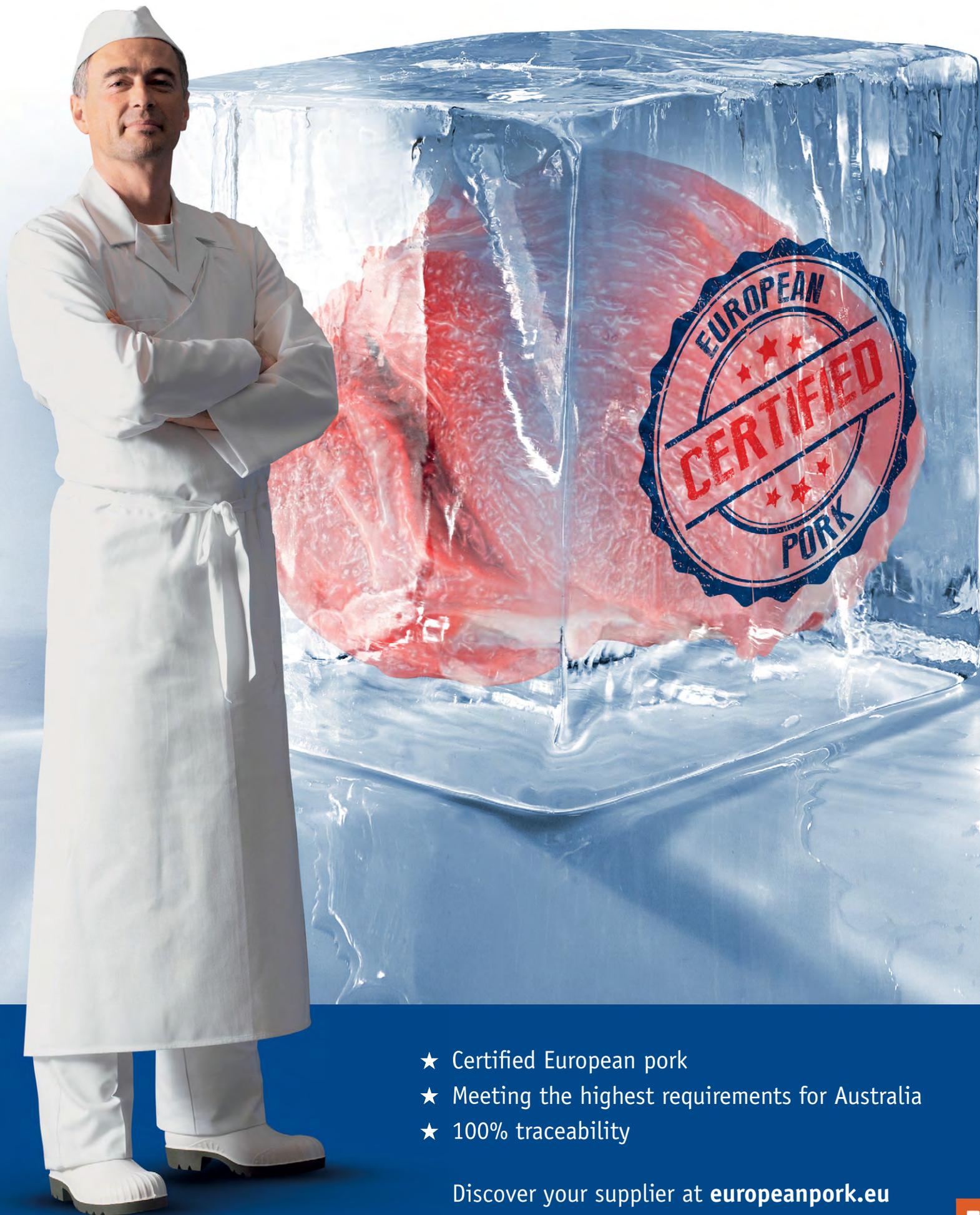
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Budget boosts agricultural sector

THE 2016-17 Budget will support the construction of essential water infrastructure into the future, ensuring Australia's agricultural sector can be boosted to drive economic growth.

The Government will commit further funding of \$88 million to build on initiatives contained in the \$4 billion Agricultural Competitiveness White Paper to strengthen farm businesses and better defend the country against biosecurity risks.

Deputy Prime Minister and Agriculture and Water Resources Minister Barnaby Joyce said the Government will establish the \$2 billion National Water Infrastructure Loan Facility from July 1, 2016, providing direct loans to the states and territories to construct dams, pipelines and job-creating water infrastructure projects.

"The loan facility will stimulate and accelerate investment in major water infrastructure, such as dams, pipelines and managed aquifer recharge projects, supporting the agriculture and resources industries and rural and regional communities," Minister Joyce said.

"The Government is further investing in strengthening Australia's biosecurity protection, with a new \$15.9 million over four years to build an advanced analytics capability within the Department of Agriculture and Water Resources.

"The Biosecurity Advanced Analytics initiative will improve the department's ability to turn information into intelligence to better manage biosecurity risks that threaten our agricultural sector, the rural communities that depend on them, the environment and the broader economy.

"This will increase our ability to know why, when, where and what pests and diseases should be the focus of biosecurity activities, which will increase preparedness for potential pest and disease incursions."

Minister Joyce said the Government has delivered more than \$718 million in support for farmers and rural communities experiencing drought and hardship and will build on initiatives in the Ag White Paper by extending funding for additional rural financial counsellors.

"Rural financial counselling services in drought-affected regions will benefit from a \$7.1 million boost in funding over four years, ensuring farmers in need are able to access the support they require," he said.

Minister Joyce also underlined the Government's firm commitment to the Murray-Darling Basin Plan.

"We have made clear our intention to provide certainty and leadership in managing this precious resource for the future, and we will deliver on that," he said.

"Work is currently under way to determine the amount of water required to sustain the basin, which will determine decisions



on resourcing requirements.

"The Australian Government's commitment to the agriculture and water resources portfolio through the 2016-17 Budget is clear.

"We have supported the core business of the portfolio, creating an environment to support profitable farm businesses, ensuring access to export markets for agricultural produce, managing biosecurity risk and investing in R&D to ensure our farmers remain world-class into the future."

Minister Joyce said the Government is continuing to build on the platform established by the Ag White Paper to forge a path to a stronger and more profitable agricultural sector.

"Agriculture is one of the five pillars of our na-

tional economy – one that is worth \$58.4 billion to the Australian economy, employs about 315,000 people and feeds more than 60 million people globally," he said.

"The White Paper has laid out a path to prosperity for the agriculture sector and we will harness this momentum to keep delivering for farmers, businesses across the supply chain, regional Australia and the broader economy.

"The investments in the 2016-17 Budget are targeted at the long-term future of Australian agriculture, including building major water infrastructure and improving our biosecurity risk management."

For more information about the Agriculture and Water Resources Portfolio Budget, visit agriculture.gov.au/budget

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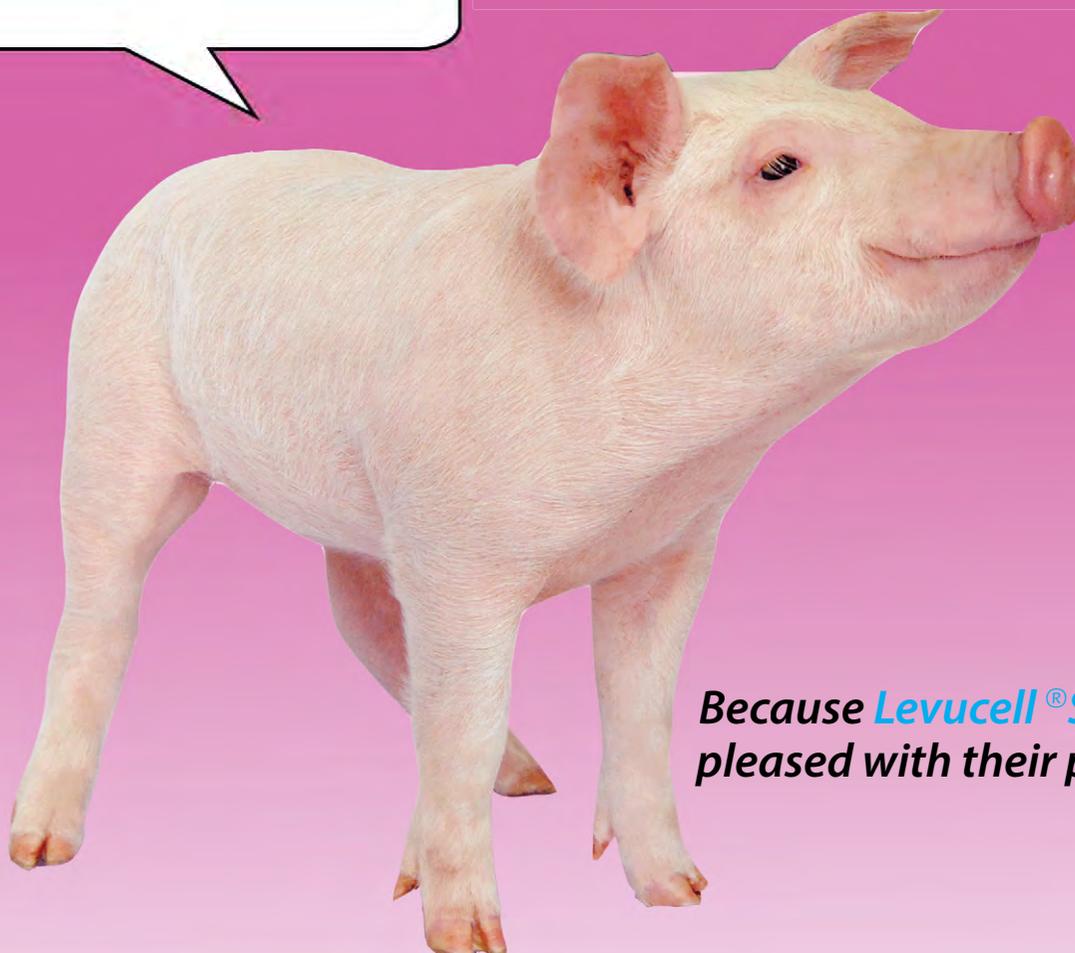
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Cutter clears clogs and cuts costs

KEEPING settling ponds in optimum condition without draining them represents real cost savings.

Normal submersible pumps used to dredge these pits cannot cope when oversized, fibrous materials get flushed into the system.

Tsurumi, the world leader in submersible pump development, has produced a range of cutter pumps called the C Series, which are designed to handle such contaminated waste.

The C Series cutter pumps chop waste material, thus allowing free passage through the pump without clogging.

Aussie Pumps product manager Neil Bennett said, "Tsurumi's breakthrough cutter impeller chops through sewage, rawhide, plastic, rags and other materials in seconds."

"We've seen various unmentionables handled by these extraordinary pumps without issue."

The C Series incorporates a large open-channel impeller with a cutter mechanism.

A sintered tungsten carbide alloy tip is brazed on the impeller vane.

As the impeller rotates, the vane slices against the serrated edge of the suction cover, chopping fibrous matter into small

fragments that won't clog.

The three-phase, heavy-duty pumps range from 50mm bore to 100mm.

The largest pump in the range has an enormous capacity of 2750l/pm and a maximum head of 26m.

"There is a terrific video on YouTube that shows the pumps' cutting ability," Bennett said.

"It's amazing to watch what these unique cutters will do."

"You'll never believe it until you see it."

"The demo even shows the pump swallowing nylon rope."

The video can be found by searching for 'Tsurumi cutter pump' on YouTube. Like all Tsurumi sub-

mersible pumps, the C Series pumps include features that extend the life and enhance reliability of the pump.

Significant design details make a big difference.

These include an anti-wicking cable entry that prevents water from entering the motor if the power lead is damaged or the end of the cable is accidentally submerged.

A double silicone carbide seal is standard on all models.

Both seal surfaces are submerged in an oil chamber away from the pumped liquid.

This ensures lubrication and protects against ingress of foreign materials.

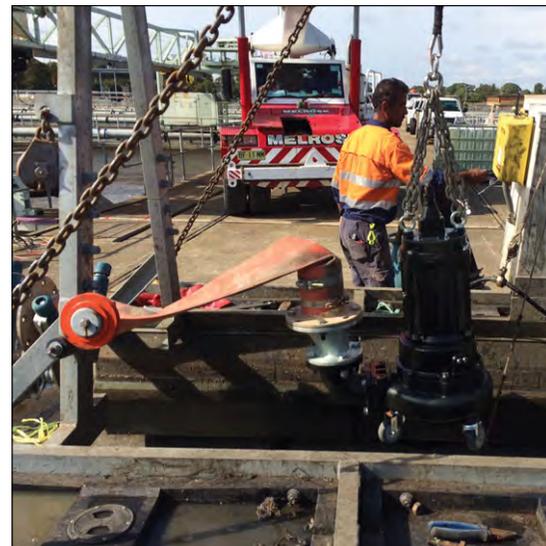
The oil bath features a patented 'Oil Lifter' that increases mechanical seal longevity.

The lifter ensures both the upper and lower seals are lubricated and cooled, even if the oil level in the chamber is low.

"These pumps have even been used to combat the huge ragging issue in settling dams," Bennett said.

"The cutter pump coupled onto a dredging platform will allow the cleaning of ponds while they remain online."

Further information on the complete range of Tsurumi cutter pumps is available on the Aussie Pumps website www.aus siepumps.com.au



Tsurumi C Series cutter pumps chop solids suspended in waste water, allowing for choke-free operation when dredging settling pits.

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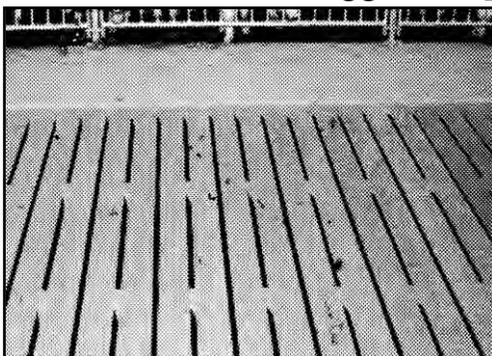
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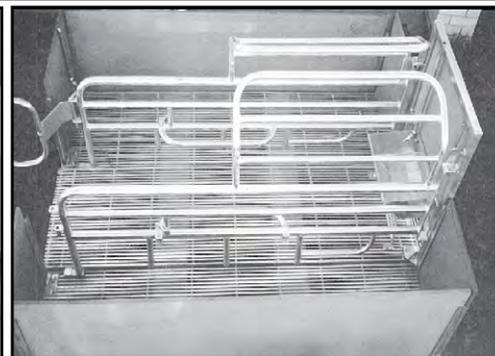
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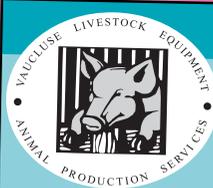
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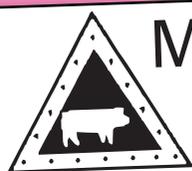
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MUSKIL Dual Active Rodenticide

STOCKYARD Industries has recently become a distributor for MUSKIL Dual Active Rodenticide.

MUSKIL combines two active ingredients, difenacoum and bromadiolone together with a unique fluoro NP technology to reduce the 'fear of new things' so rodents will feed more quickly on MUSKIL.

MUSKIL is very visible to rats and mice because it is illuminated in the dark and is picked up in their sight spectrum much better than baits with regular dyes.

Therefore the bait is more quickly accepted.

MUSKIL is the first-ever dual-active rodenticide.

This patented technology combines two active ingredients to deliver a rapid speed of kill that is second to no other bait.

Incorporating FLUO-NP Technology, MUSKIL greatly decreases the normal neophobia shown by rodents to ensure rats and mice feed more quickly.

Optimised for rodents' sense of sight, smell and taste, the aromatic feeding attractants in MUSKIL mean rodents are lured to the very desirable, highly palatable food source where the bright red fluorescence of FLUO-NP Technology delivers visual appeal.

The use of a fluorescent bait provides further

benefits for use in sensitive areas because it offers the opportunity to better check bait feeding, bait carriage/spillage, rodent tracks and movements as well as recover eaten/carried blocks and check for rodent entry points or harbourages due to the rodent droppings lighting up under a black light.

One of the most remarkable attributes of MUSKIL is that while able to kill rodents very quickly, it also displays a lower toxicology profile against non-target animals, including family pets, when compared to most other rodenticide baits.

The formulation of Protect-us MUSKIL has been specifically tailored for Australian conditions, achieving improved palatability for local rodent species.

Even the shape of the 15g block is attractive to rodents because it provides numerous edges that satisfy rodents' desire to gnaw.

MUSKIL is now available through Stockyard Industries in 3kg and 8kg buckets.

Bait stations are also available.

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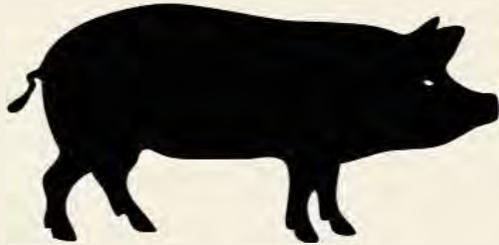
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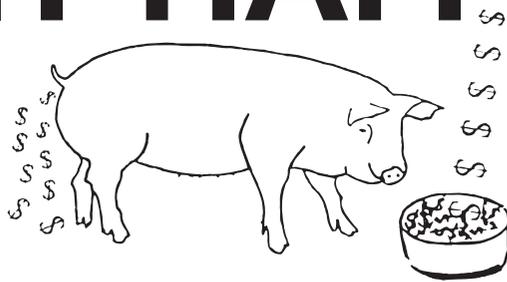


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New market opportunities for Brazilian pork in China

THERE was a sharp growth in Brazilian pork exports in the first quarter of 2016, of over 80 percent year on year, to just under 140,000 tonnes.

Trade with its traditional markets of Russia and Hong Kong moved up sharply, rising by about two-thirds.

Brazil's export diversification strategy is now paying off as China has emerged as its third-largest market in very quick time, with shipments negligible just a year before.

By March, shipments had reached 6400 tonnes to account for 11 percent of total Brazilian trade, up from just 1600 tonnes in January.

This has given increased access to the Chinese market as more Brazilian plants obtain approval.

Even shipments to Singapore and Angola were also well up in the first quarter.

Brazilian pork is very competitive, with the average export price down

by as much as 32 percent in US dollar terms in the first quarter of 2016 compared with a year earlier.

This represents a much larger price fall than for other major exporters such as the European Union and the US, though their data is not so up to date.

This was helped by the marked fall in the value of the Brazilian currency, as in Brazilian reals the average export price was only 8 percent lower.

The sharp increase in volume shipments meant the value of exports in real increased by two-thirds.

The increase in volume exports has helped to provide some support to Brazilian producers because production was higher year on year.

Meanwhile, domestic demand has been reduced by the poor economic situation, with reduced consumer spending and intense heat in much of the country.

Pig meat consumption in Brazil is more focused during the winter months.

Brazilian pork exports, January-March

	2014	2015	2016
	000 tonnes		
Total frs/frz	92.6	76.4	139.7
Russia	33.9	33.7	58.3
Hong Kong	18.5	17.6	28.7
China	0.3	0.1	10.9
Singapore	7.8	5.4	10
Angola	9.5	3.6	6.1
Uruguay	4.3	4.3	5.7

Source: SECEX - Foreign Trade Secretariat, GTIS

Chinese pork imports continue to boom

COMPARED with the same period last year, Chinese pork imports more than doubled in March 2016 to a record 114,700 tonnes, according to the latest figures from China Customs.

The growth in pork imports to China was exceptional in 2015 and shows no signs of slowing during the first half of 2016.

The high pork price in China is attracting more imports because the domestic industry is unable to fully capitalise on this positive price movement.

Restriction to capital is inhibiting smaller producers from expanding their herds.

Increasing environmental legislation is also hampering expansion among larger producers as they are moved away from coastal areas, where land prices are at a premium, and popula-

tion centres.

Imports from the EU are continuing to increase; up 93 percent in quarter one 2016 versus the same period a year earlier.

All major EU producers, with Germany and Spain dominating the market, have contributed to this growth.

Imports from non-EU countries have also increased sharply in the first quarter of 2016 compared with the same period a year earlier.

Sixteen processing plants in the US have now been accredited by the Chinese as part of their ractopamine-free adherence scheme, which frees up a greater volume of pork for export.

The depreciation of the Canadian dollar has assisted Canadian export volumes in trebling year on year to 28,300 tonnes in the period from January to March 2016.

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WAPPA Pig Day Out 2016



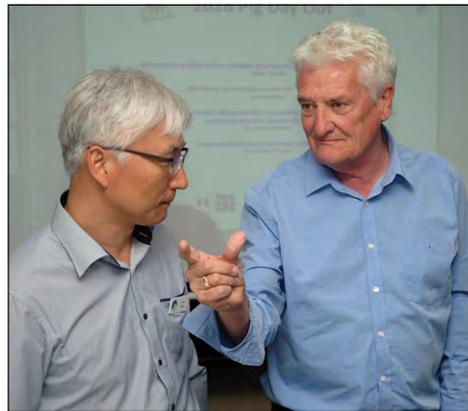
Dr Kim Nairn of Portec Veterinary Services with Murdoch University Veterinary School students.



Emalyn Loudon, Dr Rob Wilson, Jan Cooper and Dr Jo Pluske.



Neil Ferguson, Westpork; Steve Martin, Wannamal; and Richard Evison, Westpork enjoyed the day.



Dr Jae Kim, DAFWA and Dr Roger Campbell, Pork CRC, chatted prior to addressing WAPPA Pig Day Out 2016.



Pork producer John Bunn of Albany made a point to WAPPA treasurer Torben Soerensen of GD Pork.



Jan Testerink, York pork producer, caught up with WAPPA CEO Jan Cooper.



Taya Clarke of Westpork chaired the afternoon session.



Kim Nairn with transporters at the Pig Day Out. Photo: Brendon Cant



Pork CRC Honours student at Murdoch University Ingenuity Stensland addressed the Pig Day Out attendees.



Pork CRC PhD candidate at Murdoch University Jeremy Ayre spoke at WAPPA Pig Day Out 2016.



WAPPA executives Emalyn Loudon, Dean Romaniello, Torben Soerenson, Graeme Dent, Dawson Bradford and Jan Cooper.



Murdoch University Pork CRC PhD candidate Diana Turpin chaired the opening session at WAPPA Pig Day Out and later spoke on her intermittent suckling project.



WAPPA president Dawson Bradford of Popanyinning opened WAPPA Pig Day Out 2016.

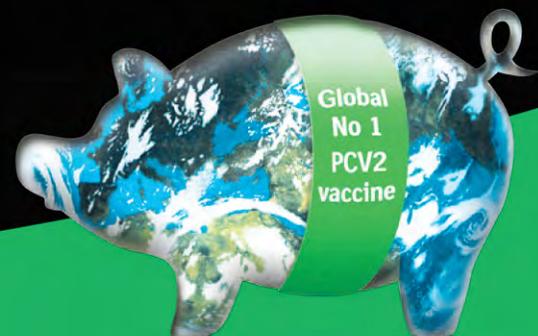
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