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JCU students got up close to pigs in the field.

James Cook University students get up close with pigs on farm

FINAL-year vet students recently received global pig health training from Dr John Carr at James Cook University. Their final-year introduction to population medicine

particularly includes training in foreign disease awareness, now acutely important with African swine fever on our doorstep.

But the course goes from ani-

mal handling and sample collection to the real economics of pig farming and maintaining animal health within minimal antibiotic use through batch management.

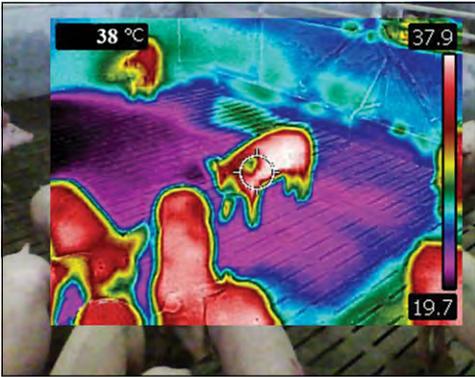
The students are trained in the use of equipment to monitor the health of pigs and their environment.

The use of infrared technology always provides for a unique photo opportunity, but the real advantages are seen when asked to assess the farrowing heat mat or looking for pigs in the hospital pen with a high temperature.

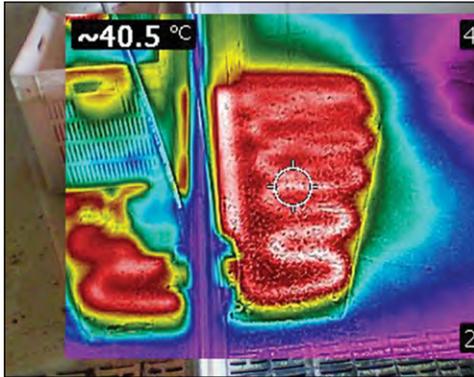
Keep an eye on future editions of *Australian Pork Newspaper* for more updates from Dr John Carr.



A rotation of final-year vet students at JCU seen through infra-red technology.



A hospital pen that demands extra attention as this pig is hotter than her penmates.



The correct workings of a farrowing heat pad illustrated through infrared technology.

Aussie Farms bus backfiring

IT was plotted as a national day of action – for vegans.

Monday, April 8 saw vegan sit-ins, invasions, vandalism and raids like we've never seen before on one day.

And the people took notice.

The world works in strange ways but it's still hard to understand what goes through people's minds sometimes.

To think that sitting in at one of Melbourne's busiest intersections blocking peak-hour traffic is a way to endear the public to your cause seems ludicrous.

But that is exactly what the Aussie Farms crew did.

And they certainly got a reaction, but I don't think it was the one they were expecting or really wanted.

Even the Prime Minister had words to say about what he thought of the vegan activists.

I think we should call them vegan activists rather than animal activists as it is a more accurate description.

They are not actually fighting for animals – in their world, the exact animals they claim to be fighting for wouldn't actually exist.

Without livestock farming, there would be no livestock.

While not highly publicised, the activities on this mad Monday saw raids on pig farms as well, and pig processing works were affected.

The public and media reactions were a combination of "how dare they..." and "you can't be serious..."

The consistent point was around the arrogance of a group of people who believe their opinion is worth more than anyone else's and they can therefore force it on others – guilt free.

It is great to see charges are starting to be laid on those who have chosen to



Point of View

by ANDREW SPENCER CEO



interrupt legally operating businesses and invade someone else's property.

Hopefully it is a sign that the authorities are taking this very seriously and certainly some of the communication I've heard from the police would back up that this is the case.

Our thanks as an industry goes out to those who are working to protect our farmers from these illegal acts.

The message here is remain vigilant because I'm sure it's not the last we've heard from the vegan army.

It's also a scary time for anyone to be on a pig farm uninvited when we're under threat from the African swine fever disease rampaging through Asia.

In the past couple of weeks there seems to have been a more general acceptance that this disease in China – and spreading through other Asian countries – will have a profound effect on their pork production and global trade in pork and other meats.

Predictions from industry commentators are quoting that up to 35 percent of China's pork production will disappear, for a time at least, as a result of the disease.

With ASF showing up in Mongolia, Vietnam and now Cambodia as well, we can only predict the prob-

lem is going to get bigger and probably spread to more countries in the region.

Australian Pork Limited and the Australian pork industry are just about to embark on a program of strategic planning and you'll be asked for your opinion about the priorities for the Australian pork industry over the period from 2020 to 2025.

This will be done through surveys, invitations to let us know your thinking via email and a series of face-to-face producer meetings.

Pig farmers are always welcome to give me or other APL team members a call to let us know what you're thinking.

Aligned with this and coming from the recently conducted APL Innovation Review, we'll also specifically be asking pig farmers and other stakeholders about the big industry questions we need to find solutions to our R&D programs.

Stay tuned for more information coming about how you can have your say.

We're looking forward to the next Delegates' Forum to be held in Adelaide on May 9.

The issues around ASF and its potential impact on world trade will be discussed with one or two invited speakers that I'm sure will have the floor very interested.

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Pig Industry Calendar of Events

2019

JUN 12-13 – Australian Biosecurity Symposium, Gold Coast, QLD www.biosym.com.au

JUN 18 – Victorian Pig Fair, Bendigo Harness Racing Facility, VIC E: vicpigfair@gmail.com

JUN 23-26 – International Symposium on Emerging and Remerging Pig Diseases, Santiago, Chile www.emerging2019.com/en

AUG 11 - 14 – The International Conference on Boar Semen Preservation, Hunter Valley, NSW www.boarsemen2019.com

AUG 25 - 28 – Asian Pig Veterinary Society Congress, Buscan, South Korea www.apvs2019.com/invit.html

AUG 26- 29 – SafePork Conference, Berlin, Germany www.safepork-conference.com

SEP 21- OCT 1 – Royal Melbourne Show, Melbourne Showgrounds VIC royalshow.com.au

OCT 19 - 21 – Leman China Swine Conference, Zhengzhou, China www.vetmed.umn.edu/news-events/leman-china-swine-conference

NOV 13 - 15 – 2019 Pig Welfare Symposium, Minneapolis, US www.pork.org/events/pig-welfare-symposium

NOV 17 - 20 – Australasian Pig Science Association Conference, Adelaide, SA www.apsa.asn.au

How to supply event details: Send all details to Australian Pork Newspaper, PO Box 387, Cleveland, Qld 4163, call 07 3286 1833 fax: 07 3821 2637, email: ben@porknews.com.au

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Full steam ahead for Australian Pork Industry Leadership Program

THE six participants of Course 2 of the Australian Pork Industry Leadership Program, selected from a very strong field of applicants, were at the time of printing getting prepared for their first workshop that begins on May 7 in Canberra.

As per last year, the first workshop is an outdoor experiential challenge aimed at developing the participants' leadership skills as well as their personal understanding of managing themselves and a team when facing challenging situations.

After the completion of the first workshop, the participants will meet again in Denmark in October, where they will tour various pig production sites, training centres, processing plants and attend the 2019 Svine Kongresen (Danish PPPE).

The final workshop will be held in January 2020 and will include workshops on presentation skills and having difficult conversations.

I am very pleased to announce the participants for Course 2 – congratulations to you all!

Steve Smith: Technical Manager, Research and Innovation Farms, Rivalea Australia

Steve has 10 years of diverse experience working in commercial pig production (indoor and free-range systems) in leadership roles, including leading teams through the innovation and implementation of systems to improve production efficiency, production management and welfare.

Some of his career achievements include working with the Rivalea R&I team to ensure experiments are conducted correctly, implementing electronic sow feeders and Nedap feeding systems to work in their enterprise, developing novel group weaning system for sows, which included enrichment, implementing post-cervical AI on farm and managing progeny sorting systems in commercial units, achieving customer carcass compliance.

Dearne Cowling: Tooleen Breeder Unit Site Manager, Pigo

Dearne has 25 years' experience within the Australian pork industry and



by **HEATHER CHANNON**
Research and Innovation
General Manager



started as a 19-year-old animal attendant at Bears Lagoon Piggery, which was then a farrow-to-finish operation.

Since that time, she has worked in a number of operations ranging from small family owned businesses to large corporate farms.

Dearne currently works for Pigo and has been with them for 17 years.

She is the site manager for a 2200-breeder farm managing 10 staff with the day-to-day operation of the farm.

As part of her role, Dearne is quality assurance manager for the company, managing animal welfare on all sites, internal audits and external APIQ✓ audits with AUSMEAT.

Rebecca Wicks: Quality Assurance Manager - Farms, Milne Agrigroup

Rebecca has held this position for 13 years and is responsible for managing the quality systems for both pork and chicken within the Agrigroup business farming sector.

This also includes developing and implementing production processes while overseeing all internal and external audits, training, biosecurity and welfare.

She has attended the Australian Pork Limited Delegates' Forums over the past two years as a proxy to develop her knowledge of national pig industry issues and is actively involved in the Pig Biosecurity Consultative group in Western Australia discussing many issues that directly impact WA farms.

Recently, she has joined the Australian Produce Commission Pork Producers Committee.

David Lines: Manager, Production Support, SunPork Farms South

David has held this posi-

tion for the past two years.

David commenced working in the Australian pork industry eight years ago as a research officer at Australian Pork Farms Group, Wasleys Piggery, after the completion of his PhD at the University of Adelaide.

In his current role, his responsibilities are diverse and include the oversight of APIQ✓/QA for SunPork Farms South, liaising with the EPA and local council/Biosecurity SA, implementation of genetic programs, production benchmarking, strategy development and the oversight of grower/ finisher research at one of the largest R&D facilities in Australia.

Terenzo Valmonte: Farm Manager, Pepperrina Piggery (Cameron Pastoral Company)

Terenzo has held this position for over four years and is responsible for the management of the 4500-sow farm and its 14 staff to produce 2150 piglets per week.

He works alongside the general manager and herd veterinarian in tackling production issues within the Pepperrina unit and the four other breeder units that make up the 12,500 sows of Cameron Pastoral Company.

Over the past four years, the Pepperrina Piggery has demonstrated significant improvements in reproduction performance.

Terenzo believes he has accomplished these outcomes by leading a highly motivated and passionate group at Pepperrina and with the support of the company's production leadership team.

Rob Bayley: Manager, Blackwood Piggery

Rob manages his family owned 550-sow farrow to finish piggery.

He is responsible for

the day-to-day operation of the piggery including genetics and breeding, nutrition, animal health, maintenance, staffing and worker health and safety.

Rob also manages the financial side of the business and endeavours to ensure accurate financial and performance data is available to allow him to make informed business decisions.

He strives for continuous improvement and implements best practice procedures to minimise operating costs while maintaining the highest animal welfare standards.

Rob considers this has assisted the business to remain profitable during tough market conditions.

Rob is currently a member of the VFF council, the Australian Pork Young Leaders Group and has attended APL Delegates' Forums.

He enjoys discussing industry challenges and developing proactive responses with the group before they impact the industry.

I am very excited by the calibre of these individuals and their demonstrated commitment to the Australian pork industry and look forward to hearing of their personal and professional growth resulting from their participation in this course.

I strongly encourage those who were unsuccessful this time around as well as others interested in undertaking this course to apply for the next course when it opens in early 2020.

If you would like to discuss or require any further information, please feel free to contact either myself or Ashley Norval (Ashley.Norval@australianpork.com.au or 0437 177 527).

Rural Health and Safety

Incidents of death, injury and illness in agricultural workplaces have prompted Rural Research and Development Corporations to renew their focus on work health and safety.

As such, APL is part of a new partnership with eight other RDCs to form the Rural Safety and Health Alliance.

These are: AgriFutures Australia, Australian Eggs, Australian Wool Innovation, Cotton Research

and Development Corporation, Dairy Australia, Fisheries Research & Development Corporation, Grains Research & Development Corporation and Meat & Livestock Australia.

The RSHA is led by independent Chair Patrick Murphy, with support from Andrew Barrett as executive officer.

The RSHA's aim is to reduce death, injury and illness across Australia's agricultural industries by funding cross-sectoral research, development and extension projects that will lead to practical and effective solutions to address workplace health and safety issues.

Many other industries have shown a positive association between improved work health and safety and better business outcomes including productivity, staff retention and quality.

APL sees a significant positive upside to creating safer working environments for our producers and stockpeople as well as reducing negative outcomes.

The funding of RSHA projects will be on an opt-in basis, which gives RDCs the ability to collaboratively invest in initiatives informed by industry feedback on work, health and safety risks and priorities, while remaining focused on supporting projects of specific relevance to their respective industries.

APL is seeking feedback from producers, processors and other members at all levels within the pork industry about health and safety challenges and priorities in their workplaces. This will be used to determine our investment priorities within the RSHA moving forward.

If you have any feedback on this, or would like more information, please contact Rachael Bryant at APL at rachael.bryant@australianpork.com.au

Similarly, you can register for updates directly from the RSHA at rsha.com.au

For further information on any items discussed in this article, please contact me on 0423 056 045 or heather.channon@australianpork.com.au



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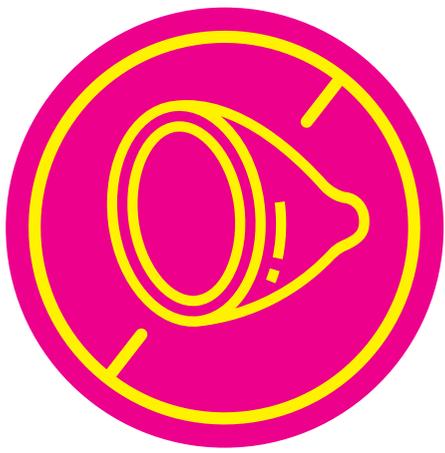


AFRICAN SWINE FEVER DON'T BRING IT TO WORK.

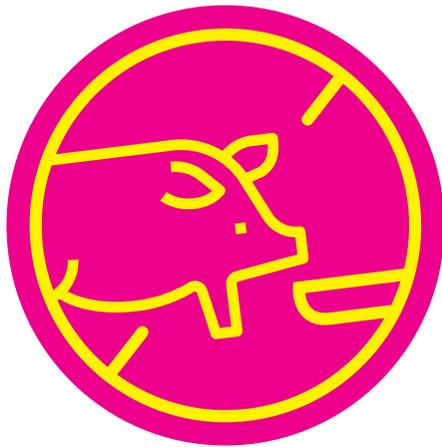
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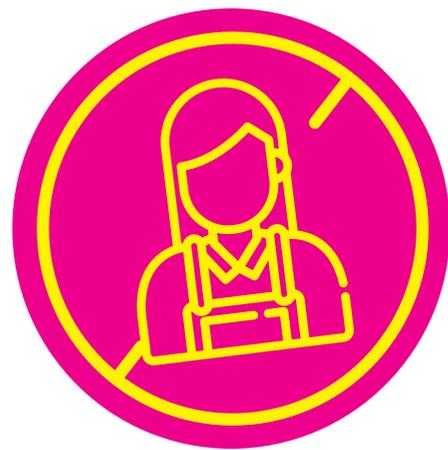
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ingredients

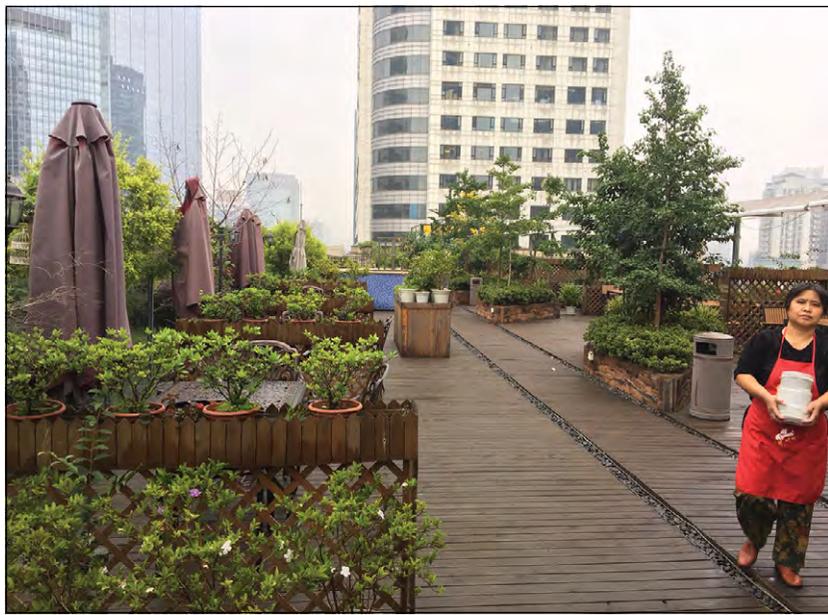


**Minimum 7 day
quarantine** period for
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*Allow a minimum 10 weeks from date of manufacture of feed ingredients
(calculated as the overseas transit time plus on-farm quarantine period).

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ASF has already caused some Chinese to ponder if pork dishes should be put away.

Feeding strawberries to pigs

DAVID Dodwell recently wrote poignantly in the *South China Morning Post* about the far-reaching impact of African swine fever.

Given his masthead, he focused on China, but also on its global reach and impact.

David typically researches and writes of global, regional and Hong Kong challenges from a Hong Kong viewpoint.

Anyway, here's a little of what he had to 'say' in a *South China Morning Post* print edition under the headline 'More than just the pigs'.

I found it interesting. I hope you do. "Officials admit it (ASF) has now reached virtually every province.

Han Changfu, minister of agriculture and rural affairs, says there is "a

Cant Comment
by BRENDON CANT



complicated and grim situation".

There are also reports it has spread into Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam, Thailand and Myanmar.

Media reports say around one million pigs have been slaughtered so far.

With a countrywide population of around 433 million pigs (which produce over 700 million pigs for slaughter every

year), most expert sources predict an even more massive culling to come.

The farm-centred Rabobank predicts that China's pork output is likely to fall by 20 percent to 30 percent over 2019, with herds being cut by up to 40 percent.

This fall will not just be due to mass culling.

With officials anxious to isolate outbreaks and pig farmers unable to get pigs to market, many are expected to abandon pig breeding.

One farmer was quoted as saying he planned to move over to growing strawberries.

Meanwhile, Rabobank says there is likely to be a nationwide shortage of pork products amounting to around four million tonnes – almost one-tenth of China's annual consumption.

Instructions to "let them eat strawberries" will not be swallowed very well.

Given the size of China's pig farming sector, it is perhaps surprising that African swine fever has not arrived earlier.

First recorded around 1907 in Kenya, it has been endemic to Africa for over a century, spread by soft ticks through local populations of warthogs, wild boar and bush pigs, which carry the virus, but suffer no symptoms.

Swine fever was recorded as spreading to Lisbon in 1957 and is now endemic across Europe, in particular across the former Soviet economies in eastern Europe (135,000 pigs were culled in Romania last year).

For pigs, the virus is grim and normally fatal.

Within days of developing a high fever, the skin goes purplish.

There is discharge from the eyes and nose and bloody diarrhoea.

They die within days. Mercifully, the virus has yet to find a way of leaping across into humans.

While we might think we are lucky that this global pig pandemic has not yet morphed into a long-expected human pandemic, the catastrophic economic implications of African swine fever still loom large.

Pork is the world's most widely consumed land-based protein source.

We slaughter about one billion pigs a year – about 23 million a week – with China, the EU and the US accounting for 85 percent.

We slaughter more chickens (about 60 billion a year) but they do not add up to the same volume of meat as comes from pigs.

We slaughter around 300 million cows a year, and even though they produce more meat per cow, pigs still provide more meat in total.

The fever is hard to wipe out because it lives on for so long in pork products (it can live for one month in salami, 140 days in cured Iberian pork and almost 400 days in Parma ham), and because pigs are carried such long distances to capture countrywide price differences.

So for the coming two years at least, we can expect a sharp fall in domestic Chinese production, significant increases in pork imports (Brazil is likely to be a huge beneficiary) and price hikes for all meat products as unsatisfied demand for pork switches across to poultry and beef.

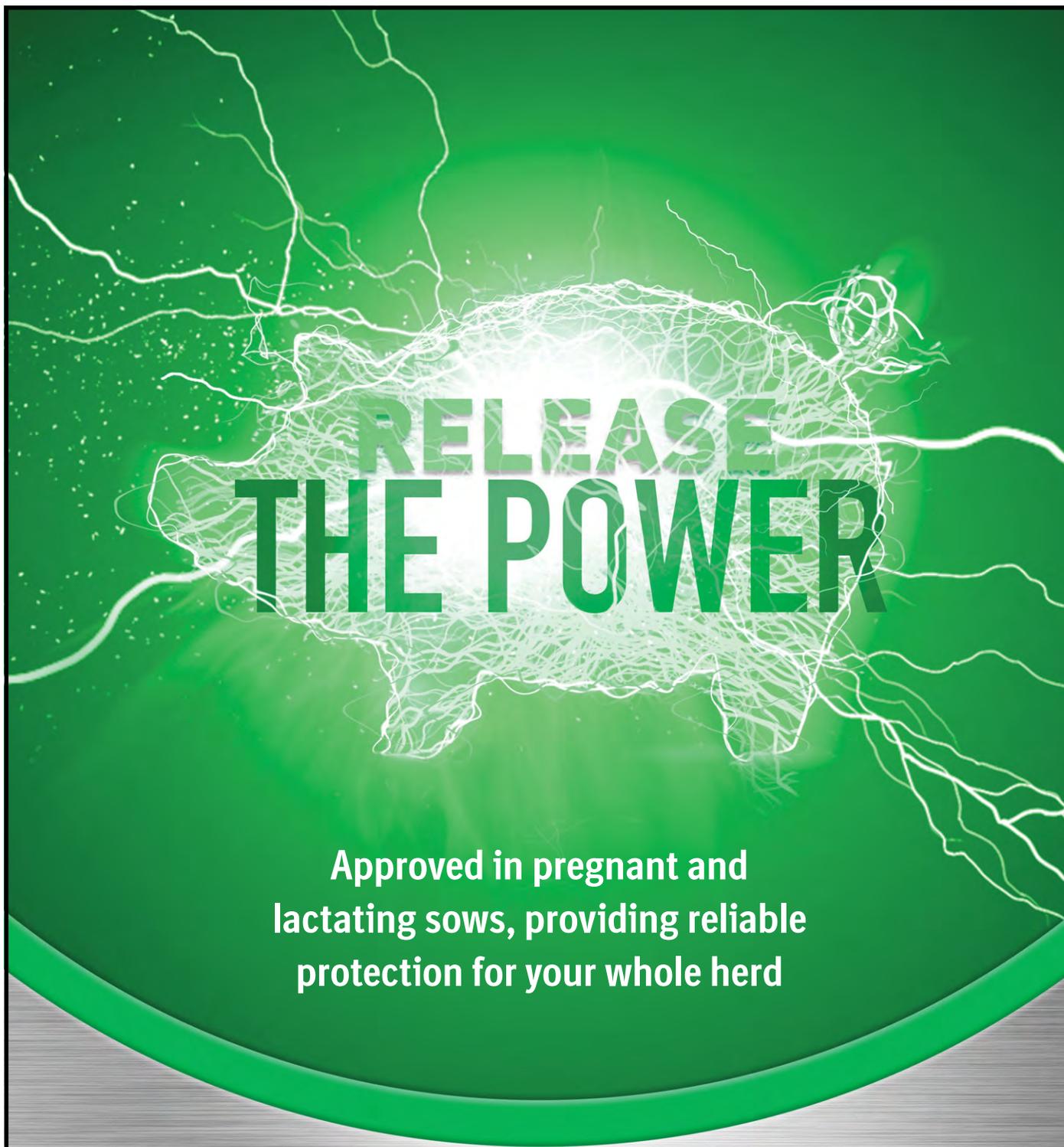
The story for global food security is likely to be sobering, as industrial farming concentrates reliance on a dwindling range of protein sources and a rising world population creates a relentless pressure to supply more meat.

We should give a thought to the debt we owe the pigs that have become our industrial commodities, and recognise the dangers we have created for ourselves in engineering our food in this way."

Australian Pork
NEWSPAPER

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China's human population of around 1.42 billion love their pork, but with their pig population of around 430 million going 'off the rails' due to ASF, there could well be a realignment of eating habits.

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Tackling antimicrobial resistance at a global level

IN September 2016 the United Nations announced a global program to tackle antimicrobial resistance.

For the first time, Heads of State committed to taking a co-ordinated approach to address the root causes of antimicrobial resistance across multiple sectors, especially human health, animal health and agriculture.

This is only the fourth time a health issue has been taken up by the UN General Assembly (the others are HIV, noncommunicable diseases and Ebola).

Support for the resolution was unanimous.

It signalled an unprecedented level of attention to curb the spread of infections resistant to antimicrobial medicines.

It recognised the serious global challenge to health, food security and development.

No one country, sector or organisation could address this issue alone.

Countries reaffirmed their commitment to develop national action plans on antimicrobial resistance based on

the 'Global Action Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance' – developed by the World Health Organization in co-ordination with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the World Organization for Animal Health.

Antimicrobial resistance is driven by numerous complex factors but overuse, misuse and irrational use are the leading causes.

One of the solutions, therefore, is to promote more responsible use of antimicrobials among populations.

The Australian livestock industries have a long history of addressing antimicrobial resistance.

Their previous and ongoing work – a result of partnerships across the animal sectors – has resulted in relatively low levels of antimicrobial resistance in our food animals.

As part of its global obligations, Australia released its First National Antimicrobial Resistance Strategy 2015-19.

One of the objectives requires us to implement ef-

fective antimicrobial stewardship practices across human health and animal care settings to ensure the appropriate and judicious prescribing, dispensing and administering of antimicrobials.

In support of the national plan, the livestock sectors have developed antimicrobial resistance plans.

These embrace the ideas of responsible use, reduction in usage and antimicrobial resistance surveillance.

The consequences of failing to be part of the global program are the risks to human, animal and environmental health, trade sanctions and consumer activism.

Just to ram home the points, while resistance to some antimicrobials used in pigs has changed little in 40 years, common pathogens such as *actinobacillus pleuropneumoniae* (APP) and *brachyspira hyodysenteriae* (B. hyo) are quietly building resistance.

For example, tilmicosin (Pulmotil, for example) used to be a very reliable treatment against APP and tiamulin was similar-

ly effective against B. hyo. Unfortunately, it's no longer as true as it once was.

Recently, the Australian Veterinary Association and Animal Medicines Australia, with support from the Commonwealth Department of Agriculture and Water Resources and Australian Pork Limited, released the antimicrobial prescribing guidelines for pigs.

It can be accessed via the APL website australianpork.com.au

The guidelines were written by an expert group including a microbiologist (Prof Glenn Browning), an infectious disease specialist (Assoc Prof Jacqui Norris), a clinical pharmacologist (Dr Stephen Page) and veterinarians working in the field of pig medicine (Dr Bernie Gleeson and Dr Ross Cutler).

As part of this global effort, *Australian Pork Newspaper*, in association with APL, presents a new regular column by Dr Cutler about safely reducing antimicrobial usage on Australian pig farms. 🐷

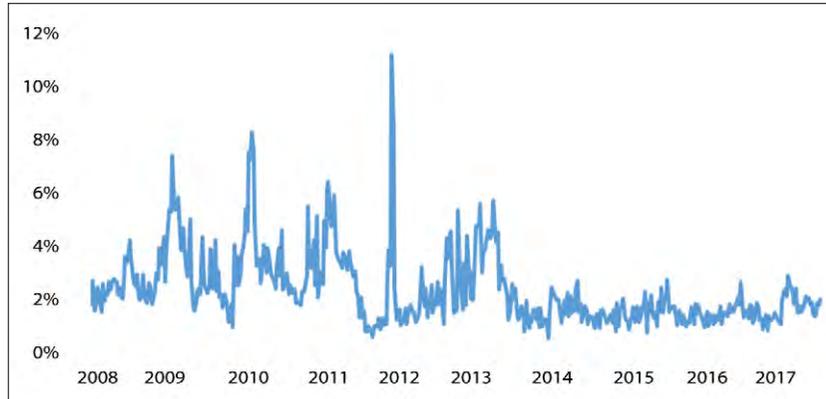


Figure 1: Grow-finish mortality rate per week.

Reducing antimicrobial use for respiratory disease in growing pigs: A case study

TO combat a serious and sustained increase in respiratory disease, a farm's health team made significant environmental and pig flow changes.

Vaccination schedules were modified.

As a consequence, average antimicrobial use was reduced from 92 doses per 100kg liveweight at the peak of the outbreak to 6.2 doses (1.7 injectable doses and 4.5 in-water doses).

The farm now uses no in-feed medication but

does medicate from time to time in water.

Respiratory disease is well controlled and grow-finish mortality rate has been stable at about 2 percent for the past two years.

The farm

Pigs arrived at the farm at 12 weeks of age and were grown through to market weight.

They experienced challenges of infection with mycoplasma and *actinobacillus pleuropneumoniae* (APP). Piglets were vaccinated

against mycoplasma.

Groups of pigs were delivered to the site each week and sold by weight.

The mortality rate for this site varied between 2 percent and 4 percent, with seasonal 'spikes' to 6 percent.

The issue

Coughing and ill-thrift affected 10-20 percent of different groups in the growing and finishing phase.

In-feed medication (chlortetracycline and tylosin) was used for a total of 63 days out of the 84-day placement for the average pig in the growing and finishing phase prior to mid-2012.

This equated to about 50 antimicrobial doses per 100kg liveweight for pigs at this farm.

Group water medication (amoxicillin or tilmicosin) and individual injectable medication (penicillin or florfenicol) were also used if clinical signs were severe.

This resulted in an extra eight to 10 doses per 100kg liveweight, leading to average antimicrobial usage of 59 doses per 100kg liveweight.

In mid-2012 the mortality rate spiked at close to 12 percent.

To control the mortality rate, the level of antimicrobial use was increased.

Further medications were added to feed and the frequency of water dosing was also increased.

These measures increased the average antimicrobial use to 92 doses per 100kg liveweight.

This increased level of medication continued through to mid-2013, but the mortality rate increased again to 6 percent (Figure 1).

Post mortems and cultures revealed mixed infection with APP, *P. multocida* and *S. suis*.

Lungs were PCR positive for *M. hyopneumoniae*.

Serology profiles of the population revealed seroconversion to both *M. hyopneumoniae* and APP peaked around 15 weeks of age.

Until mid-2014, the number of pigs placed each week in the system varied from 452 to 2216.

The temperature settings for ventilation control varied between sheds

continued P7

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Police were called to Carey Bros Abattoir at Yangan around 3.30am during a day of protesting, with reports around 20 protestors had unlawfully entered the facility. Photo: @GreenShirtsQLD

New criminal penalties to protect farmers

A RE-ELECTED Morrison Government will introduce a new offence designed specifically to protect farmers and primary producers from the unlawful actions of animal activists.

“We have seen with Aussie Farms the malicious use of personal information, including farmers’ names, addresses and workplaces, designed specifically to encourage others to trespass on properties and damage businesses,” the Attorney-General said.

“This is not acceptable and the Morrison Government will, if re-elected, introduce a new criminal offence specifically designed to protect Australian farmers from the sort of vigilante action we have seen recently.

“Penalties of up to 12 months’ imprisonment will apply to individuals who use a carriage service, such as the internet, to disclose personal information with the intention that another person would use that information to trespass on agricultural land.

“The law would also apply to other primary producers such as abattoirs.”

The Attorney-General said the new laws would include appropriate exemptions for bona-fide journalists and for situations where the information being released shows

a law being broken, such as whistle-blowing on animal cruelty.

The new criminal offence and penalties build on other actions taken by the Morrison Government against vigilante animal activists, including prescribing Aussie Farms under the Privacy Act, meaning the organisation could face fines of up to \$2.1 million for breaches of the Act and asking states and territories to consider their own trespass laws.

Minister for Agriculture David Littleproud said farming families deserved protection.

“I’ve been fighting this Aussie Farms attack map for activists for months and this is a great day,” Minister Littleproud said.

“If you use the personal information of our family farmers to incite trespass, then you deserve to go to jail.

“Farming families grow our food and there are children on these farms.

“Now states must beef up farm trespass laws – if 100 of my mates stormed a house in Sydney we’d expect to be locked up and farmers deserve the same protection.

“The Morrison Government will always protect farmers while ensuring those who mistreat their animals face appropriate action.”

Reducing antimicrobial use for respiratory disease in growing pigs: A case study

from P6

and times of the year.

Ventilation equipment controllers were poorly calibrated and poorly maintained.

Resolving the case

Facility and equipment maintenance were reviewed.

Curtains were repaired or replaced.

Controllers were calibrated and repaired to ensure temperature and ventilation settings were appropriate for each age group.

Batch size and distribution were reviewed to ensure greater consistency in the number of pigs placed each week.

The vaccination strategy was changed to improve respiratory disease control.

www.porknews.com.au

Autogenous APP vaccination was introduced at 63 and 84 days of age.

Since mid-2014, the number of pigs placed each week has varied from 1790 to 1912. Continuous in-feed medications were replaced with strategic water medication for groups.

Staff training in recognising early signs of disease and appropriate individual treatment was introduced and continually reinforced.

The full description of this case, presented by Dr Bernie Gleeson, can be found in the

Antimicrobial prescribing guidelines for pigs at australianpork.com.au

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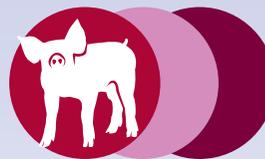
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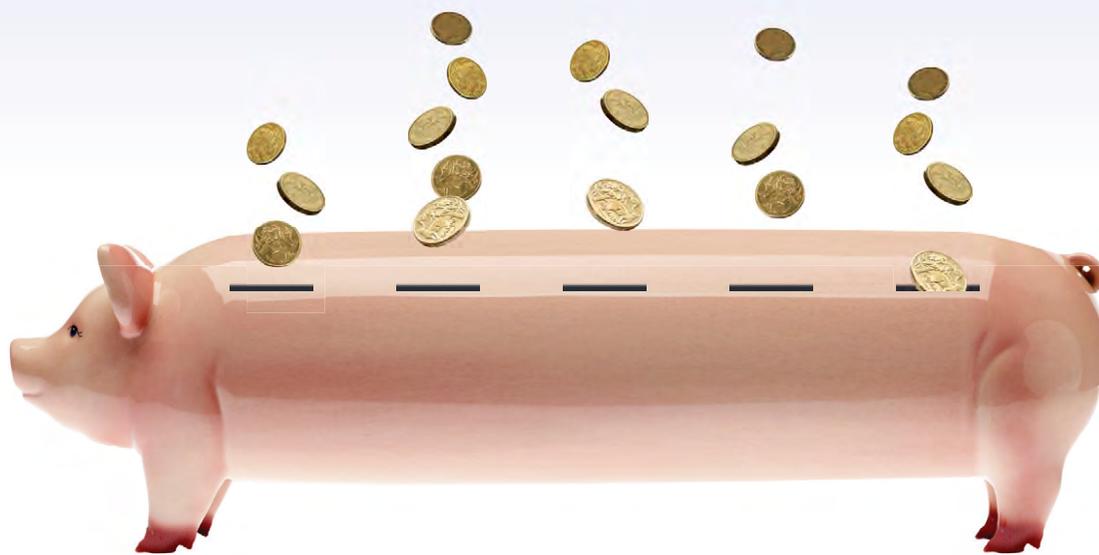
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Adding strength to farm biosecurity – is your biosecurity registration current?

If you own or keep one or more pigs in Queensland, you need to make sure you're registered as a biosecurity entity and your current contact details are recorded.

Registration helps keep you informed in a pest or disease emergency.

It also allows Biosecurity Queensland to quickly locate animals and trace their movements, protecting the industry and maintaining market access.

You must be registered even if you operate a holding facility where pigs are kept (such as saleyards, transit centres, abattoirs or slaughterhouses).

If you held a property identification code on July 1, 2016, you were au-

pork
QUEENSLAND INC.
President's Perspective

by JOHN COWARD



tomatically registered as a biosecurity entity based on your PIC details, so it's important to check your contact information is up to date.

What you need to do

First, check if you're registered online at qld.gov.au/BiosecurityRegistration

If your details can't be matched, you'll be prompted to contact Biosecurity Queensland to

complete your registration and ensure your details are up to date.

If you're already registered as a biosecurity entity and your details can be matched, you'll be prompted how to activate your online account and can update your contact details online.

Start at qld.gov.au/BiosecurityRegistration

More information
For more information,

or if you need help to check your registration and update your contact information, you can contact the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries on 13 25 23.

Pork Queensland Inc welcomes the application of registration of anyone farming pigs in Queensland.

PQI encourages all pork farmers to review their current status using the links in this article.

Being a registered biosecurity entity is also a prerequisite to the application of greater trespass penalties aligned to the associated regulations.

Should you require further information on this topic, you can call me on 0406 622 166.



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Farm safety gains traction but improvements needed

TRACTORS and quad bikes remain the leading causes of injury on Australian farms but deaths from both vehicles have declined significantly since 2017, according to new research.

The AgriFutures Australia-funded work shows fatal accidents caused by tractors fell from 13 to nine and deaths involving quads fell from 11 to six in the 12 months from 2017 to 2018.

AgriFutures Australia managing director John Harvey said the number of farming-related deaths remains alarming.

"While some progress has been made in specific areas, the overall numbers are telling us more still needs to be done," Mr Harvey said.

AgriFutures funds research into enhancing farm health and safety under its National Rural Issues Program and is lead agency for the newly formed RDC-funded Rural Safety and Health Alliance.

"We know the impact of accidents across Australia's agriculture, fisheries and forestry industries is significant," Mr Harvey said.

"Australia's RDCs have a renewed focus on reshaping, refocusing and regrouping to address the issue," Mr Harvey said.

"The RSHA will clarify research, development and extension priorities based on risk, provide stronger accountability for funders and funding recipients to deliver a return on investment, support practical extension, and underpin clear and visible leadership across the agricultural sector."

The report, Non-intentional Farm Related Incidents in Australia, was developed using data collected by AgHealth Australia's

National Farm Injury Coronial Database, based at the University of Sydney.

RSHA Chair Patrick Murphy pointed out that while there is a huge social cost associated with fatal on-farm injuries, there is also a significant economic impact which is estimated to run into the hundreds of millions of dollars.

Mr Murphy said the cost includes factors such as loss of earnings, insurance payouts, work cover and police investigations, coronial costs, premature funeral costs, ambulance and hospital expenditure and loss of household contributions.

"While the figures are clearly shocking and the number of deaths in the sector needs to be urgently addressed, this research gives us a clear understanding of where the trouble spots are," Mr Murphy said.

The research shows nearly 90 percent of farm-related accidents since 2001 involved males, with close to 50 percent of all reported accidents involving men over 50 years.

Tractors, quads, motorbikes and horses accounted for almost half of all farm accidents.

"Equally concerning is that nearly 15 percent of deaths involved children under 15 years and farm vehicles including cars, motorbikes and utilities were the leading cause of these fatal accidents," Mr Murphy said.

Mr Harvey said the RSHA is working together to connect individuals and committed organisations to improve safety across Australia's agricultural, fisheries and forestry industries.

"I encourage people to visit the RSHA website and register to keep up to date with progress on this important issue," he said.

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New pork preservation technique developed by University of Melbourne

THE study, authored by Yu Cao, Robyn Dorothy Warner and Zhongxiang Fang and published in international journal 'Food Control' aimed to investigate a combination of nisin/gallic acid/chitosan coating and high-oxygen modified atmosphere packaging (HO MAP, 80 percent O2 and 20 percent CO2) on the preservation of fresh pork loin during cold storage (2C ± 1C, 20 days).

A variety of nisin, gallic acid and chitosan combinations were trialled on pork loins for their effects on preserving pH, texture and colour; effects on lipid oxidation and protein oxidation; and on minimising bacterial growth.

The results of the study showed a combination of all three – nisin, gallic acid and chi-

tosan – and HO MAP provided the most effective preservation for samples stored at 2C ± 1C.

This combination was able to slow the increase in lightness of pork samples, maintain redness and tenderness, reduce lipid and protein oxidation and inhibit micro-organism growth.

Application of chitosan coating to HO MAP pork loins had antimicrobial and antioxidant activities during cold storage.

The addition of nisin alone improved the antimicrobial activity and the addition of gallic acid enhanced both antioxidant and antimicrobial properties.

The authors have suggested this combination technique could be used as a cost-effective hurdle packaging technology in the preservation of fresh pork. 🐷

Farmers thankful for the nation's support on a challenging day

NATIONAL Farmers' Federation CEO Tony Mahar said the so-called 'world's biggest' action had failed to have the impact and reach organisers desired, reflecting the group's out-of-touch sentiments.

"These people are opposed to pets, guide dogs and even aquariums, their views are not representative of the general community."

However, Mr Mahar said at least one farm and numerous supply chain businesses had been subject to invasions, and these stunts were enough to leave the sector feeling frustrated.

"Around 6am on the day, extremists unlawfully entered a Queensland dairy, directing explicit language at the farmer and frightening the cattle to such an extent they jumped fences."

"Meat processors in Yangan, Queensland; Goulburn, NSW and Laverton, Victoria were also targeted by small groups who chained themselves to equipment and shut down operations

for a number of hours. "We thank the police in these states for acting quickly, and in many cases we are aware the offenders have been charged."

These actions were accompanied by a large event in Melbourne's central business district, which included obstructing the entrance to the SeaLife Aquarium.

Mr Mahar said Australians had rallied behind farmers throughout the day.

"We've been buoyed by the outpouring of support for our farmers, from individuals, from the media and from politicians – including from Prime Minister Scott Morrison, the Attorney General Christian Porter and Agriculture and Water Resources Minister David Littleproud," he said.

"We certainly have appreciated the well wishes and I have to say, mutual outrage, felt by our fellow Australians."

Mr Mahar said despite being besieged by challenges such as drought and in some cases floods,

Australian farmers continued to produce safe, quality food and fibre in accordance with world's best practices.

"We take the responsibility of meeting community expectations very seriously and will always commit to doing better where needs be," he said.

"We are proud of what we do and how we do it, and will gladly welcome visitors to our farm, as long as we are given the chance to officially grant entry."

Mr Mahar said the NFF was in conversation with the Federal Government about possible avenues of legal recourse and continued to work with its members to implore state governments to toughen trespass laws.

"We acknowledge the Federal Government's move to recently amend privacy laws to prevent the sharing of farmers' private address details," he said.

"We still await action on stripping Aussie Farms of its taxpayer-funded charity status." 🐷

African swine fever: conquering Asia, moving in South Africa, smouldering in EU

THE Pork Checkoff, in collaboration with the National Pork Producers Council, American Association of Swine Veterinarians, Swine Health Information Center and US Department of Agriculture, monitor foreign animal disease outbreaks and provide biosecurity information to American producers.

ASF China outbreak countrywide

With the official report coming recently that the island province of Hainan was positive for African swine fever, China is now essentially ASF-positive in its entirety.

In the west, Xinjiang was found to be positive in early April, followed shortly by Tibet.

The only areas not known to be ASF-positive now are the city-based zones of Hong Kong and Macau, which are in the extreme south of China.

Since its discovery in China in August 2018, Rabobank estimates ASF has affected 150 million to 200 million pigs, which is a number nearly 30 percent larger than annual US pork production and equivalent to Europe's annual pork supply.

These losses cannot easily be replaced by other proteins (chicken, duck, seafood, beef and lamb), nor will larger imports be able to fully offset the loss.

The firm believes this will result in a net supply gap of almost 10 million metric tonnes in the total 2019 animal protein supply, which could be a leading driver of recent pork import announcements.

Cambodia joins Vietnam as ASF-positive

The recent notice by the

OIE, which flagged Cambodia as being positive for ASF, revealed 400 pigs died from the disease and another 100 were culled.

The outbreak is in the northeastern-most Rattanakiri province bordering Vietnam, which was itself found to be ASF-positive on February 19.

Most of Vietnam's 556 cases of ASF have occurred in this northern area.

Some Vietnamese officials have said the virus may have entered the country via people who brought infected pigs from China or from China-made hog feed.

South Africa reports new ASF case

In a report by the World Organisation for Animal Health last week, South Africa now has a case of ASF outside of its ASF control zone.

The announcement was triggered by news of a small pig farm in the country's northwest province where 32 of 36 pigs died.

Since this was outside South Africa's control zone for the disease, contact with infected wild pigs is suspected.

Luxembourg builds wall to keep ASF out

Add the small country of Luxembourg to a growing number of western European nations erecting physical barriers to keep ASF-positive wild pigs from entering their borders.

Since it is situated adjacent to the ASF-control zone in neighbouring Belgium, the Luxembourg Army is building a 20km fence to try to keep its nation free of the costly disease.

Meanwhile, similar

measures have been taking place in France and Denmark.

Japan, Taiwan continue product seizures

Just as Australian officials showed the world earlier this year, officials in Japan have now done the same when it comes to intercepting ASF-positive food products.

Reports cite the recent detection of ASF in two sausages brought into the country by two travellers returning from China.

Likewise, Taiwanese officials have now interdicted their 36th meat product infected with ASF, which have all come from China. **African swine fever risk calls for action**

The global African swine fever outbreak in China is wreaking havoc on the international pork industry.

Fortunately, ASF is not in the US at this time, but the possibility of it or another foreign animal disease means American pig farmers must take the necessary steps to protect their farms and the domestic pork industry.

As US pig farmers know, a robust export market is critical to the ongoing success of the nation's pork industry.

In 2018, US pork and pork variety meat exports totalled 5.37 billion pounds valued at \$US6.392 billion, according to USDA.

If a FAD such as ASF entered the US, it would likely eliminate this entire valuation to zero for an unknown amount of time.

Taking steps to prevent it from occurring requires immediate action. 🐷

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Fast fines for farm infringements come into effect

THE Queensland Government has activated added protection against the biosecurity risks posed by unauthorised entry onto farms.

Minister for Agricultural Industry Development Mark Furner said people going onto a farming operation must now comply with the property's biosecurity management plan when they enter or leave, and while they are on the property.

"We have amended the regulations under the Biosecurity Act to allow Queensland Police Service and biosecurity officers to immediately fine people who put on-farm biosecurity at risk," Mr Furner said.

"This is a direct response to the increase in incidents of unauthorised entry by animal activists to places where animals are kept.

"Unauthorised entry to places where animals are kept can pose biosecurity risks including potential spread of diseases between humans and animals, causing production losses that impact the business, supply chain and ultimately consumers.

"People who behave this way now face fines of \$652.75, either issued on the spot or later after further evidence is gathered.

"The gross value of production at the farmgate for livestock and livestock products for 2017-18 was about \$6.784 billion, in-

cluding cattle and calves, poultry, pigs, eggs and milk."

Mr Furner said the potential biosecurity harm caused by a person carrying or spreading a disease while entering, leaving or at a livestock production premises could be catastrophic to Queensland industry and regional communities.

To support enforcement of property biosecurity arrangements under this regulation, livestock producers and others who keep animals are encouraged to:

Ensure they are registered as a biosecurity entity with Biosecurity Queensland;

Have an up-to-date biosecurity management plan in place; and

Have appropriate clear signage at the entry points to their property.

The amendments to the Biosecurity Regulation 2016 and the State Penalties Enforcements Regulation 2014 came into effect on April 26.

"The Queensland Government has responded quickly with this interim measure and will be exploring longer-term changes to the Biosecurity Act 2014 to strengthen property biosecurity even further," Mr Furner said.

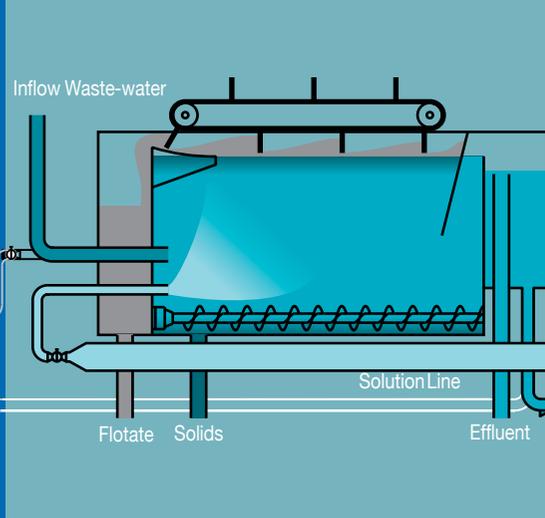
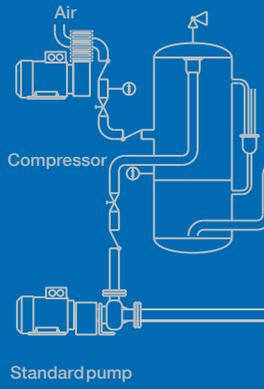
For more information about developing or updating biosecurity management plans required under the new regulation, visit daf.qld.gov.au or call 13 25 23.

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Leverage your pig levy for APL Membership and national representation

IF you've paid the pig slaughter levy in the 2018-19 financial year, you're eligible to apply for or renew your Australian Pork Limited membership and gain access to a range of membership benefits – including voting for your representative in the upcoming Delegate Elections.

While pig producers can become APL members at any time, APL has an obligation to confirm its members' details and eligibility for membership every three years.

For current members, this means you'll need to complete a membership renewal form by September 2, 2019 to be eligible to vote in the Delegate Elections.



Policy

by DAMIEN HOWSE
GM Corporate Services



Likewise, new members will need to submit their membership application forms by September 2 if they wish to vote in the Delegate Elections.

There are three different membership categories:

- Producer member:

Levy-paying producers who can vote for a delegate provided they submit their membership application to APL before the return date (September 2, 2019) as set out by the Board.

- Associate producer member: Producers who have not paid a levy in the relevant financial year. They are required to be sponsored by a current APL member and are not eligible to vote.

- Associate corporate member: An industry-related company or manufacturer with clear benefits and connections to the pig industry.

As an APL producer member you will receive:

- The rights to nominate and vote for a delegate – for every \$1 of levy paid, producer members are entitled to one vote for their

nominated delegate.

- Access to exclusive members-only online content such as Delegates' Forum presentations, Pig Farm Invasion Tool Kit and APL's online publication archives.

- The member-exclusive monthly newsletter, APL Update.

- Weekly Eyes and Ears market news.

- Weekly estimate slaughter trends.

- Monthly imports, exports and domestic production market reports.

- Subsidised travel to and from the Pan Pacific Pork Expo.

- Preferential registration to APL workshops, conferences, webinars and exhibitions.

- Opportunities to network with industry experts and other groups.

APL producer membership is free, however APL has a responsibility to verify your eligibility as a member and other details as required.

In previous years, this meant that, along with the membership details form, producers had to complete a statutory declaration every three years stating the Pig Slaughter Levy paid by the member in the previous financial year.

For the upcoming membership year, producers who have been using the

online PigPass movement reporting system now have the option to instead consent to APL accessing their PigPass records to verify the levy paid, reducing the burden of getting a statutory declaration witnessed.

If a producer prefers that APL does not access their records in this way, the statutory declaration option is still available.

As per the APL Constitution, if a current member does not provide APL with the information required by September 2, 2019, they will cease to be a member.

For more details, or to renew or apply for membership, please visit australianpork.com.au/members

Please note: Intermediaries paying the pig slaughter levy on behalf of others are not eligible for APL producer membership, but producers who have paid their levy via an intermediary are eligible.

All new memberships are subject to approval from the APL Board.

APL therefore encourages you to submit your renewal application as soon as possible after June 30, 2019.

If you have any questions about this process, or need any assistance, please contact the APL Membership team at members@australianpork.com.au

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Activists harm their own cause

ANIMAL activists may have successfully disrupted traffic and some farming operations, but they've turned many Australians off their cause, Minister for Agriculture David Littleproud said recently.

"If the aim was to stop traffic they've succeeded, but if the aim was to convert Australians to veganism then these people did huge damage to their cause," Minister Littleproud said.

"Fair-minded Australians find this behaviour extreme.

"I continue to call for calm.

"Invading people's properties is not the Australian way.

"If I broke into a suburban house in Melbourne or Sydney, I'd expect to be arrested, handcuffed and taken away."

Minister Littleproud said breaking into a farm should be no different.

"These are family homes and children live here," he said.

"Federally, we've done our bit – we've brought

Aussie Farms and its attack map for activists under the Privacy Act so that misuse of personal information results in enormous fines.

"Now the states must beef up trespass laws so serious penalties apply for invading farms.

"I have no problem with any person's choice to be vegan – vegans eat plenty of farm produce too – but making farmers scared of property invasions and stopping honest people getting to work shows no respect and wins no friends."

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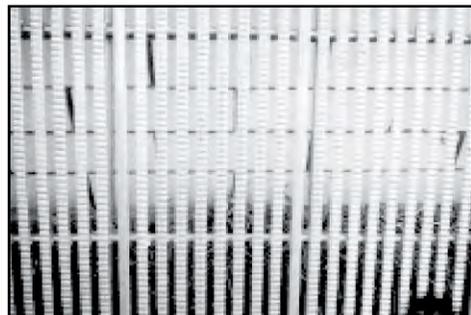


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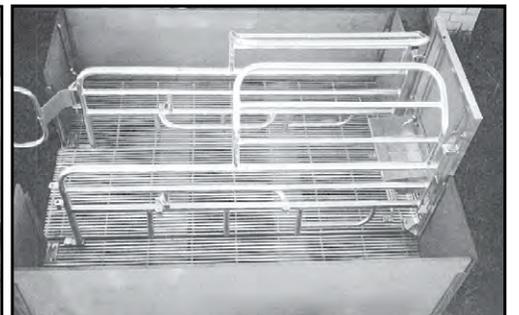
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Piggeries win... government cash splash!

THE recent Federal Government Budget included great news for pig farmers.

The 100 percent tax depreciation allowance scheme, which was due to finish on June 30, 2019, has now been extended and expanded!

Piggeries with turnovers of up to \$50,000,000 can write off assets purchased this financial year to the individual item value of

up to \$30,000.

The best news is there is no limit on the number of assets that can be depreciated.

Aussie Pumps' Neil Bennett said: "Producers can now upgrade their water management and wastewater systems, and depreciate the assets as part of their tax claim at the end of June."

Aussie Pumps is Australia's Tsurumi distribu-

tor for a range of submersible pumps and aerators for farm applications.

The Tsurumi range is known for its low maintenance compared to conventional blowers or paddle wheel-style aeration equipment for wastewater systems.

Aussie Pumps also supplies the GMP range of industrial motor pumps, which have been designed for a wide range of on-

farm applications including animal effluent, water transfer and even drip irrigation.

The stainless steel semi trash version is ideal for handling solid contaminated effluent.

This pump is popular on farms due to its capability of handling corrosive liquids in sump pump-out and agricultural chemical transfer applications.

Aussie Pumps is urging farmers to buy before the June 30 deadline to benefit this year.

New equipment could qualify for a 30 to 49 percent government discount, depending on the tax rate.

With reduced business tax rates due to come in next year, future rebates are tipped to be less.

Aussie Pumps recommends farmers check with their tax agent fast.

With the June 30 deadline only weeks away, eligible farmers are urged to move now!

More information including Aussie Pumps' complete range of Tsurumi submersibles and aerators and GMP self-priming industrial pumps is available by contacting Aussie Pumps or visiting aussiepumps.com.au



The new tax rules provide an ideal opportunity for producers to upgrade water management and wastewater systems.

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Student APSA Member	Full Registration	380.00	380.00

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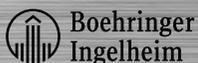
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