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The author with some inquisitive gilts.

Are you giving your gilts the right start to a productive life?

THE proper preparation of the gilt is the key to her successful integration in the herd for both longevity and productivity.

A trend seems to be appearing in Denmark that gilts are being fed 'too well' and subsequently going into the mating unit with too little back fat coverage and paying for it later on, with the term being they are 'thin-fat'.

That is, from their body condition it is assumed they are in the correct condition for mating, but are actually too heavy and too lean.

It is common in Denmark to house young gilts as you would slaughter pigs, especially in the quarantine unit upon receiving them from the

Nordic News
by **ASHLEY NORVAL**



breeding supplier.

As a result, it is also common to feed them with the same finisher diet, which is where the problem begins.

A common misconception is the additional protein requirements will benefit the gilt, giving her an 'extra' good start to life, however, it is actu-

ally the opposite, costing the farm both in an expensive diet for the extra protein and the drop in reproductive capacity of the gilts following their first parity.

The DanBred genotype has been selected for lean meat deposition for many years, which is ideal for

continued P2

Mixed blessings but no panic during pandemic

ONE of the many mixed blessings of COVID-19 has been the unified way Australian agriculture has worked together throughout the pandemic.

Australian Pork Limited and state pork producer representatives, in conjunction with state farming organisations, have been participating in high-level work with the National Farmers' Federation and Federal Government to ensure the business of farming and agricultural supply chains have not been needlessly impacted by lockdown measures.

We should not be complacent about the importance of this advocacy work.

No matter the well-meaning support of government in recent weeks, so sweeping were the restrictions introduced that many of the everyday necessities of agriculture could have been inadvertently jeopardised.

The cross-border delivery of pigs for processing and fodder to farms, interstate movement of vets and transport of semen have been just a few of the exemptions we've negotiated in order to minimise disruptions to on-farm production and keep our supply chains operational.

Yes, APL has been working hard to achieve the best outcomes for pork producers, but a great deal of work has also been undertaken by our producer members.

From our Board directors to state presidents, APL delegates and grass-roots producers, the diligent effort from across industry has



Point of View

by MARGO ANDRAE CEO



shone a light on how innovative, professional and unified Australian pork is.

For APL, we've turned the frustration of not being able to meet with producers face-to-face into an opportunity to engage effectively with our members online.

In lieu of our scheduled delegates' meeting in Adelaide on May 14, APL Chair Andrew Baxter and I were pleased to host a successful online meeting, which drew strong participation from delegates and very positive feedback.

A prominent agenda item for the delegates' meeting was an update regarding APL's 2020-2025 Strategic Plan.

We are grateful for the support received and confident about the shared vision for our industry's future.

While travel restrictions remain in place, further information about the Strategic Plan can be viewed via a 'virtual roadshow', which can be visited from australianpork.com.au

Strong producer engagement will continue to guide APL's success in the future and, as such, direct communication from the farm-gate is highlighted as

one of the Strategic Plan's highest priorities. Where distance or busy schedules have historically limited the in-person dialogue between industry organisations and their members, recent weeks have confirmed online meetings should be utilised more in the future.

Our video meetings have been a great way of keeping in touch with producers and giving them a forum to share their experiences through COVID-19.

The pandemic seems to also have provided a timely excuse for our members to check in on each other in relation to how they are faring, both in terms of their farm businesses and personal wellbeing.

It seems inevitable that the various challenges and opportunities of COVID-19 will continue to dominate the business outlook for Australia's pork producers for the rest of 2020.

Producers are facing significant issues that require ongoing support.

Finding new markets for slaughter-ready pigs where traditional supply chains have been disrupted, including smaller and niche producers, continues to be a priority.

This will remain the

case for the foreseeable future, even while export volumes grow, foodservice demand increases and our marketing campaigns in support of Australian pork sales help ease the pressure.

The foodservice industry's recovery, now that dining restrictions are easing, will relieve some of the pressure on our supply chains.

But the reality is it will take time to grow sales volumes, which is why supporting our foodservice partners in rebuilding their businesses is a key priority for APL.

Producers will be eager to see how grain prices are shaped by both seasonal fortunes here in Australia and export market disruptions overseas, but we should be heartened that indicator prices for pigs will head into June on a firmer footing.

These factors are positives for producers, especially those who have been exposed to the worst of high feed prices and lower pig prices since Easter.

APL will continue work with our producer members, state-based producer organisations, NFF and all levels of government to ensure Australia's pork industry continues to generate much-needed economic activity across the country, while providing affordable, versatile pork for Australian consumers.

Together, we are leading our industry through these extraordinary times and, as a result, we are well placed to strengthen our position in the post-COVID-19 market-place. 🐷



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Pork Industry Calendar of Events

2020

JUN 17-18 – ONLINE Ontario Pork Congress, Ontario Canada porkcongress.on.ca

AUG 11-15 – ONLINE & DOMESTIC Global Animal Nutrition Summit, Guelph, Ontario, Canada globalanimalnutrition2020.uoguelph.ca/welcome

SEP 19-22 – ONLINE The Allen D. Leman Swine Conference, Saint Paul, Minnesota, US ccaps.umn.edu/allen-d-leman-swine-conference

SEP 24-26 – Animal Health Innovation Asia, Toykyo, Japan animalhealthasia.com/events

2021

MAY 25-26 – RESCHEDULED British Pig and Poultry Fair Warwickshire, UK www.pigandpoultry.org.uk

JUN 9-10 – RESCHEDULED Alberta Pork Congress, Alberta, Canada albertaporkcongress.com

JUN 9-11 – World Pork Expo, Iowa, US www.worldpork.org

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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APL's new teams address producer feedback

CONSULTATION on the new Australian Pork Limited Strategic Plan was polarising among many producers.

It was different, some said challenging, while others said it sucked.

However, doing things differently did prove insightful in a number of ways.

It highlighted APL is on the right track with some of our efforts, with more to be done in other areas.

The new strategy comes into effect from July and to support the new strategic pillars, or key themes, we've made some changes to our organisation.

So what does that mean? It means we've listened to what our producers and other stakeholders have said.

We've looked at the priorities for the next five years and how our team could be better arranged to deliver on those objectives.

While we've traditionally operated with the Marketing, Research and Innovation and Policy di-



by **PETER HAYDON**
Research and Innovation
General Manager



visions, we're making a shift that instead focuses on operational teams, to remove those siloes and take a more holistic approach.

The changes will be implemented over time, as revolutions cause counter-revolutions and lasting change is built over time.

Having said that, two new teams will come into effect in the month of June to deliver improved producer engagement and communications.

The new producer-focused team is about giving each producer a clear point of contact.

While we all work for our producers, this team

is designed to support building stronger relationships.

Both with our industry and supporting each individual APL member in the first instance, and eventually all levy payers.

This team will be led initially by Peter Smith, who has been with APL for 16 years in a number of roles.

He brings to the role extensive experience, including on our industry data, production survey and with organising the Pan Pacific Pork Expo.

We say initially because Peter has decided to move to Switzerland in October, so unfortunately we will

be losing him at that time.

The team also includes the APIQ team of Steven Miller and Jennifer Stone; as well as Industry Data Co-ordinator Tracey Holland and Manager of Technology Transfer and Industry Capability Rachel Bryant.

In recent years, the communications capabilities of APL have been decentralised, working within the various divisions.

We're now working to re-establish a centralised team, reporting to CEO Margo Andrae, which improves consistency, industry visibility and builds a positive story for APL and the Australian pork industry across all communications channels.

Julia Unwin will make the move from Senior Brand Manager working on the Differentiation program to lead this new team.

Julia has more than 15 years' experience working across marketing and communications in Sydney, Melbourne and Canberra, including four

years at APL in the Brand Team.

She'll be supported by Katana Smith who will look after media relations, Tenita Campton who will look after digital communications and Vivien Chan who will look after events and publications.

All four members of this team have been with APL for a number of years and will make the transition away from the Marketing Division to work across the organisation.

We all know change takes time, but these teams are designed to improve communication with all stakeholders across channels.

The new teams will improve our ability to work as one organisation more proactively and meet the needs of you and the industry.

While these new teams do draw members from other teams, for example, six from Marketing and three from R&I, those teams have planned their workloads and priorities in order to continue to deliver.

Are you giving your gilts the right start to a productive life?

from P1

the slaughter pig, however, requires management for the breeding animal.

Restricted feeding is always the recommended strategy for DanBred gilts to prevent too high a growth rate, with the only exception being when she is flushed seven to 10 days prior to insemination.

Feeding too much protein in the diet will mean she is laying down this extra protein as muscle rather than fat, which she needs for body condition at her first mating and subsequent lactation.

The current DanBred recommendations are gilts should be between 12-15mm and 130-150kg at their first mating.

This should be when they are 230-250 days old and at their second or third heat.

If they have less fat coverage at the first mating, their chance is significantly increased that they will be removed from the herd at parity 2 or 3, costing the business money, as sows are typically not profitable until their third parity.

It is not enough to rely on a visual body condition score alone as an indicator of the fat coverage in any animal – particularly in the gilt.

If you cannot measure it, it cannot be managed!

Back fat depth is commonly measured in Danish sow herds via a small handheld reader as a way to assign the sows to the correct gestation feeding curve, and is beginning to be used more in gilt preparation.

The measurement should be taken at the P2 site, which is 7cm from the spine at the last rib.

With the correct feeding adjustment, the herd can see an increase of 1mm of fat coverage in four weeks – so results can be seen quite quickly.

To have high longevity

and litter size, gilts need to be managed from when they are selected to be in the correct body condition at their first mating.

This is easily achieved by ensuring they are on the correct feeding curve

and regularly measuring the backfat depth.

Sows should be kept in the herd until at least parity 6 and the only way that will happen is if they are set up correctly from the beginning.



Back fat scanner: Photo: DanBred

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Porking threesome and its runaway love child

TWENTY years ago I wrote and issued a media release on a quarterly council meeting of then client WA Pork Producers' Association.

I happened to review the relevant WAPPA file recently and was struck by the stark similarity of the issues faced back then by pork producers versus those faced by today's.

Here are some snippets of what I wrote back then: Although optimistic about the future, many young pork producers regard planning and environmental issues as serious threats to their industry's viability.

In particular, they are concerned that such issues can restrict an existing piggery's ability to expand and impede the establishment of new facilities needed to help the industry meet increased export-driven demand.

In the report (by WAPPA delegates Sandy Gardiner and Liam Flanagan), tabled at WAPPA's fourth quarterly council meeting for 2000, it was also noted that some producers felt isolated, or vulnerable, due to the decline in total numbers of producers due to the industry's rationalisation over the last few years.

It is therefore important



Cant Comment
by
BRENDON CANT

that all producers feel they are an integral part of the industry and that we endeavour to resurrect the fighting spirit which has always been essential to meet the challenges of pig production, the authors concluded.

Speaking after the council meeting, WAPPA president and Gingin producer Chris Keene said the association supported the environmental guidelines for new and existing piggeries, published earlier this year and signed off by producers, government agencies and major industry stakeholders.

"We do, however, object strongly when developers and government authorities attempt to close down existing piggeries, or limit their ability to expand, when the original investment in a particular location was made in good faith at the time."

Highlights of other reports presented to WAPPA's council meeting included:

- Pork Council of Australia: Changeover and start date for Australian Pork Limited now extended to April, 2001. (Author's 2020 note: APL is the runaway 'love child' of PCA, PRDC and APC, a 'threesome' that consummated what was an engaging relationship).

- Pork Producers and Processors of WA: Neil Ferguson of Westpork joins John Smailes of Australian Natural Pork and Liam Flanagan of Great Southern Pig Com-

pany as producer representatives. (Author's 2020 note: this body, now well and truly defunct, was formed to bring producers and processors closer together. For a while it did just that).

- AGWEST: Reporting on his recent visit to the US, Bruce Mullan said the US pork industry was much more mature than Australia's, particularly in marketing of pork products, long-term producer contracts (five years) and flexibility in processing and packing. "Economies of scale are very apparent, but that is not to say we can't achieve the same efficiencies." (Author's 2020 note: economies of scale remains problematic here).

- WA Livestock Salesman's Association: Midland saleyard numbers had remained steady at about 400 head a week,

with bacon remaining strong – recently selling to 203c/kg liveweight (about 298c/kg dressed). (Author's 2020 note: saleyard pig auctions have long gone and have not been missed, other than by a tiny handful of tiny producers).

- WA Pig Skills Centre: Since stocking commenced on August 24 at the Muresk site, the first batch mating has finished, with 51 gilts artificially inseminated in 10 days. The second gilt consignment (40) arrived on September 21. (Author's 2020 note: the centre has had a very chequered history, managed by many, but not many managed to manage).

- Australian Pig Breeders' Association: A very successful carcass competition was held during the 2000 Perth Royal Show. Winners

were: pork individual carcasses (AJ & ME Curnow, Ardath); pork pen of three (J Stevens & Co., Kellerberrin); bacon individual (AR & SM Penfold, Cowaramup), bacon pen of three (AR & SM Penfold); most points pork & bacon (AR & SM Penfold). (Author's 2020 note: the only serious carcass comps were held at Watsonia during its annual Pig Day, back when Brad Thomson was at the helm).

- Stockfeed Manufacturers Association of WA: Tight global barley stocks should keep feed prices from dropping. Highest quote for new season oats is \$135/t, with scarce supply and higher demand from export hay market likely to keep prices up. (Author's 2020 note: barley plantings this year will drop off markedly after 'the big dump' by China).



Boatshed black pudding, the author believes from Berkshire pigs supplied by Linton Batt, made for a hearty breakfast when plated up with egg and tomato.



Having developed a taste for chorizo sausages while on a Rotary International Group Study Exchange in Argentina, the author these days buys them from Javier, a pork-loving Argentinian chef in Fremantle. His El Argentino sausages are generously and lovingly filled with his own secret ingredients and then produced, with natural skins, by a local butcher.

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More space leads to better health and growth

REDUCING antimicrobial usage on a pig farm comes about by optimising pig flows, farm hygiene and air quality and taking medications out of pig feed.

Australian pork production businesses are already demonstrating, just like their European counterparts, that they can significantly reduce antimicrobial usage.

It comes with a team effort that involves consulting vets working with committed managers and staff to optimise husbandry and facilities.

In support of changes in management affecting health, Dr Diana Turpin and Dr John Pluske from Murdoch University increased space allowance during the nursery phase and consequently improved performance and health on a commercial farm.

They presented their findings at the Australasian Pig Science Association meeting in Adelaide last November.

They wrote: "pig flow strategies which increase space allowance should

not be underestimated in their ability to improve performance and health."

With COVID-19 prevention measures, Australians are being urged to increase the distance between each other, reduce the number of people in gatherings and regularly wash your hands.

It sounds just like disease control on a pig farm: adequate space, fresh air, clean pens and keep group sizes smaller rather than larger.

Diana and John tested the idea that increases in space allowance in the nursery phase above 0.3sq m per pig would improve post-weaning performance and health as measured by mortalities and the number of removals due to death or hospital treatment.

They allocated 1260 newly weaned pigs to one of three space allowance groups by varying the numbers of pigs per pen.

The three space allowances were: i) 0.3sq m; 40 pigs per pen; ii) 0.35sq m; 35 pigs per pen; and iii) 0.4sq m; 30 pigs per pen.

The Model Code of

Practice for the Welfare Pigs - 2008 stipulates that a space allowance of 0.3sq m per pig is required for weaners (average weight of 30kg at the end of the nursery period - 10 weeks of age).

During the experiment, the shed experienced an unexpected disease challenge.

Removals for hospital pen treatment or death in the 0.3sq m pens were nearly double that of the 0.35sq m and 0.4sq m pens (7.8 percent versus 4.3 percent and 4 percent respectively, $P = 0.05$).

Furthermore, pigs exposed to the lowest stocking density finished heavier (by 1.4 kg) than pigs exposed to the highest stocking density ($P < 0.05$).

The extra growth was added between day 14 and 40 of the experiment.

There were no treatment differences for growth in the first two weeks of the experiment, and there were no treatment differences for ADFI and FCR.

Diana, who also consults with the Portec veterinary group in Western Australia, concluded that increasing space allowance by 16.6 percent in the nursery phase can lead to improvements in growth and health.

The data shows providing extra space is a very effective preventative medicine strategy.

Ross Cutler



Applications for low-interest loans about to close

QUEENSLAND pork producers are urged to consider the use of low-interest loans to support a wide range of upgrades to their farms in preparation ahead of the threat of African swine fever.

Up to \$10 million has been made available in low-interest loans to support the Queensland pork industry in improving biosecurity and preparing against ASF.

The Queensland Government has made the funding available to be delivered through Queensland Rural and Industry Development Authority ASF Sustainability Loans to cover a range of activities eligible to be implemented on-farm to prepare against ASF.

Pork Queensland Inc president John Coward said it was vital the state's producers had access to resources to prepare for ASF.

"Any outbreak of ASF in the Queensland pork industry would have a massive impact, so it's important producers are able to put measures in place now to mitigate any future potential impact," Mr Coward said.

"I encourage producers



President's Perspective

by JOHN COWARD

QRIDA Sustainability Loans have terms of up to 20 years, low interest rates fixed for one, three or five years and with no fees or charges.

to contact QRIDA to discuss their eligibility so we can all do our part in combatting ASF as a whole industry."

QRIDA ASF Sustainability Loan program spokesperson Ross Henry said ASF preparedness activities were essential measures to help the pork industry improve its biosecurity and reduce the risk of ASF to the pork industry in Queensland.

"The Queensland Government acted quickly to make this funding available to the state's pork industry following the detection of ASF in Papua

producers and those involved in the industry are best placed to respond to any future risks and support them in investing on-farm to prepare, improve biosecurity and reduce the risk of ASF on the state's pork industry."

Mr Henry said a range of activities were eligible to be implemented on-farm to prepare against ASF.

"Activities include exclusion fencing, reconditioning or relocation of sheds to increase biosecurity measures and increasing biosecurity measures at entry points, including acid washes, CCTV and gate upgrades," he said.

Applications are open until June 30, 2020.

QRIDA Sustainability Loans have terms of up to 20 years, low interest rates fixed for one, three or five years and with no fees or charges.

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For eligibility criteria, terms and conditions and more information, see qrda.qld.gov.au/current-programs/sustainability-loan or free call 1800 623 946.

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





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Producers leading feral pig response in WA

WESTERN Australia's pork industry is targeting southern feral pig populations encroaching on pig production districts in efforts to defend itself from African swine fever and other biosecurity risks.

Australian Pork Limited CEO Margo Andrae said protecting the nation's \$5.3 billion pork industry from the threat of ASF required vigilance regarding the potential arrival of ASF via illegally imported infected pig meat and subsequent transmission to feral pigs in southern Australia.

"In terms of the risk management we're doing for the potential arrival of ASF in Australia, we know its inadvertent arrival in infected meat brought in from overseas is a critical risk," Ms Andrae said.

"That's why federal border checks have been strengthened, why more sniffer dogs have been deployed and why people are being deported for illegally importing meat in their luggage."

Ms Andrae said the Inspector-General of Biosecurity's updated ASF report confirmed customs screening was the best defence against ASF, which poses a \$2 billion risk to Australia's economy.

"Scraps of imported meat infected with ASF, which end up being consumed by pigs either via careless swill feeding or at a local rubbish dump, is how the disease island-hopped its way through South-East Asia all the way to Papua New Guinea," Ms Andrae said.

"Our airports, seaports and international mail centres are the frontline in our defence against ASF."

"For pork producers, controlling the incursion of feral pigs near pig farms is the second vital line of

defence in upholding on-farm biosecurity and protecting our pigs from this devastating disease.

"The work by producers to strengthen on-farm biosecurity is crucial, as is the stakeholder collaboration being led by National Feral Pig Management Coordinator Dr Heather Channon."

Dr Channon said major WA commercial producers, Westpork and CM Farms, were investing in feral pig management measures in parts of the state where their piggeries are located.

"Westpork and CM Farms initiated a feral pig trapping program in October last year, following an Australian Wool Innovation workshop on feral pigs and wild dogs," Dr Channon said.

"The companies have bought two \$8000 traps and are funding two experienced trappers."

Local farmers are collaborating in the initiative by providing property access to trappers and grain to attract feral pigs into the traps, which are fitted with cameras and remotely operated gates.

Since October, 130 pigs have been trapped and euthanised.

"Working with Dr Peter Adams from the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development, two boars were fitted with tracking collars," Dr Channon said.

"Concerningly, it was only a matter of weeks until one of the boars was located on a piggery boundary."

"This program highlights strong local landholder engagement, support and commitment is needed to address risks posed by feral pigs at the local level and to monitor their impacts."

Dr Channon said Westpork and CM Farms are

seeking support from other landholders, including other pork producers, to strengthen feral pig management in agricultural areas in WA.

They are also proactively engaging with stakeholders already involved in feral pig management programs, such as the Lake Muir-Denbarker Community Feral Pig Eradication Group, which was established in 2000.

Opportunities for collaboration by the wide range of stakeholders impacted by feral pigs, to look at ways to co-fund projects and share resources is what the National Feral Pig Management Program is looking to see replicated across the country.



APL CEO Margo Andrae.



Feral pigs are under increased pressure in WA.



National Feral Pig Management Coordinator Dr Heather Channon.

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Going for gold in flavour, consistency and pleasure

IT has long been established that the competitiveness of Australian pork at an international level will have to be within premium niche markets.

Our higher production costs require that for the most part.

Premiums can be justified by product benefits, provenance stories or both.

Recent research was conducted into creating a premium product through an improved pork flavour profile.

Spanish Iberico pork is highly valued for its taste and quality.

It has been shown these can be attributed to higher levels of a particular fatty acid (oleic acid) in the pork fat.

One way to imitate this in Australian pigs could be to include macadamia nuts and/or macadamia oil in pig diets.

An experiment con-



Marketing Matters

by PETER HAYDON



ducted by researchers from the University of Queensland and managed by R&I's Production Innovation Manager Rebecca Athorn investigated consumer responses to macadamia-fed pork.

The results showed consumers responded more favourably to the macadamia-fed pork compared to pork from pigs fed traditional diets.

The consumers described the pork from pigs fed macadamia oil as having higher caramel-

ised notes and an overall improved flavour pleasantness.

Other work to improve pork eating experience is also under way, in two main areas:

Reducing 'fail' rates of pork meals

Currently, one in six pork eating experiences is classified as a fail.

Muscle pH influences the carcass yield, colour and pork tenderness.

The pH of pork declines over 24 hours after slaughter, and the rate of

this decline is an important contributor to eating quality.

After chilling, a high ultimate pH results in tougher, darker pork, while a low ultimate pH results in pale pork with poor water holding capacity.

Measuring and managing ultimate pH in pork has commercial and consumer benefits.

Australian Pork Limited is working with processors to conduct a national pH audit across the export abattoirs.

This will be reported on by September 2020.

We're also working to draft eating experience quality standards.

These will draw from existing standards and quality systems to address known contributors to failed pork – like stress due to handling, transport and boar taint – to reduce failure rates.

Create remarkable experiences

In addition to preventing fails, we also want to increase the number of remarkable eating experiences.

More great, fewer OK.

APL recently initiated "A literature review of memorable eating experi-

ence research".

This project will give us a better understanding of pleasure associated with eating food and how it is influenced by the product, social interactions and/or personal relationships.

It will also look into what makes a meal, recipe or occasion memorable, creating a desire for it to be repeated.

These findings will then be used to develop practical recommendations for product improvement.

We expect this work to be complete by the end of July 2020.

Producers can expect to see more projects with a similar focus as 'Quality consumer eating experiences' has been identified as a strategic intent (key area of investment focus) for APL R&D moving forward.

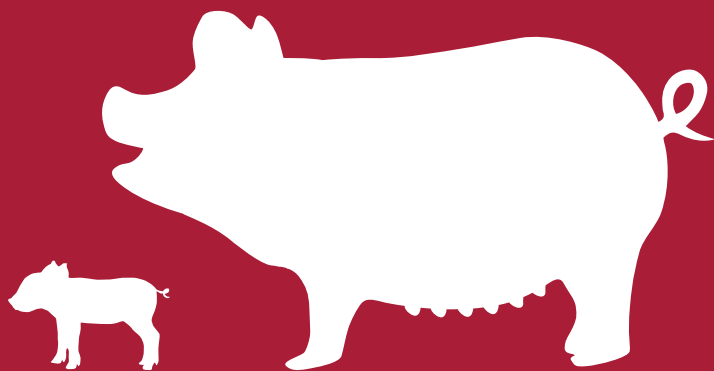
Also identified as key investment areas are 'Reduced cost of production and processing', and 'Biosecurity leadership'.

The latter will be another focus area that will look to decrease Australia's response time to biosecurity threats and 'push back the borders' (detect potential threats before they reach Australia).

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APL Research and Innovation Production Innovation Manager Rebecca Athorn.

Vietnam to restock national herd with 20,000 pigs imported from Thailand

VIETNAM will import 20,000 breeding pigs from Thailand this year as the country seeks to rebuild its hog herd battered by an African swine fever outbreak.

First detected in February 2019, the African swine fever outbreak has forced the culling of around six million pigs – 20 percent of Vietnam's pig herd – resulting in higher pork prices and putting upward pressure on inflation.

While not harmful to humans, African swine fever is devastating in pig herds with no available vaccine.

Deputy agriculture

minister Phung Duc Tien said the first batch of 250 pigs has been imported from Thailand and they are expected to start producing piglets by the end of this year.

Prices of the imported pigs range from \$A841.22 to \$A971.14 each.

Tien said local firms had sought permission to import a total of 110,000 breeding pigs this year.

Where pork accounts for three-quarters of meat consumption, in March the Vietnam government said that the country's inflation could be at 4.22 percent this year if pork prices can be cut.

AgShows provides grants to 122 regional shows

REGIONAL agricultural show societies across Australia will share in \$20 million worth of grants to renew and reinvigorate aging showgrounds through the Regional Agricultural Show Development Grants program.

Minister for Agriculture David Littleproud said the

grants would also serve as a much-needed cash injection in the wake of recent bushfires and the COVID-19 outbreak.

"Agricultural shows are a major drawcard for our regional towns many of which have had to cancel events this year due to COVID-19," Minister Littleproud said.



Photo: Toowoomba Ag Show Facebook

"These grants will help show societies refurbish their showgrounds and facilities, so that when their next event rolls around it will be even more attractive to show-goers."

"Ag shows are the heart and soul of our regional communities."

"They bring and keep communities together, link the country to the city and provide a key boost to these local economies."

These events showcase the hard work and innovation that goes into producing Australia's food and fibre.

"Upgrading show facilities means more visitors to these regional events, more local employment

and more tills ringing in local businesses," Minister Littleproud said.

"The grants will be used by the successful show societies for a range of infrastructure works, from small-scale upgrades to major overhauls and new builds that will benefit not only the show, but the community throughout the year, and in emergency situations as was the case in the recent bushfires."

"The Australian government wants to see our agricultural shows continue to thrive and be enjoyed for generations to come."

For successful applicants visit agriculture.gov.au/ag-farm-food/infrastructure/ag-shows

Farmers' input sought on scheme to reward positive on-farm biodiversity practices

THE National Farmers' Federation has launched a survey for farmers to have their say in the design of the Australian Farm Biodiversity Certification Scheme Trial.

Rewarding farmers for good environmental practices and stewardship has long been a goal for Australia's agriculture sector, with representative groups including the NFF looking for ways to remunerate farmers for managing Australia's landscape.

NFF CEO Tony Mahar said unfortunately, the implementation of some environmental regulation has come at the expense of agricultural productivity growth.

"The NFF and our members strongly believe farmers should be financially rewarded for the biodiversity assets they protect on behalf of all Australians," he said.

"After all, more than 50 percent of the Australian landscape is under the stewardship of our farmers."

Mr Mahar said the NFF was currently working with the Department of Agriculture, Water & the Environment on the development and pilot of the trial, which would ultimately establish whether such schemes were likely to be viable in the context of Australia's agricultural sector.

"The Australian Farm Biodiversity Certification Scheme Trial is a potential game changer for the industry in its aim to value, measure and ultimately monetise on-farm biodiversity assets," he said.

"Any viable, voluntary scheme will need farm sector support to be successful."

"We're calling on farmers to provide their thoughts and insights to how such a framework might work."

"The survey should take no more than 10 minutes to complete and provides an opportunity to help reshape the interaction between agriculture and environmental regulation into the future."

Phase one of the trial has almost finished and has been carried out via a detailed desktop study, key stakeholder interviews as well as an online public consultation process in which hundreds of farmers and natural resource management experts took part.

The next stage of the trial involves refining the ideas gathered during these consultations by seeking direct input from producers via this survey with a report expected to be released at the end of July.

"Creating a scheme that works at a commercial and practical level is no small challenge," Mr Mahar said.

"We see the need to maintain and improve environmental outcomes by establishing a verification mechanism for sustainable agriculture practices as crucial to achieving NFF's \$100 billion farm-gate output goal."

"As part of NFF's 2030 Roadmap, the NFF has a goal for 5 percent of farmers' income to be derived from ecosystem services by the same year."

The survey, which only takes about 10 minutes to complete, can be accessed at surveymonkey.com/r/J5RT6YM with an introductory message from Mr Mahar available at youtu.be/lg6QV9h46Qo

Farmers who are interested in completing the survey, or interested in the Trial in general, can also watch a Webinar discussion on the topic of the Australian Farm Biodiversity Scheme at youtu.be/rvZHQ2PT164

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Apiam Animal Health's Zoono sanitiser protects for up to 30 days

ONE of Australia's leading veterinary service providers, Apiam Animal Health, has secured the Australian distribution rights of a revolutionary surface sanitiser and protection nanotechnology.

The new-generation disinfectant – Zoono Z-71 Microbe Shield – has been demonstrated to protect against bacterial, viral and fungal pathogens for up to 30 days.

It is ideal to be used as part of a dairy farm's sanitisation program, whether that is:

- In animal handling facilities such as around farm gates, latches and handles;
- Buildings and office touch points such as keyboards, equipment and phones; and
- In vehicle and machinery interiors.

Importantly, Z-71 Microbe Shield is approved by Australia's Therapeutic Goods Administration for



use against COVID-19 on hard surfaces.

The TGA approval comes on the back of research conducted in the United Kingdom against a COVID-19 surrogate, feline coronavirus, where Z-71 Microbe Shield was able to reduce the viral levels by over 99.99 percent.

Apiam managing director Dr Chris Richards said the biggest difference between this sanitiser and others on the market is it continues to remain effective over time through killing pathogens by mechanical rather than chemical action.

"It has been demonstrated through extensive

research over 10 years against a range of pathogens to be effective for up to 30 days," he said.

"Laboratory tests are currently progressing to establish the duration of protection that the Z-71 Microbe Shield product will have against a COVID-19 surrogate.

"In studies in the US, Apiam has been able to demonstrate prevention of clinical disease against the pig coronavirus, PED virus, for over 30 days following a single application of the product to all surfaces.

"Both mechanical and chemical sanitisers will kill most pathogens pretty much straight away but the fact it has been tested to be effective against many germs for up to 30 days on surfaces is a major breakthrough."

Apiam acquired the distribution rights for livestock and animal health industries in Australia in November last year for the disinfectant technology, which is manufactured in New Zealand by fellow ASX-listed company Zoono Group Limited.

"We were initially attracted to the Zoono products for use by our network of vets to sanitise and protect piggeries, poultry sheds and livestock systems, as well as for use in biosecurity programs with the technology," Dr Richards said.

Dr Richards said Apiam has also been using its current supply of Z-71 Microbe Shield to sanitise its own offices and veterinary hospitals around the country.

"Veterinary practices are seen as an essential service and we want to ensure we make it as safe as possible for our staff and clients," he said.

Dr Richards said there had been strong demand from both Apiam clients and the greater community for the use of its products, and that Apiam was providing fogging services where requested to assist other essential businesses and workplaces to improve their biosecurity and hygiene systems.

Dr Richards said Apiam had plenty of stock of Z-71 Microbe Shield and was expecting to get additional supplies of both Z-71 Microbe Shield and Zoono's hand sanitiser in coming weeks, which would be available through Apiam clinics and at countryvet.com.au

It is available in five-litre bulk containers as well as 150ml and 250ml spray bottles.

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Super-Saver XL furnace heaters

AGCO Grain and Protein offers a heater for all applications including swine, poultry, dairy, and horticulture.

Maintaining consistently warm temperatures promotes a healthy, comfortable, and more productive environment.

AGCO Grain and Protein product manager Peter Lutterschmidt said: "Hired Hand heaters have been the trusted market leader in climate control systems for poultry operations for almost four decades and they have been a

part of the AGCO Grain and Protein stable for almost 10 years."

"Hired Hand heaters have been a popular choice among poultry and pig farmers, and through our distribution channels have sold numerous units.

"Our furnace-style Super-Saver XL heater has been on the market since the mid-1980s and has come to be known as the most rugged, durable, best-performing and trouble-free heater in the agricultural market over that time.

At more than 99 percent efficient, they are also known as the most efficient gas-fired heater in the industry.

At 225,000 British thermal units, the Super-Saver can meet the needs of any agricultural operation.

Super-Saver features include:

- Direct-spark model available in 225,000 BTU
- AGA certified
- Comes standard with through-wall mounting kit for outside house mount
- High temperature aluminised steel burn chamber
- Side-swing door for easy access and maintenance
- Diagnostic lights for troubleshooting ease
- Standard adjustable 'Y' heat deflector
- 1/3 HP totally enclosed

thermally protected motor with sealed bearings

- Standard '1/2' gas cock installed at gas valve
- Back-up safety sail switch

- High limit safety switch (manual reset)
- On/Off toggle switch

- Service-Saver enclosed control box
- Outside mount is applicable with the outside mounting kit.

A side-swinging door design gives easy access to internal components such as the Super-Saver control unit and blower motor – making it one of the easiest to service heaters on the market.

"Today's production requirements demand systems that excel in performance and are reliable year after year," Mr Lutterschmidt said.

"In addition, our easy

installation, maintenance, simple operation, durability, flexibility and operation efficiency are all carefully considered in the design and construction of every GSI product manufactured.

"We're investing in facilities and technologies that allow us to manufacture the most cutting-edge equipment to keep up with the ever-evolving business of farming.

"In fact, over the past few years, every one of our factories around the world has benefited from a significant investment in both our people and systems."

For more information regarding Super-Saver XL furnace heaters, contact Peter Lutterschmidt on 03 9313 0313 or at peter.lutterschmidt@agcocorp.com



Simple and easy DAF system

DISSOLVED air flotation systems can be complicated, with pump, compressor, air saturation pressure vessel and controls, but this complication can turn into 'set and forget' by using an EDUR 'multiphase' pump.

According to Australian distributors, Hydro Innovations, the EDUR DAF pump does not need compressed air and does not need an air saturation vessel.

The EDUR multiphase pump has a unique design, enabling it to handle an air and water combination.

It is set up with a restrictor valve on the suction and an air 'snorkel', which draws in atmospheric air into the suction of the pump.

The pump then sheers and mixes the air with the water before discharging it under pressure to mimic what would happen in the conventional system – within the pressure vessel.

As with the conventional system, the EDUR pump 'forces' the air into solution with back-pressure created by a discharge re-

strictor valve.

When the air saturated water is released back into the DAF tank, the air comes back out of solution forming micro bubbles 30-50 micron, and floats fats, oil and grease to the surface for collection.

The EDUR pump effectively replaces the standard pump, the air compressor and the air saturation vessel.

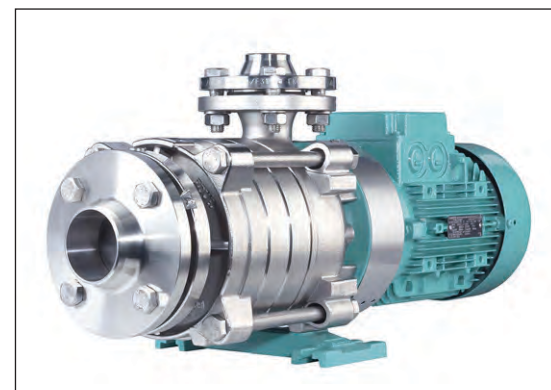
This system simplification also has an impact on running costs.

No compressor to run and maintain, and no maintenance or yearly recertification on an air saturation vessel.

EDUR Pumps of Kiel in Germany has been building application specific pumps since 1927.

Though relatively new to the Australian market, they have been successfully supplying DAF pumps to European, Chinese and US food manufacturers for over 20 years.

Australian food producers can now take advantage of these technologically advanced and cost saving processes.



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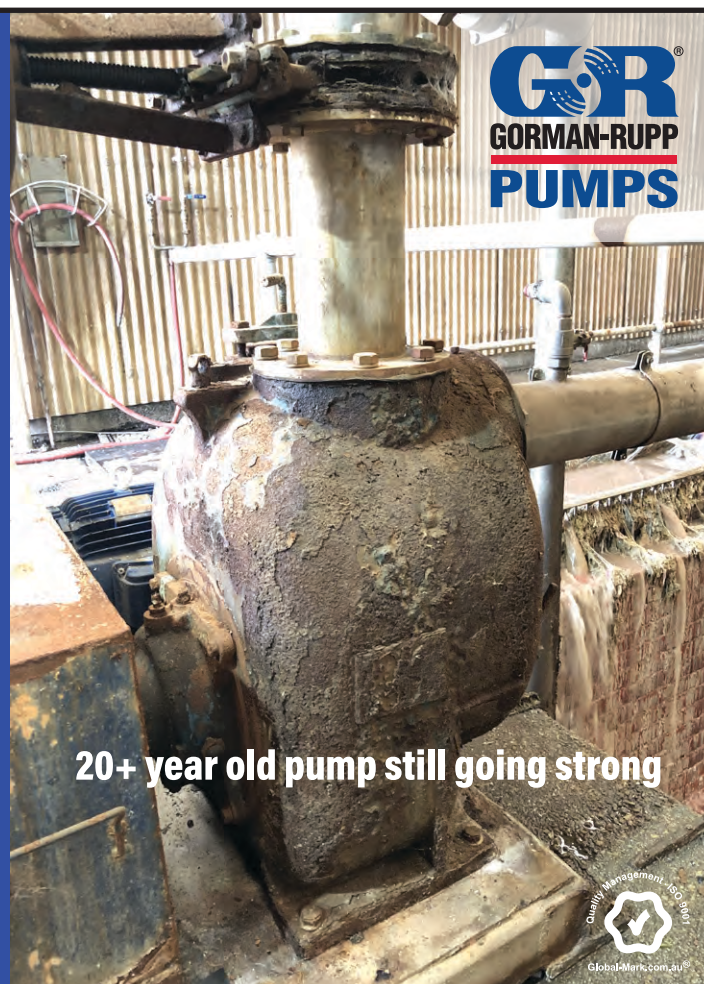
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Pork industry pivots as foodservice renewal begins

THROUGHOUT COVID-19, the Australian pork industry has been working to support hospitality workers via Hospo4Hopso, but as restaurants reopen, the initiative is not ending, it's pivoting.

The Australian pork industry launched Hospo4Hopso in March, partnering with restaurants around the country to offer hospitality workers free pork meals, a smile and socially distanced chat, but from June 1, the initiative will provide pork to venues as they reopen.

Australian Pork Limited CEO Margo Andrae said while COVID-19 restrictions were easing, the foodservice sector has had a tough few months and

recovery will take time.

"Venues have been pleased to welcome back diners as restrictions ease, state by state, but while this is welcome news for hungry Aussies who had missed dining out, the reality is still challenging for many outlets and their staff," Ms Andrae said.

"The Australian pork industry initiated Hospo4Hopso in March to give back to an industry that has supported us through the good times and bad and it was well received.

"However, as staff are starting to get back to work, it's important to support venues as they get back up and running.

"Through our foodservice programs, we'll be working with restaurants around the country and

providing great-tasting, versatile Australian pork for them to serve to their diners."

This secures the future of Hospo4Hopso for a further 10 weeks, with venues supported to add pork cuts to their menus, including ribs and bellies.

"This initiative is a win-win in a difficult time," Ms Andrae said.

"For the restaurants, it's free product, which helps their bottom line as they continue to respond to governments' changing restrictions and a very different market.

"For the Australian pork industry, foodservice represents about 25 percent of sales and this initiative supports restaurants as they reopen and helps ensure Australian

pork is on menus."

The Australian pork industry employs 35,000 people and supply continued throughout the COVID-19 disruption.

When foodservice restrictions were enacted, the supply chain was disrupted and farmgate prices weakened, but this has shown signs of stabilising.

Australian Pork, through its foodservice programs, has provided resources, support and advice to industry friends and partners throughout the COVID-19 period.

This support will continue as the industry recovers.

To find out more, visit australianpork.com.au or for recipe inspiration, check out pork.com.au

Aussie pork sizzlers

AUSTRALIAN pork producers are among the most efficient and hygienic in the world.

The 'need to clean' is constant and of paramount importance to the quality of the product they produce.

One Australian pump manufacturer has worked with producers around the country to develop a product range particularly suitable for livestock applications.

Aussie Pumps, a 2.5-acre factory in Sydney's Norwest business district, is proud of its new 'Sizzler' hot wash machine.

Aussie Pumps chief engineer John Hales said, "We're conscious of the need for constant reliable cleaning equipment."

"We ensure hygiene rules are adhered to in the easiest, safest and most cost-efficient way." The result of constant evolution of the product range is Aussie's new Sizzler Hot Wash.

The Sizzler, designed in Australia, is a high-pressure hot wash machine delivering 1800psi of pressure with a flow of 10l/pm.

With a maximum temperature of 80C, the machine has the ability to eradicate bacteria.

The Sizzler is com-

pact and easy to move with four flat-free tyred wheels.

Though it weighs 100kg, it's manoeuvrable with an integrated handle and full stainless steel cover.

Underneath that shiny stainless steel exterior, there is a heavy-duty four pole (slow speed), 1450rpm single-phase 240V motor.

That motor drives a top-quality Italian triplex pump with ceramic pistons.

"Everything on the machine is built for quality," Hales said.

"We built it based on the feedback we were getting from the users around Australia."

The machine is loaded with safety controls, designed to protect the machine and operator.

It has delayed total stop, which stops the machine 30 seconds after the gun trigger is closed.

This saves fuel and can prevent accidents.

Micro-leak protection stops the machine in the case of leaks in the hydraulic circuit when the gun is shut down.

'Clogged Nozzle Control' stops the machine if the nozzle in the end of the lance is blocked, preventing the possibility of a build-up of pressure in

the system.

Dry Running Protection and Intelligent Auto Switch Off are also part of the system.

Ignition boiler delay ensures low fume emissions when the boiler starts up.

Turbo-lances are available to give extra whack if there's any hard cleaning to be done.

A flat surface cleaner can also operate off the machine.

The company believes using its engineering innovations can help producers save money and operate more efficiently and hygienically manner.

A stainless steel roll frame is also available, as are foaming devices for applying sanitiser for cleaning products through the machine.

Bigger machines are available in a pressure range of 3000-4000psi, making them suitable for even high-output processing plant.

The company also has a range of heavy-duty cold wash machines with flows to 28l/pm and pressures as high as 5000psi.

These machines are available in single and three-phase configurations and are compact, slow speed, long life and minimum maintenance.

Pork producers can qualify for the regular specials that come out on this equipment and could receive the 100 percent depreciation allowance if they make an acquisition before June 30.

It's a smart move to buy before the end of the financial year.

For more information and the details of your closest Aussie authorised distributor, or for direct technical information and support, contact Aussie Pumps on 02 8865 3500 or ausiepumps.com.au



Aussie Pumps' Sizzler hot wash machine is an ideal germ killer in processing plants.



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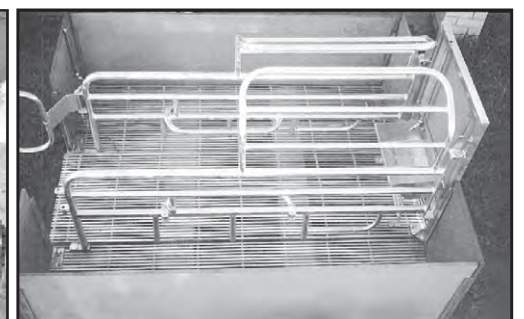
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Recruitment delays at Victorian pig industry laboratory

DELAYS have emerged in recruitment processes at Victoria's Pig Services Centre despite suggestions it has been difficult to attract staff to positions there.

The Victorian government said the Bendigo facility had been temporarily closed to protect staff from coronavirus.

The centre manufactures vaccines for use by the state's pig farmers.

However new orders submitted to the facility – for now at least – will be fulfilled by a private company.

Victorian Agriculture Minister Jaclyn Symes said there had been “real difficulties” in filling staff vacancies at the centre.

“The science lab jobs in regional Victoria have been advertised on numerous occasions and they haven't been able to be filled,” Ms Symes said.

“As soon as the laboratory reopens we'll be re-advertising those positions and we'll see what happens.

“I don't have an answer on why those jobs aren't being filled.”

Work at the centre was suspended recently in what Ms Symes described as a temporary move to safeguard its staff from coronavirus.

“This is a temporary closure and it will reopen when things improve in relation to the COVID pandemic,” she said.

New information suggests there were doubts about the facility's future before coronavirus reached Australia.

Scientist Cheree Fitzgibbon applied for a position at the centre in May last year but said it took more than three months to hear about the outcome.

“I went through the interview process in June and was told in July that I was a preferred candidate for the position,” Ms Fitzgibbon said.

“Then in early September I was told that the recruitment for that position had been put on hold, even though I was the preferred candidate, until the certainty of the centre was determined and decided.”

Welcome outcome on wildlife wet markets

THE Minister for Agriculture David Littleproud was pleased to see the strong international support, which he led in April at the G20 to investigate wildlife wet markets as part of the broader review of COVID-19.

Minister Littleproud said his call for the expert review would provide a greater understanding of how to prevent another devastating event.

“Since 1980, two pandemics have been linked to wildlife wet markets and a further two linked to unsustainable wildlife practices – this is acknowledgment we need to work globally to protect ourselves from these risks,” Minister Littleproud said.

“We have long known about the dangers associated with wildlife wet markets and the potential for pandemics they pose but they also are a risk to ag-

riculture and food security. “That is why I worked with Australia's chief veterinary officer Mark Schipp to push for global reforms underpinned by a scientific review.

“It will take a global effort to reduce the risks for disease to emerge and spread, and the threat to agriculture that the mix of wildlife, domestic animals and humans provide in wildlife wet markets.

“The review will be a joint World Health Organisation, World Organisation for Animal Health and Food and Agriculture Organisation collaboration.

“Together we can gather information that will contribute to the betterment of all nations.

“Let's hope the outcomes of the review finds ways to protect human life and the agriculture that underpins global food security.”

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